



19<sup>th</sup> February 2017

SEVENTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME

SEXAGESIMA

## TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

<b>Sexagesima</b>	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY</b>	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the parish
Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday <i>St Peter Damian</i>	9.30am	Mass
Wednesday THE CHAIR OF ST PETER	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Thursday <i>St Polycarp</i>	6.00pm	Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass
Friday <i>Feria</i>	9.00am	Mass
Saturday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confessions
<b>Quinquagesima</b>	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the parish

## PREPARING FOR LENT 2017

This year Lent begins on 1<sup>st</sup> March, during next few weeks we will be collecting last year's palm crosses. The remains of last Lent's palms will be burned. This is a wonderful sign of the change of seasons! This year we will burn these palm remains after the 10am Mass next Sunday 26 February. The ashes will be used for imposition on Ash Wednesday.



## 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. **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.

## Lent 2017 - Mary's Meals Backpack Project

The charity **Mary's Meals** provides one good meal to some of the world's poorest children every school day, attracting them to the classroom and giving hope for a brighter future free from poverty. We are a global grassroots movement with fundraising groups springing up in countless countries, all working together to feed the next child in 13 nations around the world!

**As a Parish project during this season of Lent we here at Our Lady's Church have decided to join Mary's Meals Backpack Project. We invite you to join us. Today we will begin to hear more about this project.**

The Backpack Project compliments the school feeding project by providing children with items that help to support their education. We fill a backpack with basic educational and hygiene items, for sending to students who receive Mary's Meals. The difference these gifts make is phenomenal. Good quality, second-hand items are ideal.

Mary's Meals has a simple mission: a fruit of prayer and a work of love. 'By feeding the world's poorest children, we allow them to experience God's Mercy, too. The meals draw them into the classroom where they gain an education that can set them free from poverty.'

### A Mary's Meals Prayer

Our Father

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us for the times when we take more than our share of the bread that belongs to all

Let us help You fill the starving with good things

Not with scraps from our table

Teach us how to share what is not ours to keep

Clothe us with Your love

That we may complete each good work You created us to do

Place in our hearts Your compassion for each starving child

And us our little acts of love so that they starve no more.

Take home a leaflet or visit [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk) to see the list of items needed for every Mary's Meals backpack.

## THE CHAIR OF ST PETER – 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY

The chair of a bishop, called the *cathedra*, is the symbol of his foundational ministry to be a teacher of faith to his Church community. What can we learn from Peter, the rock of our Church? His extraordinary confession of faith in today's Gospel passage (Matt 16:13-19) teaches us to confess truth, even if it may sound far-fetched by everyday standards. Peter listened to the Spirit of God in his heart and proclaimed Jesus as Christ, Son of the Living God. When Jesus asks "Who do you say that I am?", each of us is presented with the same question. What is the Spirit of God prompting us to proclaim? Today's feast, attested to as early as the mid-fourth century, has its roots in the commemoration of dead relatives and friends celebrated between February 12 and 22. At this commemoration, a chair, or a *cathedra*, was left empty for particular deceased persons. Since the actual date of Peter's death was unknown, it came to be remembered on February 22, eventually becoming a celebration of his taking over the pastoral responsibility of the Church of Rome.

**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2017** Preparations are now being made for our local inter-denominational event which will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

**First Reading:** Scripture commentators refer to a section in Leviticus as the holiness code. Today's text is part of that section. It includes a series of injunctions for the people of the covenant beginning with the words, "You must not" or "You must." These commandments prescribe the way of life for God's people. The foundation for such a life is the holiness of God; all are called to be holy as God is holy. A life of holiness rests on love, there is no room for hatred or revenge or the holding of grudges among brother or sister or neighbour.

**Responsorial Psalm 102:** In the opening verse the psalmist reminds himself to praise the Lord lest he forget all the Lord's benefits. He names those blessings that come from the Lord and for which he is ever grateful: pardon for sin, healing of ills, redemption from destruction; all these are crowned with "love and compassion." He believes that the Lord abounds in mercy that is greater than all the sins of his life. The Lord's graciousness is as vast as the space between east and west. It is as tender as the love of a father for his son.

**Second Reading:** Paul invokes the image of the temple to greet the Christians in Corinth. They would certainly know of the Temple structure in Jerusalem, but Paul tells them that they are a spiritual temple. God dwells in them; they are the holy of holies. The indwelling of God is through the Spirit that they have received from Christ Jesus and the Father. Paul warns them about boasting among themselves; that will bring about dissension in the community. If that happens the unity of the spiritual temple is destroyed.

**The Gospel:** At the end of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus uses two more examples of the Mosaic law to continue his new interpretation of the law. Both relate to difficult relationships that the disciples or any one might experience. They include relations with people who strike us, people who ask for help, and people we consider to be our enemies. This teaching is not one of the easier ones to accept; it calls on the disciples to rethink both the social customs of the time and the intent of the religious law. Jesus asks them, and us to go beyond what might be an easy and spontaneous response to one that would be more compassionate and life giving.

**NORTHAMPTON DIOCESAN DIRECTORY – 2017**  
are available in the porch for a price of £6.00

## Foyer de Charité Retreat

At the new Retreat Centre, Walsingham  
April 30 (evening) – May 6 (midday)

Foyer retreats are held mainly in silence, with three talks a day covering the major aspects of Catholic faith and helping participants to deepen their life of prayer and their Christian life.

For more information, contact Mgr. Keith Barltrop Tel. 07879 953953 / email: [keithbarltrop@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:keithbarltrop@rcdow.org.uk)