



## TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	10.00am	Mass – Int. Reginald Hayllar, RIP
Monday ST JOSEPH	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday Lent Feria	9.30am	Mass
Wednesday Lent Feria	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Thursday Lent Feria	6.00pm	Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass – Int. Thanksgiving intention
Friday Lent Feria	9.00am	Mass
	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE LORD	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confessions
<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - Laetare</b>	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the parish



## CAFOD Lent Fast Day was Friday, 10 March 2017

This Lent Fast Day our parish raised £167.00 for CAFOD. Thank you for your support. This incredible amount will help more hardworking people like Florence in Zambia to turn something as small as a tiny fish into something amazing, like an education for her children.

The **Spring 2017** edition of **Mission Today** magazines from Missio are in the porch for Red Box holders. Please take your copy.

## 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.

## Money Matters

Last Week's Offertory Collection - £174.73

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY - £167.00

Thank you for your generosity

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.

**MARCH 2017 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.



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.

**NORTHAMPTON CATHEDRAL CENTRE:** Last Sunday, there was a presentation about the future of our Cathedral. We found out about the plans for building a much needed new centre as well as how you can support this campaign. If you missed the presentation last week and would like to know more about the campaign, and lend your support, there are some brochures available in the porch.

## 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 in this endeavour.**

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.'

**So far, we have filled 12 backpacks. Thank you to those who have taken time to gather and pack what is needed. Please continue to bring your backpack to church during Lent. We have also received cash donations which we will use to provide more backpacks.**

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.

A parish in the Archdiocese of Westminster (Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint George, Enfield) are holding a Lent Retreat Day in the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Great Missenden (HP16 9AA) on Saturday, 1st April and cordially invite you to join them! A programme of liturgies, etc. will run between 10:00am and 4:15pm; you are to welcome to come for the whole day or just part of this time! MASS at 12:00noon. There will also be an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (two Priests will be available). Tea and coffee will be served at 10:00am, during lunch and around 3:45pm. Participants are asked to bring a packed lunch. All welcome! At all the liturgies we will have the use of a sign language interpreter. Further details are available from Fr Wayne Coughlin: (01494) 862049 / [info@parishfamily.org.uk](mailto:info@parishfamily.org.uk)

**True Survivor: Beyond the Wild** is a spiritual survival course for young men aged 13 – 18. NYMO will join together with True Survivor and Jimmy Mitchell, a Catholic speaker and musician, to take young men from the Northampton Diocese on a 3-day programme on 6th - 8th April 2017. We are only able to offer 20 places at this event! The cost of the trip is £105pp including coach transport from within the Diocese. The group will travel to an area of woodland called Dyer's Copse, near Poole in Dorset. The course blends practical elements of wilderness survival training with a Catholic retreat: The group will learn to find and purify water, to make fire by friction, to build a survival shelter, to track, trap and prepare animals and to navigate using the sun and stars. The young men will also learn to develop their prayer life, about the importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, how the Eucharist nourishes us, why we need the Church and how to discern God's calling in life. See poster / information sheets and consent forms on noticeboard.

## Lectionary for Mass

**First Reading:** The passage from Exodus is rich with images and layers of meaning. The reader might well be surprised at the grumbling of the people against Moses; after all, God had delivered them Egypt. It appears that they are really dissatisfied with God and ask, "Is the LORD with us or not?" The response of God to Moses' plea is an unconditional gesture of concern for the people. Out of a lifeless rock, in the middle of a desert God provides living water. This happened at Massah (which means "testing") and Meribah (which means "dissatisfaction"); but the greater meaning of this place is found in the intervention of God on behalf of a people thirsting for life.

**Responsorial Psalm 94:** This liturgical hymn praises the God of the covenant. The psalmist issues a fivefold invitation to praise, "Come let us sing . . . let us acclaim . . . let us come . . . let us bow down . . . let us kneel." The image of God echoes the First Reading; God is the "Rock who saves us." Here one imagines a great rock, one that speaks of strength and security, something one could depend on to be in place forever. Such is the role of the Lord in the life of the people. The psalmist ends with an exhortation that recalls the First Reading: "harden not your hearts as at Maribah."

**Second Reading:** Paul's theology of justification occurs a number of times in his letters. One aspect of his teaching is that his justification is not merited by believers; it is pure grace and comes from God through Jesus Christ. In fact, we were sinners and still God has chosen to save us. This grace is the love of God that is "poured into our hearts." This baptismal imagery reflects Paul's understanding that it is through baptism that we enter into the life, Death and Resurrection of Christ.

**The Gospel:** This is the first of the three great stories of John that take us towards the end of Lent. The baptismal imagery is obvious and the conversation is layered with meanings. Jesus stops at the well of Jacob because he is thirsty; but it is the woman who is refreshed. Through the course of the conversation Jesus identifies himself with one of the "I am" statements that will occur for the next two Sundays. He becomes the source of a new life for the woman and she becomes an evangelist, bearing the news that she is found the Messiah.

**DURING LENT:** We have the **traditional devotions of Stations of the Cross** on **Fridays during Lent at 7.00pm.** To help nourish us during this holy season there are prayer / reflection booklets for sale in the porch.

## DEPEENING THE WORD OF GOD

led by Sister Naomi, cj,

Sunday 19 March 2017 3pm – 5pm

At RE Centre, 22 Westbourne Road, Luton, LU4 8JD  
An afternoon to explore what *Lectio Divina* means for our prayer life as Christians, especially in this Lenten time.

See leaflets in porch to book your place