



TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

25th Sunday after Pentecost	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the Parish
Monday Advent Feria	NO MASS	
Tuesday Advent Feria	NO MASS	
Wednesday Advent Feria	NO MASS	
Thursday St Ambrose	NO MASS	
Friday IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF BVM	NO MASS	
Saturday Advent Feria	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confessions
2nd Sunday of Advent	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the Parish

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.

Thank you to all those who attended the meeting for families preparing for FIRST RECONCILIATION AND COMMUNION held last month.

We will enrol the children at Sunday Mass early in 2018.
Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.



Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

St Paul's greeting to the Corinthians in today's second Reading notes the goodness God has provided. He tells these followers that God has bestowed grace on them, enriched them "with all discourse and all knowledge," and provided all spiritual gifts. Later in this letter, he writes that each person's gifts should be used for building up of the Kingdom (14:26).

Though Paul begins the letter by stating that God has done for the Corinthians, much of the letter instructs members of the Church on how they should behave. As Paul states in 1 Corinthians 4:14, "I am writing this to you . . . to admonish you as my beloved children." Paul goes on to refer to "love and a gentle spirit" (4:21). With a loving spirit, Paul gives directions on sexual orality, the need for humility, and the appropriate use of gifts. As Pope Benedict states in *Catritatis in veritate*, charity in truth becomes the face of Christ. The encyclical states, "Charity in truth, to which Jesus Christ bore witness by his earthly life and especially by his death and resurrection, is the principal driving force behind the authentic development of every person and of all humanity. Love – *caritas* – is an extraordinary force which leads people to opt for courageous and generous engagement in the field of justice and peace".

ADVENT begins TODAY! To help nourish us journey this four-week journey, both *Walk with Me* and *My Day by Day Advent 2017* prayer booklets are available at a cost of £1.00.

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard.

The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their which nans new Catholic schools.

OUR LADY'S PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER

This year our dinner is back at the **Boot & Slipper in Amersham** next **Saturday 9th December at 6.30pm**. The price is £26 per head for 3 courses or £23 for 2 courses and includes service charge as well as prizes for the traditional festive Christmas quiz. Do join us! Booking form and menu selection at front of church with box for £5 deposit required per person. **Today is your last chance to sign up for this event!**

MISSIO 2018 CALENDARS

Are available in the porch for anyone who would like a copy. Please help yourself.

On **Sunday 10th December 2017** we will hold a **special collection** for the work of **Providence Row**. Founded by Fr Daniel Gilbert, the parish priest of St Mary Moorfields, and the sisters of Mercy, Providence Row has been providing assistance to people who are homeless since 1860. Just £5 will provide a warm welcome of a hot shower, breakfast, a cup of tea and that all important first conversation. You can find out more at www.providencerw.org.uk/advent. Your prayers and generous donations are much appreciated.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – AMERSHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

Planning is going ahead for your local Women's Day of Prayer to be held on 2nd March 2018. If anyone would like to join me in presenting Our Lady's Church please ring Elizabeth Beckwith on 01494 433363. We are particularly looking for younger women.

Lectionary for Mass

The readings on this First Sunday of Advent express well the meaning of the season. The Latin word *adventus* means "a coming" or "an arrival." Theologians use its Greek equivalent, *Parousia*, to refer to the Second Coming of Christ. This season of the liturgical year is not only about getting ready to celebrate Jesus' birth, but also about anticipating the arrival of God's Kingdom in fullness at the end of time.

The First Reading, from Isaiah, is part of a long lament that began at Isaiah 63 and extends to the middle of Isaiah 66. As the Judeans returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they found their Temple destroyed and felt that God had abandoned them. Here the prophet prays that God will come to them in a more wondrous way than he did at Sinai. Despite his sadness over the past and the recognition that God has a right to punish the people for their failure to keep the covenant, the prophet ends on a note of hope for the future: "we are all the work of your hands!" (Isaiah 64:7).

Today's Gospel comes from a passage sometimes called Mark's "Little Apocalypse," a teaching about preparing for the Second Coming of Christ. These lines were written shortly before the Second Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in AD 70 and before a time of persecution began. The parable that Jesus uses to demonstrate our need to be watchful is compelling. It suggests that we are not in charge of the coming and goings of the Lord of the house. Instead, we are the gatekeepers, waiting to welcome the coming Kingdom of God. Will you be ready?

Liturgy and Life

(1) During this Advent, how are you keeping watch over your words and deeds to ready yourself for God's coming? (2) What Advent practices are part of your family or parish life that draw you closer to God? (3) How have you charitably corrected another?

FRIDAY 8th DECEMBER: SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Although the Gospel reading for this feast narrates the story of Jesus' conception, Friday's solemnity celebrates the Immaculate Conception of Mary, as she was conceived in her mother's womb. Prepared by God from the very first moment of her life to receive Jesus Christ, God's grace preserved Mary from sin from the womb to the end of her life, because of her role in the mystery of salvation as the Mother of God. This solemnity praises God for the hope and possibility that Mary embodies, as we turn to our Blessed Mother to learn from the first and most important relationship Jesus Christ experienced among us.

Mary's freedom from the sin of Adam and Eve is shown in tis feast's Gospel. In Mary's response to the angel, she shows her willingness to place herself fully in God's hands, even when it promises to be difficult and requires great faith and trust.

Money Matters

Last Week's Offertory Collection – £327.05

**NEXT SUNDAY – SECOND COLLECTION
PROVIDENCE ROW – ADVENT APPEAL**

Thank you for your generosity

DECEMBER 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.