



TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Gaudete	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Gaudete	10.00am	Mass – Int. Bernadette Woods, RIP
Monday Our Lady of Guadalupe	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday St Lucy	9.30am	Mass
Wednesday St John of the Cross	NO MASS	
Thursday Advent Feria	6.00pm	Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass – Int. Jacob Stevens' intention
Friday Advent Feria	9.00am	Mass
Saturday Advent Feria – O Wisdom	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confessions
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10.00am	Mass – Int. Bert and Frances Mendis, RIP

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!



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.

Advent Service of Reconciliation Tuesday, 13th December at 8pm at St Joseph's Church, Austin Green, Chalfont St. Pete, SL9 8RY. God never, ever tires of forgiving us. The problem is that we ourselves tire; we do not want to ask; we grow weary of asking for forgiveness. The Sacrament of Reconciliation, or Confession as it's better known, offers us an important way of getting closer to God - to be forgiven for our sins. As Pope Francis puts it "it's an encounter with the Lord's mercy which spurs us on to do our best". Come and join us for a special Advent Service of Reconciliation (with visiting priests) in **St Joseph's Church** and experience the simple generosity of God's love.

About Liturgy

Veneration of the altar and the presence/coming of the Messiah: When the entrance procession reaches the sanctuary space and the ministers have made their reverence of the altar, the presider (and deacon) approach the altar and kiss it. We are occupied with singing the entrance song, so we probably don't pay too much attention to this profound gesture. Yet it is fraught with meaning.

This gesture dates at least to the fourth century and probably has its origin in ancient culture: often families would kiss the table before a meal began as a kind of greeting. Thus, one interpretation of the veneration of the altar by a kiss is that the presider is greeting Christ who is present among the faithful.

At its dedication the altar was anointed with holy chrism and thus became a symbol of Christ's Presence in the assembly. We begin liturgy, then, with a gesture that reminds us of Christ, and we are at the same time reminded that we are the Body of Christ, now gathered around the Head who is present. Christ's Presence is a poignant reminder of who we are – members of his Body. It is also a reminder of how we are to live – doing his works. Our works are to "kiss" others with Christ's Presence and goodness.

We are now in the season of **ADVENT**. For our children (and the young at heart), there are *Advent & Christmas Calendars* for 50 pence. **Mission TODAY 2017** Calendars are available in the porch for Missio Members.

Lectionary for Mass

About Gaudete Sunday The Third Sunday of Advent (like the Fourth Sunday of Lent) is a day of joy in the midst of a penitential season. It is traditionally called *Gaudete* Sunday, from the Latin of the Entrance Antiphon for today: *Gaudete in Domino semper*, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near" (Philippians 4:4-5). The antiphon captures the mood of the entire liturgy as we move into the second part of Advent: there is a sense of joyful expectation, an awareness that the fulfilment of God's great plan for us is near. That sense is strong in today's readings.

First Reading: There is much joy and anticipation as we await rare desert flowers and miraculous cures. God restores all that has become barren to former beauty, and those who have been taken captive in Babylon will be freed and will enter Zion (Jerusalem) singing. What encouragement for the feeble and the frightened, to hear they will be made whole again!

Responsorial Psalm 145 is a song of praise, giving thanks to God for all that he has done. The response is fashioned from Isaiah 35:4, reiterating the notion that our God will come and save us. The tense of the psalm reminds us that this is not a concept from of old, but a reality for today. Psalm 145 is the joyful prayer of one who has lived through terrible times only to shine from praising God's name. Faith and trust are learned amidst pain and suffering.

Second Reading: Patience is a difficult virtue to learn and act upon. None of us wants to hear "in God's time." We want what we want now. Yet, in his wisdom, James counsels that we must wait patiently and joyously, and to never, give up. Temptation and rash judgments are things which can get us into trouble when we do not think things through and spontaneously act upon our desires. We must be patient. Let the seed grow.

The Gospel: It is ironic that as we speak of waiting, John the Baptist becomes impatient, wondering "are you [Jesus] the one who is to come or have we got to wait for someone else?" He seems disappointed that there is not a big, fiery finish. Jesus rebukes him and, paraphrasing Isaiah, says that the prophecies have now been fulfilled. However, realising he responded quickly, Jesus goes on to tell the crowds great things that John has done.

'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.**

Money Matters

Last Week's Offertory Collection - £ 190.80

**TODAY – SECOND COLLECTION:
CHURCH FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS**

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.