



31st July 2016

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

11TH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Saturday 18 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Vigil)	6.00pm	Mass – Int. Brian Farelley (sp. int.)
Sunday 11 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the parish
Monday St Alphonsus Liguori	9.30am	Mass – Int. Mary Cherubim, RIP
Tuesday Feria	9.30am	Mass
Wednesday Feria	NO MASS	
Thursday St John Vianney	NO MASS	
Friday Feria	NO MASS	
Saturday TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD	NO MASS this morning	
NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Vigil)	6.00pm	Mass – Int. People of the parish
12 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00am	Mass

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN

Liturgy of the Word with Children takes place regularly during the 10am Mass on Sundays. 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.



Money Matters

Last Week's Offertory Collection – £380.19

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.

AUGUST 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's true focus: Just as with our everyday lives and all the possessions we have, it is also easy to lose sight of the true focus of liturgy itself. Without realising it we can get so completely caught up in the *doing* of liturgy that subtly we put ourselves at the centre. For example, we can be so concerned about hospitality that we forget this isn't a simple gathering of the folks, but an assembly gathered to hear God's call to be in divine Presence. Or we can be so caught up in doing good music that we forget the music's purpose is to draw us into the ritual action to be transformed into being more perfect members of Christ's Body, the church. Or we can be so caught up in our own need for private prayer time that we can easily forget that at liturgy we surrender ourselves and our personal needs in order to be the church called into God's Presence.

Each Sunday it would be good practice if each assembly member examined *why* he or she comes to celebrate liturgy. Ultimately we come to respond to God's call and to give praise and thanks for God's tremendous gifts of life and Godself to us.

There is a popular saying that states: "live simply, that others may simply live." Some attribute this saying to Mahatma Ghandi while others claim Blessed Teresa of Calcutta as its source. Regardless of which of these two prophetic witnesses wrote it, the message is certainly one that we hear today in the life and ministry of Pope Francis as well as that of Jesus who speaks similar words in today's Gospel. The lazy days of summertime make a good time to rid ourselves of extra stuff, so that we might live simply. Disconnect from the smart phone, the social media, and the technology for a while. Take a walk on the woods, the beach or near a lake. Make time to talk to your children or your aging parents or your neighbour with you've been out of touch with for a while. Connect with people, not things.

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 earlier this month 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: Wisdom literature focuses on the meaning and significance of everyday life, especially in those things that matter in our relationship to God and one another. The key lesson of Ecclesiastes is that life is "vanity of vanities," transitory like vapour or breath that quickly vanishes. Those who work hard at gaining possessions and wealth will soon die and leave the possessions to one who has not worked for them. Striving for material things brings with it worry, anxiety and sleepless nights. Death makes such struggle futile and meaningless. Wisdom's lesson is to focus on the transitory nature of life and strive for things that truly matter in life. Only by attuning to God's values and path, and not our limited and often distorted values, leads to face and work through life's transitory nature.

Responsorial Psalm 89: This communal lament invites us to be attentive to God's voice, God's way of doing things, and not harden our heart in the process. Reflecting a strong wisdom focus, the psalm speaks of the transitory nature of life, along the lines of Ecclesiastes, and of our need for the Lord's guidance "make us know the shortness of our life, / that we may gain wisdom of heart." Such wisdom is acquired by petitioning God to "[F]ill us . . . with your love," namely with *hesed* or covenant love which helps us focus on right relationship to God, others, and all creation. In so doing, God's gracious care will be ours and the work of our hands, aligned to God's work, will indeed prosper.

Second Reading: If in Baptism we have been raised with Christ, then it must manifest itself in our manner of living and relating to God and one another. Our life is now hidden with Christ in God such that we no longer act but Christ acts in and through us. We are challenged to put away all that is "earthly," namely all that causes our hearts to harden and not be attuned to Christ's way of living and acting. In baptism we have put on Christ so we must live as Christ. Since "Christ is everything and in everything," we are all bonded to each other, all divisions and eliminated, and nothing can ever separate us from God and one another.

Gospel: Luke's Jesus is always attuned to the obstacles that riches pose in our efforts to attune ourselves to God's voice and way of operating. The "rich fool" parable becomes a living example of one who has not learned that "one's life does not consist of possessions." Ecclesiastes' wisdom of the "vanity" of life, the worries that come with possessions, and the uncertainty of inheritance upon death, are reiterated by Jesus as an important teaching lesson for all disciples. Jesus teaches us that we are all called to become "rich in the sight of God" and not in storing "up treasures for ourselves." Only by responding to God's covenant love offered to us in Christ, and striving to be in right relationship with all, will we ever achieve true wisdom of heart.