



TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the Parish
Monday Presentation of the BVM	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday Advent Feria	9.30am	Mass
Wednesday Advent Feria	NO MASS	
Thursday St Andrew, Apostle	6.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction
	7.00pm	Mass
Friday Advent Feria	9.00am	Mass
Saturday St Francis Xavier	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11am	Confessions
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10.00am	Mass

NEW MASS TIMES OF CHURCHES IN OUR PASTORAL AREA

We **NO LONGER** celebrate the **VIGIL MASS AT 6PM ON SATURDAYS** at Our Lady's Church, Chesham Bois. There is a 6.00pm Vigil Mass at St Aidan's Church, Little Chalfont and St Teresa's Church, Beaconsfield, Sunday Mass times are changing at St Columba, Chesham and St Aidan, Little Chalfont: The new Mass Times will be: 9.00am – St Columba, 11.00am – St Aidan, 6.00pm – St Columba.



NOVEMBER – The Month of Holy Souls

During the past year, we celebrated funerals of: **Sylvia Jenkins, Margaret Donnelly, Leo Donnelly, Joyce Shard, Kitty Larkin, Michael Conway and Evelyn Gabb.** Rest in peace. All those whom you wish be remembered in our prayers at Masses during the month of November.

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN

During 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. **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.



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.



The Art of Dying Well is a new website that offers a helping hand to those grappling with issues around death and dying. Based on the Catholic tradition but open to all, it features real-life stories about dealing with the journey through death to eternal life it will launch in November – the traditional month of remembering and praying for the dead. www.artofdyingwell.org

THE TABLET Many of you will be familiar with The Tablet, Britain's oldest continually published Catholic journal. They are inviting parishioners, whether readers or not, to take part in a readership survey. The purpose of the survey is to enable them to better understand the interests of parishioners. There are no right or wrong answers and The Tablet team would be grateful if all parishioners expressed their views on this short survey. Questionnaires are available in the porch or can be accessed online by typing www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/narishion in your browser.

About Liturgy

Liturgy and God's time: For many it seems as though liturgy unfolds the same way week after week except for the obvious changes in the readings, homily, and music. Liturgy can seem like little more than a succession of words and ritual actions, of postures and gestures, of speaking and listening. We can be caught up in our own time, and lose sight that liturgy draws us into God's time, into an acute experience – brief though it might be – of God's Presence. The choices we make are about how we are at liturgy are an essential preparation for entering into God's time. To "stay awake" at liturgy is a matter of heightening our expectation of when and how "the Son of Man will come." And making good choices in face of his coming. Obviously, the basic choice for each person is simply deciding to come to Mass. Beyond this, each of us must choose to participate fully, actively, and consciously. This means that we surrender ourselves to God's transforming action during the liturgy, surrender ourselves to God's time. We join our voices with others singing God's praises. We *actively listen* to the instructions in God's ways. We enter deeply into the prayer of the liturgy. Perhaps the most persistent choice is to remain focused on the prayer at hand, gently bringing ourselves back to attention whenever our minds wander. The music offer many opportunities for choices and self-surrender. We choose to join in the singing. Perhaps one of the most important functions of music during the liturgy is its power to move us beyond time as duration and draw us into God's time as perpetual now. For liturgy's bit of time we are immersed in eternity, in the immensity of the coming of "the Son of Man," in God's time that renews us in our resolve to "stay awake."

ADVENT begins today. To help nourish us journey this four-week journey, *Walk with Me* prayer booklets are available at a cost of £1.00. For our children (and the young at heart), there are *Advent & Christmas Calendars* available for 50 pence.

Mission TODAY 2017 Calendars are available in the porch for Missio Members.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2017

Preparations are now being made for our local inter-denominational event which will be on 3rd March 2017 at St John's Methodist Church in Amersham.

The service has been prepared by Christian women of the Philippines. It usually lasts for one hour starting at 11am and is followed by a shared lunch which is optional. If you would like to take part as a reader, singer, or advisor, please let Elizabeth Beckwith know. Tel. 01494 433363.

Lectionary for Mass

About this Season Advent involves waiting. We wait with hope for the second coming of Christ and we wait with joy for the celebration of Christmas. This joyful hope can often be tinged with fear, because the second coming will be a time of judgment.

First Reading: Mountains are sacred, mysterious places, where God is often found. "The mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountain." And "all nations will stream to it." Here, we see the initial move towards Jerusalem, a frequent theme in the Gospel accounts as well. We must climb to grow in our faith.

Responsorial Psalm 121 follows the theme of climbing from the First Reading. It is the one of several Psalms of Ascent (see Psalms 120-134), used by Jewish pilgrims on their journey to Jerusalem. It sets our entire attitude for Advent as we sing "I rejoiced when I heard them say: Let us go to God's house."

Second Reading: In his holy *Rule*, Benedict tells his monks to "Keep death daily, before your eyes" (*Rule of St. Benedict*, 4:47). That is what Paul is telling us. Sometimes, it is easy to fall asleep, to become complacent in our faith. The Romans were returning to some of their earlier ways, and Paul tried to shake them awake with this reminder to leave earthly things behind. Yet, we cannot engage in battles without the right equipment. We are encouraged to "put on our armour of light."

The Gospel is rather brusque today, but Matthew takes up right where Paul left off, telling us to "Stay awake!" It is not a question, or a suggestion, it is an order. We must do this. It also means we must be in it for the long haul. Our faith is not an hour on Sunday – a switch we turn on and off. Our lives must reflect the Gospel. The best way to be ready for God's coming is to live it every moment.

PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Parish Christmas Dinner will be taking place on the evening of Saturday 10th December, at the Metro Lounge in Amersham. Start swotting for the traditional festive quiz! The cost of £26.00 for the three-course meal includes a contribution for prizes for the festive quiz.

'The Wizard of Oz' – 19-22 Jan 2017, The Elgiva Theatre

Join The Chesham Bois Catholic Players in following the Yellow Brick Road this coming January. It will include a large talented cast gathered from the surrounding area, great costumes, music and dancing. There will be five performances including two matinees and it could be the perfect post-Christmas show for parishioners and their families.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Applications are requested for preparations for **First Reconciliation** and **First Holy Communion** at Our Lady's Church. Please complete the signup sheet in the porch. **Applications will close on Sunday 18th December 2016.** Candidates must be in at least school year 3.

Money Matters

Last Week's Offertory Collection - £ 260.10

Red Missio Boxes - £87.99 (Total for year: £250.72)

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.

NOVEMBER 2016 edition of The Vine

The Diocese of Northampton newspaper is 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.