

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

30, Amersham Road, Chesham Bois, Amersham, HP6 5PE
Tel: (01494) 727469 / 07722 229811 Parish Priest: Fr Andy Ollard
Email: info@ourladyschurch-cheshambois.org

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



6th December 2015

SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

| | | |
|--|-------------------|--|
| SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER (VIGIL) | 6.00pm (Sat.) | Mass – <i>Int. People of the parish</i> |
| | 8.00am | Sung Mass in <i>Extraordinary Form</i> |
| | 10.00am | Mass – <i>Int. Thanksgiving intention</i> |
| Monday <i>St Ambrose</i> | 9.30am | Mass |
| Tuesday IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of BVM | 9.30am | Mass |
| | 7.30pm | Mass to <i>Inaugurate the Year of Mercy</i> at <i>Northampton Cathedral (NN2 6AG)</i> |
| Wednesday <i>Advent Feria</i> | NO MASS | |
| Thursday <i>Advent Feria</i> | 6.00pm | Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament |
| | 7.00pm | Mass |
| Friday <i>Advent Feria</i> | 9.00am | Mass |
| Saturday <i>Advent Feria</i> | 9.30am | Mass |
| | 10.15am – 11.00am | Confessions |
| SUNDAY 13TH DEC. 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 6.00pm (Sat.) | Mass – <i>Int. People of the parish</i> |
| THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 8.00am | Low Mass in <i>Extraordinary Form</i> |
| THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 10.00am | Mass |

Parish Candles – To mark the 100 years of our church building, are available together with *candles featuring our church's stained glass window of the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour* priced at £2.50 each.



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.

CARVED OLIVE WOOD FROM THE HOLY LAND

Hand crafted products are on sale in the porch this weekend. This a way of directly supporting and helping Christian Palestinian families in Bethlehem to stay in work.

We represent more than 200 Christian families mainly in Bethlehem and some areas in Jerusalem in a noble cause mission to explain the terrible situation in our area and we are selling beautiful articles of those remaining Christians of the Holy Land. Latest statistic confirm that there are only 2% Christians remaining. Just five years ago more than 300 families emigrated from the Bethlehem Area and our future is uncertain. Since the time of the Crusades, the most important source of income for the Christians in the holy land is the sales of these olive wood handicrafts. As a result of the political unrest in the region, this source of income has dried up in recent years, with grave implications for the Christian families.

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 if money is a problem for some families. Booking forms are available to download from the www.nymo.org website.

ABOUT LITURGY

Advent penance service: Many parishes offer communal penance liturgies at least twice a year, during Advent and Lent. The readings this Sunday remind us that this sacrament is not primarily about lists of sins but about repentance, changing one's heart. Just as with all the sacraments, we celebrate the ritual as a way of appropriating the insight of the sacraments, we celebrate the ritual as a way of appropriating the insight of sacrament, namely to "take off" the robes of sin and "put on the splendour" (first reading) of the gospel attitudes of repentance and forgiveness.

Penitential act: Sometimes people claim that they have no need for the sacrament of penance because every Sunday Mass begins with a penitential act. Two points by way of response might be made to such objections. First of all, the penitential act isn't the same as the sacrament of penance and so it doesn't replace in our Christian practice the need for this special sacrament that is a concrete sign of God's forgiveness and promised healing. Second, the "penitential act" really isn't primarily about the forgiveness of sins as such but is about celebrating God's mercy and offer of salvation that always leads us to praise and thanksgiving.

Although, it is always good to acknowledge our sinfulness and beg for God's mercy, it is telling that *The Roman Missal* gives us other choices for the introductory rites and it is good pastoral practice to choose carefully among them according to the liturgical season and/or festival. For example, since Lent is a penitential season, on the Sundays of Lent the strongest option among that choices for the penitential act might be to use the *Confiteor* ("I confess to almighty God..."). On other Sundays of the year another choice might be more appropriate, especially since every Sunday is a celebration of resurrection.

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. The closing date for applications is the 15th January 2016.

A SPIRITUAL TALK FOR ADVENT – Friday, 11th December 2015 by Dr Maria Heath on "The Church in the World". Damien Hall at The Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Great Missenden. HP16 9AA. Refreshments from 7:30pm. Talk and Discussion at 8:00pm.

The talk will have a very practical focus so please don't be daunted! All welcome. See poster.

Lectionary for Mass

First Reading: These words are addressed to exiles who still remember the pain of being "led away on foot by their enemies." The prophet's promise is of complete reversal. God will remember his people and return them to their home from which they were snatched. God will clear the way for their return, levelling the lofty mountains and filling in the "age-old depths." These words of hope don't speak only to people displaced geographically, but to each of us who has experienced our own exile of estrangement and spiritual malaise. God is at work turning sorrow to joy!

Responsorial Psalm 126: God never abandons or disappoints. But it takes eyes of faith to perceive that truth because sometimes the evidence is not available to our senses. It is counterintuitive to believe that those "who sow in tears / shall reap rejoicing." And no matter how many times our cynicism has been proven wrong, it returns to cast a shadow over hope. But the psalmist is convinced that misfortune and that misfortune and tears are not the final word. Through God's merciful goodness seems like a dream too good to be true, to rouses the tongue to laughter and joy!

Second Reading: In this letter of joy written from prison Paul reminds us that the work of conversion lasts a life-long process of growth that doesn't end till we stand before the Lord. Paul encourages the Philippians to continue doing what they've been doing, only more!

Gospel: God's salvation approaches and nothing will stand in its way. Mountains will be levelled and valleys filled in so nothing can impede the progress of God's Kingdom. Luke situates John within a very specific historic and geographical context with a clear nod to the Roman authorities and the religious elite who will prove to be the Kingdom's first opponents. But somehow we sense that the voice in the desert knows full well that those who walk the halls well that those who walk the halls of power will be no match for the one whose advent he proclaims.

Vacancy – Director of School Development

This vacancy is a rare opportunity to join the **NORES** Service, which supports Catholic education and formation in the Northampton Diocese. Initially the key focus of the Director of School Development will be the academisation of our schools. We are looking for a strong candidate who has the skills to guide our schools through this time of change and help establish the strategy going forward. The NORES office is based in Luton, however travel will be necessary so access to your own vehicle and a full UK driving licence is required. Full information for the position and an application form at www.northamptondiocese.org or see poster in porch.

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School PTA is holding a Hollyberry Fayre on Sunday 13th December, 2-4pm at the School. All are welcome!

Money Matt

Last week's Offertory Collection - £304.55

NEXT WEEKEND – SECOND COLLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS FOR CHURCH

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.