

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

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



17th April 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER EASTER

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 17TH APRIL (<i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i>)	8.00pm (Sat.)	Mass – <i>Int. People of the parish</i>
	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (<i>Tridentine</i>)
	10.00am	Mass – <i>Int. Raneë Moldrich, RIP</i>
Monday <i>Easter Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass – <i>Int. Mike Paddon, (Surgery)</i>
Tuesday <i>Easter Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass – <i>Int. John Brendan O'Sullivan, RIP (Anni.)</i>
Wednesday <i>Easter Feria</i>	NO MASS	
Thursday <i>St Anselm</i>	6.00pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction
	7.00pm	Mass – <i>Int. Stephen Michael Slater RIP (Anni 20Apr)</i>
Friday <i>Easter Feria</i>	9.00am	Mass
Saturday ST GEORGE , <i>patron of England</i> (<i>Saturday Vigil for Sunday</i>)	9.30am	Mass – <i>Int. Fr P Bailey, (Recovery)</i>
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER	6.00pm	Mass – <i>Int. People of the parish</i>
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (<i>Tridentine</i>)
	10.00am	Mass – <i>Int. Nathan family</i>

BEGINS TODAY – LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN

Today, at the 10am Mass we invite our younger children (approximately aged 3 to 7) to attend their own Liturgy of the Word in the Guild Room. The children to leave the body of the Church after the Collect and return during the Preparation of the Gifts. For them it is still very much part of Mass, where they will listen to God's Word in a translation more appropriate to their understanding. And, as we all do during the liturgy of the Word, they will reflect on the Gospel, and spend some time in prayer. Parents are welcome to accompany their children. We are looking for helpers to support those who have agreed to take on this ministry for the younger members of our parish.

NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPE BOXES

Fresh supplies of Offertory Envelopes are available in the porch. If you currently make an offering to the parish by Gift Aid Envelope please take your named box. If you would like start contributing to the work of our parish by Gift Aid and pay through Numbered Envelope or Standing Order through the bank, please speak with our parish treasurer, Philip Seed, or Fr Andy.



Money Matters

Last Week's Offertory Collection – £310.80

TODAY – SECOND COLLECTION for Priests' Training Fund

Many thanks for your generosity.

NEW Offertory Envelopes BOXES are now available. See note above.

APRIL 2016 edition of The Vine

The Diocese of Northampton newspaper is now available. It's Free of charge!

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.



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

Hinge Sunday in Easter Lectionary: Traditionally known as "Good Shepherd Sunday," this Sunday of Easter is something of a hinge Sunday. On the one hand, the image of a loving, caring shepherd bids us look back to the first three Sundays of Easter on which the gospels all record appearance accounts of the risen Jesus; these Sundays assure us that Jesus is alive and continues to be present to us, teach us, and care for us. On the other hand, the image of a loving, caring shepherd bids us look forward to the next three Sundays and Pentecost; Jesus prepares us to be disciples by "knowing" us. No matter what demands our discipleship make on us (at least the demand of dying to self), we are assured on this Sunday (as on all Sundays) that Jesus will never let us "perish." Such reassurance gives the hope and courage we need to be faithful to Jesus' call to follow.

Hands as sacramental symbol: Jesus reassurances us in this gospel that "[n]o one can take [us] out of hand." Because using the hands is often such a powerful gesture, it ought to come as no surprise to us that hands are used as a symbol in all of our Catholic sacraments. Four of the sacraments (baptism, confirmation, sacrament of the sick, holy orders) expressly call for an imposition of the hands that includes actual physical touch. The other three sacraments (Eucharist, penance, marriage) use extended hands (and sometimes, in face-to-face confession the confessor might actually touch the head of the penitent during absolution). This latter gesture of extended hands usually signifies an *epiclesis*, which means calling down the Holy Spirit in blessing and/or consecration. In all cases the symbolic gesture with hands conveys the intimacy with which God chooses to be connected with us.

