

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

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



8th May 2016

THE ASCENSION
OF THE LORD

SUNDAY AFTER
THE ASCENSION

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 8TH MAY (<i>Vigil Mass for Sunday</i>)	6.00pm (Sat.)	Mass – <i>Int. People of the parish</i>
	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
	10.00am	Mass
Monday <i>Easter Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass – <i>Int. George Arthur Bouchier RIP (101st Anni)</i>
Tuesday <i>Easter Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass – <i>Int. Michael Gabriel Conway, RIP, (B'day)</i>
Wednesday <i>Easter Feria</i>	NO MASS	
Thursday <i>Easter Feria</i>	6.00pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction
	7.00pm	Mass
Friday <i>Our Lady of Fatima</i>	9.00am	Mass
Saturday ST MATTHIAS	9.30am	Mass
PENTECOST (<i>Saturday Vigil for Sunday</i>)	6.00pm	Mass – <i>Int. People of the parish</i>
WHITSUNDAY	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
PENTECOST	10.00am	Mass

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN

During the 10am Mass we invite our younger children (approx. aged 3 to 7) to attend their own Liturgy of the Word in the Guild Room. Children will 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 join their children.** We welcome more help from those who seek to be leaders and support in this ministry to the children of our parish.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS FOR COMMUNION

Last weekend, we commissioned **Patricia Cooper, Grant Kudsee, and Anne Thaninayagam** as Extraordinary Ministers of Communion. All existing *Ministers of Communion* will have the opportunity to renew their commitment to this ministry on the weekend of **28th/29th May 2016**, the **Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ** (*Corpus Christi*)



Money Matters

Last Week's Offertory Collection – £294.35

THIS WEEKEND – Second Collection:

**The Church's evangelisation
through the media**

Many thanks for your generosity.

MAY 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

Silences during Mass: Several times during Mass it is appropriate to pause in silence. These silent times enable us to surrender ourselves to God's Presence, to remember that the Spirit dwells within us and enables us to reverse the "absence" of the Ascension: through the power of the Spirit within us the risen Christ is present.

First, both the Rite of the Blessing and Sprinkling of Water and the Penitential Act call for a brief period of silence and reflection. This time allows us to make the transition from our busy lives into God's Presence, consciously surrender ourselves to God's word-action within us, and call to mind anything that we have done that keeps us from giving ourselves over to taking up Jesus' saving mission as his faithful disciples "clothed with power from on high." Although this time is brief (and in some cases so as to be non-existent!) it is mightily important; this opens the door for our participation in the rest of Mass. We take much time to prepare for important events in our lives; surely this brief time is no less important!

Second, after Communion there may be a brief period of silence. Since we have just shared in eating and drinking the Body and Blood of Christ, this is time afforded us to appreciate more fully what we have shared and think about how we might be a better presence of the Body and Blood of Christ to others in our daily living. We might consider one specific way during the coming week when we will consciously be the presence of the risen Christ for someone else.

OUR LADY'S PARISH VOTIVE CANDLES

In response to popular demand, we have a fresh supply of votive candles which feature the Stained Glass of the Icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. **Price £2.50**

NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPE BOXES

Offertory Envelopes are now available in the porch. If you currently support our parish through Gift Aid envelope scheme, please take your named box. If you would like to begin contributing to our parish through the Gift Aid through numbered envelope or by Standing Order through your bank, please speak with Fr Andy.

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. 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.

RESTORATION OF FURNITURE AND FITTINGS IN OUR LADY'S CHURCH

The **brass plaque of Sec. Lieut. George Bouchier**, has been cleaned, polished and returned to the side chapel. Its surface has been coated and sealed in a lacquer, which should preserve its restored appearance. This plaque should now only be wiped with a soft, dry cloth using no polish or cleaning chemicals to preserve the lacquered seal. The presiding chair and deacons' stools and kneeler of the *prie-dieu* in the Sanctuary have been reupholstered and recovered in a blue fabric in honour of our parish's patron. Our thanks to parishioners who generously funded these works.

Lectionary for Mass

About this Solemnity The distinct celebration of the Ascension of the Lord was unknown in the first three and a half centuries. The chronology of dating the Ascension to forty days after Lent exists only in the Acts of the Apostles. In the Gospel according to Luke, the Ascension appears to have taken place much earlier, even on Easter Day. The original ending to Mark's account of the Gospel did not include the Ascension at all, and it can only be inferred from Matthew's conclusion. When fourth-century Egeria mentions a celebration forty days after Easter in Bethlehem, it may have been for the Holy Innocents. But by the fifth century the observance seems to be universally accepted.

First Reading: The opening verses of Acts of the Apostles offers details of the teaching of Jesus about the sending of the Spirit. Even at this moment, the disciples are still fixed on the centrality of Israel. The expansion of their mission is documented in detail throughout the book. This is followed by the story of the Ascension, and the detail of the angels is evocative of Luke's Resurrection narrative.

Responsorial Psalm 47: This hymn of praise celebrates God's enthronement. At its centre is the belief that God is king. It may have been used in a rite in the Temple in which the ark was carried and then placed within the Temple. The language evokes the language of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Second Reading: The kind of knowledge of God of which Paul speaks is not some sort of abstract or philosophical knowledge. Rather, it is knowledge of the person of Jesus Christ through whom God is revealed. The entire passage witnesses to the fact that it is God who is revealed in Christ, and to whom Christ has returned in glory. As in the psalm, we encounter the theme of enthronement.

Gospel: The Gospel according to Luke closes with the appearance of Jesus. He reiterates the instructions that they have been given to preach his message. He promises them the Spirit, which will give them "power from on high." The final scene is that of the Lord's Ascension. This will be the first scene of the Acts of the Apostles. Note that they return to Jerusalem, the city from which they return fled crest-fallen. This will be the place where the first major Christian community develops.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Family Retreat Day "Dare to Believe"

with the internationally renowned speaker, **David Wells.** **Saturday 11th June at Our Lady's Catholic School, Chesham Bois.** There will be an opening liturgy with the children from the school, worship led by Liam Lynch, a children's and youth stream, shared lunch on the paddock, and much more.

Tickets £5 per person, children go free, available from the parish office, **Immaculate Heart of Mary, Gt Missenden** (greatmissendenandwendover@gmail.com). *Please get your tickets soon as we expect this event to sell out quickly.*