



TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the Parish
Monday <i>St Birinus</i>	NO MASS	
Tuesday <i>St Nicholas</i>	NO MASS	
Wednesday <i>St Ambrose</i>	NO MASS	
Thursday IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF BVM	NO MASS	
Friday <i>Advent FERIA</i>	NO MASS	
Saturday <i>Advent FERIA</i>	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confessions
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
THIRD 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.



The Big Picture is an inspirational Bible Course and DVD produced by CAFE to help people find their place in the big picture of salvation history. **St Joseph's in Gerrards Cross** will be running this course over 12 weeks in the New Year in which we will study the Bible from the time of Creation through to the End of Time. We will explore the teaching presented by biblical experts, follow a daily personal reading plan and reflect on this in subsequent group sessions. This is an opportunity to deepen our love and understanding of the Bible. There are two opportunities to join the course which will run on **Thursdays from 12 January to 6 April 2017** in the morning at 9.30am or in the evening at 7.45pm for 8pm. Participants will need their personal copy of "The Big Picture" book, which includes a DVD, priced at £10 available from St Joseph's Parish Office (office@stjosephs.org.uk or 01753 886581). The book is inviting and full of inspirational quotes with plenty of room to record your personal journey through the bible.

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!



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

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 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/parishioner in your browser.

About Liturgy

Advent and Lent – two sides of the same coin? The gospel for this Sunday sounds like it might be a good gospel to use for Lent – Repent? Although we usually think of being prepared and expectation as describing what Advent is really all about – and this within a quiet joyfulness – we are also reminded that Advent begins by looking to the Second Coming and the final judgment. The repentance of Advent is interpreted within this context; thus repentance is one way we prepare and expect.

The liturgical seasons don't unfold the mystery of salvation in any chronological or historical manner. The wholeness of the mystery is always incorporated in the various themes for each season of the liturgical year. There is a special convergence between the beginning of Advent and Lent because of the repentance motif. Repentance brings us face-to-face with the *not* yet of the mystery, that we are still sinful humanity in need of redemption. At the same time both seasons also bring us to the gift of salvation: Advent in that it opens onto the celebration of the Incarnation and the coming of our Saviour into our midst; Lent in that it opens onto the celebration of Easter and joyful new Life of the risen Christ and of the baptised.

Advent and Lent aren't the two sides of the coin – the dying and rising of the paschal mystery are. Advent and Lent each find themselves on both sides of the coin. Both seasons invite us to death and to resurrection, to self-emptying and to exaltation, to poverty of self and to fullness of Life.

Lectionary for Mass

First Reading: The Root of Jesse is described in an allegorical sense. Here, a little shoot comes out of a barren stump and will reach out to the Gentiles. The wolf and the lamb, the child and the adder (a snake), are examples of this extreme contrast between what was possible.

Responsorial Psalm 71 speaks of endowing the king with judgment and the king's son with justice. This is a reference to King David and his son Jesse, the youngest and the chosen one. The Root of Jesse is Jesus, who will "save the poor when they cry out, and the needy who are helpless."

Second Reading: Endurance and encouragement is a curious description of God. It contrasts with the sometimes angry and brooding images of God we hear in the Old Testament. Paul called for harmony among the early Church followers. This is not that much different than the Christian communities and various theologies of God that exist today. Jesus led us to look beyond our differences and ministered to people in many walks of life.

The Gospel: John the Baptist preached a difficult message, and challenged the Pharisees and Sadducees, "Who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming?" One is not baptised out of fear, nor is it about pedigree, education, background, or position. Baptism is a response to the call to "produce good"

We are now in the season of **ADVENT**. 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.

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 January 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 - £ 121.55

NEXT SUNDAY – SECOND COLLECTION FOR CHURCH CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

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

DECEMBER 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.