



24th July 2016

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

10TH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Saturday 17 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Vigil)	6.00pm	Mass – Int. Billy McNamara, RIP
Sunday 10 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the parish
Monday ST JAMES	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday SS Joachim & Anne	9.30am	Mass
Wednesday Feria	NO MASS	
Thursday Feria	6.00pm	Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass
Friday St Martha	9.00am	Mass
Saturday Feria	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confession
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Vigil)	6.00pm	Mass – Int. People of the parish
11 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00am	Mass

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN

Following the half-term break, **Liturgy of the Word with Children** returns to 10am Mass this Sunday. 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 encouraged 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.

Congratulations to **Peter Garrett** and **Alexandra Šólyová**

who were married in Our Lady's Church yesterday (Saturday). May God bless their marriage and their new life together.

At the 10am Mass today, we welcome and baptise **Oscar Richard Philip Rice**. Congratulations to his parents David and Jade and his godparents.



Money Matters

Last Week's Offertory Collection – £418.74

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.

JULY 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

Liturgy as prayer: We call liturgy a celebration, a ritual act, the communal worship of the people. We process during liturgy, sing, acclaim, proclaim. Liturgy is filled with many different kinds of activities. This Sunday's gospel challenges us to consider whether we approach liturgy as *prayer*. True, we pray the Our Father just before Holy Communion, the prayer that Jesus taught us and we hear about in this Sunday's gospel. Since this is the prayer that Jesus taught, we rightly think of its pre-eminence. At the same time we cannot forget that *all* of liturgy is prayer from the beginning sign of the cross to thee concluding blessing and dismissal. A prayerful attitude should mark how we celebrate liturgy.

Why is it important to insist that liturgy is prayer? An attitude of prayer keeps us focused on the relationship with God that we share. It helps us realise that we don't celebrate liturgy because of any power we have, but because God invites us and gives us the Holy Spirit who enables us to respond with praise and thanksgiving.

True, different kinds of prayer mark our liturgies. Sometimes we pray aloud together, such as during the responsorial psalm and the Our Father. Sometimes we are given silent time during which to pour our hearts out to God very personally in prayer, such as in the quiet time after the readings and after receiving Holy Communion.

Sometimes we actively listen as another voices our prayer, such as during the presidential prayers (collect, prayer over the gifts, prayer after Communion) and the Eucharistic prayer. Surely our acclaiming and hymn singing is also prayer. But for all these (and other) types of prayer during Mass, the real challenge is to make the *whole Mass* the *one prayer* of the one Body of Christ.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Next year, our neighbouring parishes of St Columba and St Aidan are planning preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Our parish will work closely with all the churches in our Pastoral Area with this preparation. If you have been thinking about celebrating this Sacrament, please talk to Fr Andy before the end of July 2016. The preparation is open to any person in the parish who will be in Year 8 or above in September 2016, or who has left school.

THE LAMPEDUSA CROSS – sending messages of hope

Thank you to all who took time after Mass last Weekend to complete a message of hope. If you took a card away please return it with your message of hope for refugees. Forced out by war, poverty or persecution, millions of people live uncertain lives as migrants and refugees. But each of us, moved by faith and common humanity, can act in welcome, respect and love. Using cards provided, you are invited to write or draw a message of hope for refugees as a way of marking the Year of Mercy. For more information contact Monica Bratt or see noticeboard in porch.

CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - CCRS

The CCRS course has been running successfully for many years in our diocese, for catechists, teachers, anyone who is interested. Candidates can either attend and produce the essays for the certificate, or can attend for a reduced fee as an unregistered student which does not require completion of the essays. The course will run on Saturdays starting on 24 September 2016 with an induction day on 17 September from 10am until 2pm at St Louise Catholic Primary School in Aylesbury. See leaflets in porch or www.nores.org.uk/adulteducation

Compass, the new youth group, serving the parishes of Our Lady's Chesham Bois, St Aidan's Little Chalfont and St Columba's Chesham, is launching on Thursday 8th September 2016. A leadership team of seven people drawn from all three parishes is working hard to get ready for September. To help us prepare, we'd like to hear from anyone aged 8 to 18 and also we'd like to hear from parents of young people aged 8 to 18. Could you take 3 minutes to complete our survey by visiting our website: www.compassyouth.club. Please do pray for us. Thank you!

Lectionary for Mass

First Reading: God's determination to punish Sodom and Gomorrah for their sinfulness has Abraham pleading with God not to sweep away the innocent with the guilty. Secure in his covenant relationship with God, the crux of Abraham's prayer is summarised in a rhetorical question asked of God: "Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?" Since doing justice is the essence of covenant relationship, the answer is an obvious yes. But how far does justice go in this context? Through prayer, Abraham is able to come to prayer and understand God's way of doing things, and in asking God for justice, he is able to attune his will to God's will. Prayer is not a matter of changing God's mind to our way of thinking, but rather to attune our way of thinking to God's mind, as we strive to align ourselves with God's will.

Responsorial Psalm 137: This psalm of praise and thanksgiving to God assures us that when we call upon the Lord in need, the Lord hears and responds. "The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly" summarises well the faith and trust of all in covenant love relationship with God. Because of God's kindness, that enduring faithful covenant love, we know that we are not forsaken and that the Lord's right hand does protect and save. Abraham's prayer to God flows out of the sure bond of covenant love, and of knowing God to be full of mercy, compassion and very concerned about doing justice.

Second Reading: In Baptism we are buried with Christ and through God's power we are raised with him. God raises us up with Christ even while we are slaves to sin and legally bonded to evil powers. In Christ, God brings us to life, forgiving all our transgressions and eliminating all legal bonds against us from evil powers, by nailing all to the cross. Colossians asserts that we have been justified and made righteous before God through Christ's Cross, symbolic of that total gift of self-emptying love. As disciples, we are called to model ourselves on Christ, and manifest that same love towards one another, even when not deserved or accepted.

Gospel: Luke's Jesus is a person of prayer whose personal relationship to God sustains his life and ministry. His disciples, very much aware of this, ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. Jesus responds with what we now call the Our Father or the Lord's Prayer. We are taught to call upon God as we would a loving parent, bless, and praise God for life's many blessings, and ask God for those things that we need in life to be faithful partners in a covenant love relationship. A parable follows the prayer reminding us that we should be bold and persistent in our prayers to God, not to get our own way, but to ask God for justice and right relationship in all things so that we might live as God desires. The final sayings stress the reality that just as parents desire nothing but the best for their children, so too God desires nothing but the best whenever we are bold enough to ask.