

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

30, Amersham Road, Chesham Bois, Amersham, HP6 5PE
Tel: (01494) 727469 / 07722 229811 Parish Priest: Fr Andy Ollard
Email: info@ourladyschurch-cheshambois.org

The Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust. Registered Charity No. 234091



17th December 2017

THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

GAUDETE SUNDAY

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

3rd Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – O Wisdom	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the Parish
Monday Advent Feria – O Adonai	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday Advent Feria – O Root of Jesse	9.30am	Mass
Wednesday Advent Feria – O Key of David	NO MASS	
Thursday Advent Feria – O Rising Sun	6.00pm	Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass
Friday Advent Feria – O King	9.00am	Mass
Saturday Advent Feria – O Emmanuel	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confessions
4th Sunday of Advent	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the Parish
CHRISTMAS EVE	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Christmas
	10.00pm	Carols & Readings
	10.30pm	Mass of Christmas Night
CHRISTMAS DAY	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10.00am	Mass of Christmas Day

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN Is taking a break for the next two Sundays.

There is a special Calendar for 12 Days of the Christmas Season for our families with young children. Please speak with Fr Andy if you would like one of these Calendars.

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.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES and details of other Liturgies in Our Lady's Church and the other Churches in our Local Pastoral Area are available in the porch.



Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

As we sing verses from the Magnificat in today's Responsorial Psalm, we join Mary in proclaiming the Lord's concern for the poor and lowly, a concern that is ours also. The *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* (CSDC) references Pope John Paul II's encyclical *Redemptoris Mater*, 37, as it tells how Christ's followers are to show preference for the poor and humble. The CSDC states: "looking to the heart of Mary, to the depth of her faith expressed in the words of the Magnificat, Christ's disciples are called to renew ever more fully in themselves 'the awareness that source of every gift, cannot be separated from the manifestation of his love of preference for the poor and humble, that love which, celebrated in the Magnificat, is later expressed in the words of Jesus.'"

'A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH THE MASS'

A five week course for Lent 2018. This programme explores where the words and gestures we use in the Mass each week come from, explaining their significance, giving insights for getting the most out of every Mass – and much more. This course will run at St Joseph's, Chalfont St Peter on Wednesday evenings starting on 21 February at 7:45pm for 8pm. It will run simultaneously on Thursday mornings starting on 22 February at 9.30am. If you wish to enrol, please contact St Joseph's Parish Office (office@stjosephs.org.uk or 01753 886581) to sign up. Payment of £20 per person needs to be made by Monday, 15 January so your books can be ordered.

We are now well into the season of ADVENT. 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.



Lectionary for Mass

Today's readings continue the preparation theme we heard in the previous two weeks of Advent. But now the focus shifts somewhat to the joy that awaits us in God's coming Kingdom. This Sunday is Gaudete (Latin, "rejoice") Sunday or, as Pope Francis calls it, the Sunday of Joy. In today's First Reading, the prophet writes about the mission conferred upon him by God – to bring glad tidings to the lowly and to heal the broken hearted – and about the joy he experiences in God, who clothes him in justice and salvation. Early Christians appropriated this text to describe Jesus' mission (see Luke 4:18-19). By virtue of our Baptism in Christ, this ought to be our mission as well. As the prophet suggests, there is no greater joy than doing God's work.

The Gospel presents John the Baptist as the one who testifies or gives witness to the Light who is coming into the world (John 1:8). We can rejoice because he is the Light darkness cannot overcome. As the story unfolds, we see John testifying on Jesus' behalf before the priests and Levites of Jerusalem and declaring that Jesus is already among them, though they do not recognise him. John declares he is lower than the lowest household servant by comparison to Jesus, the revealer of God. This is cause for great joy!

On the theme of joy, the Church has wisely paired these two readings with a reading from St Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians. Paul admonishes us to always live in joy, praying and giving thanks, because this is God's will for us. Everything we do and say should be inspired by this Spirit as we await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Liturgy and Life

- (1) Do you give God credit for the good that has come into your life?
- (2) In what ways do you testify to the light that Christ brings?
- (3) During these last days of Advent, how can you nurture a spirit of

Advent begs us to do something quite contrary to our culture's expectations, we are asked to wait. The festive times of our Christmas celebrations have encroached upon all of December, making our homes and workplaces busy and stressful, often places of a hyperactivity. However, there is joy in our Advent expectation. While we may begin to decorate, bake, and shop in anticipation of the celebration of the Incarnation, Advent insists we slow down and begs our visions to take a longer view, all the way to the Second Coming. In this light, in reflection on the image of the Reign of God, how we have lived out our discipleship and how we have sinned? How do we participate in the social sins of our world? Advent asks us to remember the complexity of the web of sin. Our actions have ramifications beyond ourselves. This too is contrary to the wisdom of the world. This siren beckons us to rampant individualism. But the bond of humanity reaches across the world. How have we sinned against this truth? By our stinginess? Our greed? **As well as Sacrament of Confession on Saturday, there will be Reconciliation Services at St Joseph's Church, Gerrards Cross on Tuesday 19th December at 8pm and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Great Missenden on Wednesday 20th December at 7.30pm..**

Money Matters

Last Week's Offertory Collection – £92.70

PROVIDENCE ROW – Advent Appeal – £39.70

TODAY – SECOND COLLECTION – Christmas Flowers for Our Lady's Church

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.

MISSIO 2018 CALENDARS
Are available in the porch for anyone who would like a copy. Please help yourself.

Last Sunday we will held 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 still 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.