Our prayers, condolences and sympathies to the family of **Michael Conway**, The Croft Care Home, The Penningtons, Chestnut Lane, who died suddenly on Wednesday 13th April, fortified with the Rites of the Church. His **funeral** has been arranged at **12.30pm on Friday 6th May at Our Lady's Church**. Please keep Michael and his family in your prayers.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO PREPARE OUR CHURCH FOR MASS

We are looking for volunteers of individuals or families to join a rota to help set up for Saturday 6pm and Sunday 10am Masses. It will require arriving at least 20 minutes before the start of Mass. Full training will be provided. If four or five people/families volunteer it would mean each group setting up just once a month.

FATHER PATRICK BAILEY

Fr Bailey, parish priest of St Columba, Chesham, is now in a care home in Aylesbury for a period of convalescence at a care home in Aylesbury. He is in good spirits and appreciates all our prayers for this recovery. During Father Bailey's recovery, **Father Alessandro Reno**, originally from Italy, a priest now working the Ecuador, **is helping with Sunday Masses at St Columba**. Father Andy is continuing to assist with the pastoral and sacramental needs of the parish during Fr Bailey's absence.

Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy – Holy Door St Joseph's in Gerrards Cross

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we are all invited to make a pilgrimage through one of the designated Holy Doors. Our nearest Holy Door is at St Joseph's in Chalfont St Peter (SL9 8RY). You may like to consider making your own individual journey there, where you will find a prayerful guide which will help you encounter anew the mercy of God. This mini-pilgrimage walk through the Holy Door and round St Joseph's Church will take 20-30 minutes.

Lectionary for Mass

First Reading: Paul and Barnabas continue to preach to the provinces, this time in Pisidia, which was part of Galatia. Uncovered by hostile reception of the local Jews, they convert the Gentiles. Note the echoing of Simeon in the phrase "a light for the nations," drawn from Isaiah 49:6.

Responsorial Psalm 100 was most likely a processional psalm, used upon entering the Temple. The joy of this psalm is palpable; the phrase "we are his people, the sheep of his flock" is a composite of phrases in Psalm 74, 79, 95. The recurrent theme of God's faithfulness is also present.

Second Reading: John's vision continues, and now he hears of the promise of salvation. The elect of God stand in his presence and praise, with palm branches that represent victory. Representatives of all people are present. The promises of the freedom that comes in the presence of God are inspiring.

Gospel: The metaphor in chapter 10 is that of the Good Shepherd, which contrasts the poor shepherding provided by authorities just prior to this passage in the story of the man born blind. Here, Jesus makes promises to this we who have ears but do not hear. He is God's incarnate word, and therefore one with the Father. The "I am" language is consistent with the themes of preceding chapters.

OUR SUNDAY OBLIGATION

"Much obliged" is an old fashioned phrase first noted in the Old Oxford English Dictionary in the sixteenth century. Over the centuries, the phrase has lost some of its richness. Originally, it meant to be bound to a person by ties of gratitude. Today, the phrase is more often used as an automatic response to someone who has performed a perfunctory service. Unfortunately, this practice does not convey the sense of truly being bound to each other by gratitude. What a loss! Because of that loss, many people understand the word obligation as a burden rather than a commitment and duty that flows from a relationship. Obligation is a form of indebtedness that comes from within the heart of a relationship. Think of the obligations that make for a rich family life. A parent does not say, "I wonder if I have to feed my children this week?" Husbands and wives carry out a myriad of obligatory tasks in service to each other during the course of a week and never ask, "Do I have to?" In loving relationships, we are grateful for the gift of each other and we express that gratitude by doing right actions because we want to do so. Obligatory behaviours grow out of communication, intimacy, and personal and communal relationships. These examples can help us reflect on our "obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labour" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2041).

The heart of Sunday obligation is gratitude. The word Eucharist means "to give thanks." We gather each week because we are "much obliged" to God—for everything. This obligation is not an automatic response to someone who has performed a perfunctory service. We come together to "give thanks" to God, our Father who is the source of all life and creation, and to Jesus, God's Son who gave us eternal life through his death on the Cross that is made present in every Mass as we participate again in Christ's death and Resurrection through the Eucharist. Each time we "attend Mass," we bring our lives, our very selves, to the Eucharist. We gather together as a community, grateful to have each other as fellow pilgrims in faith and grateful to be nourished by the body and blood of Christ.

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Maureen A. Kelly