

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

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The Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust. Registered Charity No. 234091



20th December 2015

FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

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TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

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| SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER (VIGIL) | 6.00pm (Sat.) | Mass – Int. People of the parish |
| | 8.00am | Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine) |
| | 10.00am | Mass – Int. Charles Taylor, RIP, recently deceased |
| Monday Advent Feria – O Rising Sun | 9.30am | Mass |
| Tuesday Advent Feria – O King | 9.30am | Mass |
| Wednesday Advent Feria – O Emmanuel | NO MASS | |
| Thursday Christmas Eve – Advent Feria | 6.00pm | Vigil Mass of Christmas |
| | 10.00pm | Carols and Readings |
| | 10.30pm | Mass of Christmas Night |
| Friday Christmas Day – Nativity of our Lord | 8.00am | Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine) |
| | 10.00am | Mass of Christmas Day |
| Saturday St Stephen | 9.30am | Mass with Enrolment of Servers into Guild of St Stephen |
| SUNDAY 27TH DECEMBER – HOLY FAMILY | 6.00pm (Sat.) | Mass – Int. People of the parish |
| FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 8.00am | Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine) |
| HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH | 10.00am | Mass |



**YOU WILL KNOW THAT
THE LORD IS COMING
TO SAVE US AND IN
THE MORNING YOU
WILL SEE HIS GLORY.**

Applications are requested for preparations for **First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion** at Our Lady's Church. Please complete the signup sheet in the porch. **Applications will close TODAY Sunday 20th December 2015.**

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2016

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Krakow for World Youth Day Friday 22nd July – Monday 1st August 2016 and we welcome those in the diocese aged 16 – 30 years old (16 by the date of travel). For a booking form or further information please contact Fiona at fiona@nymo.org or call 01582 720627 or see www.nymo.org



Tea, coffee and cold drinks are served in The Guild Room after both of our Sunday Masses.
All are welcome!

Infant Baptism and Marriage. By appointment with Fr Andy after completing the necessary preparation. **The Church requires** notice of at least six months prior to the Sacrament of Matrimony being celebrated.

ABOUT LITURGY

Annunciation and visitation: In years A and B the Lectionary selection assigned for the gospel of the Fourth Sunday of Advent is the annunciation account. The gospel acclamation assigned to year C is also from the annunciation account. It is easy to relate to this familiar gospel story to the coming Christmas celebration; after all, physiologically, conception precedes birth. However, the gospel in year C presents us with the story of the visitation. Putting aside the logic of how things happen naturally enables us to see how this story, like the story of the annunciation, leads us to the Christmas mystery. The visitation is another *annunciation* – Elizabeth “gave a loud cry” and said that her Lord is near, indeed, the fruit of Mary’s womb.

Every liturgy is both an annunciation and visitation. During each Liturgy of the Word Christ’s presence is uniquely announced in the proclamation of the gospel. Even more: in the very proclamation, the person of Jesus comes to dwell within the liturgical assembly. Each Liturgy of the Eucharist is also a kind of visitation when *we ourselves* take into our very own bodies the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and are *transformed* into being more perfect members of the Body. Each liturgy, then, is Christmas. The Word is made flesh and dwells among us!

LANDINGS

The *Landings* programme gives Catholic who have been away from the Church a chance to explore their faith and to consider their future with the Church. A few parishioners welcome potential returners to lay-led meetings that are gentle, entirely confidential, and enriching for who take part.

A *Landings* workshop at St. Theresa’s Church, Beaconsfield is planned for early in the New Year (date to be fixed) to enable all who may be interested to find out more, both those thinking of renewing connections with parish life and those who might like to act as welcomers in their own parishes. New recruits are always welcome but you won’t be asked for a definite commitment.

For more information contact Maggie Millrain or Ian Johnson on 01752 482 496 or via maggiemillrain@icloud.com. The following website is well worth a visit ... www.landings.org.uk

CAROL SINGING AT CHESHAM MANOR NURSING HOME

A number of people from Our Lady’s Parish will be singing carols to the residents of Chesham Manor on Monday 21st of December at 2:30pm. More singers are more than welcome!

AUCTION OF GOLF ROUNDS

Local golf clubs have kindly donated four-ball golf rounds to be auctioned in aid of the four charities (*Workaid based in Chesham*) *Friends of Belarusian Children’s Hospice UK*, *Bega Kwa Bega (Uganda)* and *Mozambique Missions*) supported by Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Great Missenden this Christmas. The rounds are from: **BERKHAMPTED GOLF CLUB, ELLESBOROUGH GOLF CLUB, HAREWOOD DOWNS GOLF CLUB** and **THE TEMPLE GOLF CLUB (HENLEY)**. These rounds are worth between £100 and £150. Bids should be made to Peter Harper at 01494 726510 before Monday 21 December 2015.

Lectionary for Mass

First Reading: Bethlehem was a small village overshadowed by the larger and more significant Jerusalem. Yet it is from her that God will bring Israel’s greatest blessing, the ideal king who will be Israel’s eternal ruler. As the birthplace of King David, Bethlehem always had a claim to fame, but politically and economically it was insignificant. God promised through the prophet that insignificance will turn to glory because the one who will spring from her womb will bring peace to the ends of the earth.

Responsorial Psalm 80: All good comes from God, even the good in our own hearts. Hence the psalmist calls on God to awaken good within us and cause us to turn from our ways to God’s ways. From praying for our own conversion, the psalm moves to praying for our own conversion, the psalm move to prayer for the nation and especially for the one whom God has raised up to lead the people. The leadership of God’s chosen one will assure that the people will no longer stray from God’s righteous path.

Second Reading: Borrowing from Psalm 40, the author of Hebrews reminds us that God values obedience far more than sacrifices. In the Gospel, Jesus often equates love with keeping the commandments. Rituals are important, but only if they reflect the true sacrifice of our lives in obedience to God’s will. Christ’s exemplary obedience was manifest when he willingly offered his body “once for all.”

Gospel: Mary rushes, to the side of Elizabeth who, like her, is the recipient of divine favour. But Elizabeth immediately recognises in Mary one more blessed than she is, and she also understands that what makes Mary special is her ability to trust that God’s words to her would be fulfilled. Both women will suffer greatly for the privilege they’ve been granted – as will their sons – but for now the linked destinies of John and Jesus can’t detract from the sheer joy of reaching out to touch a cousin who is also a recipient of God’s surprising grace.

Annual **LUX retreat** weekend in the Kings Park Centre in Northampton on **Friday 29th – Sunday 31st January**. For youth aged between **11-18 yrs**. Cost £90 includes bed, board and food. There are bursary places available. Booking forms may be downloaded from **www.nymo.org** website.

Our Lady’s Catholic Primary School is now accepting **applications for admissions for September 2016**. There are supplementary application forms available in the Church porch. Applications will close on 15th January 2016.

Our Lady’s Catholic school are currently consulting on their admissions policy for 2017-2018. All the related documentation is on the website www.ols.education/Admissions-Consulation. Consultation will close on 31st January 2016. Any comments may be forwarded to the school office email: office@ols.education

Money Matt

Last week’s Offertory Collection - £247.29
Collection for Church Flowers - £176.87

**The Christmas Offertory
is your gift to the Clergy**

Many thanks for your generosity.

Gift Aid Declarations Forms and Offertory Envelopes are now available.

Are you new to the parish?

If so, you are very welcome!

Do introduce yourself to Father Andy after Mass, and please complete a parish registration form.