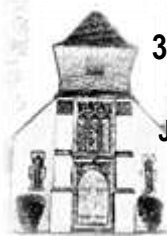


PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

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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



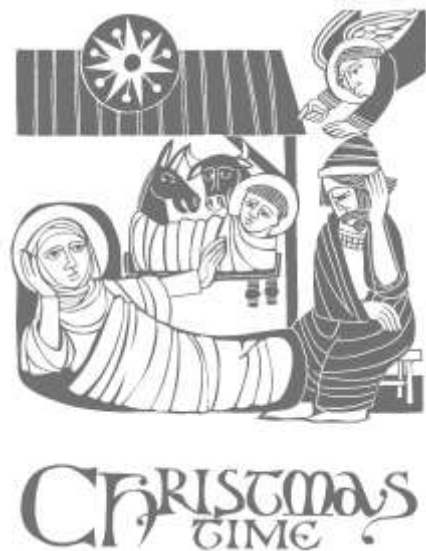
31st December 2017

THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

SUNDAY WITHIN THE
OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Sunday within the Octave of Christmas	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	10.00am	Mass – Int. Teresa Walsh, RIP
Monday MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	9.30am	Mass – Int. Brian Farrelly, RIP
Wednesday The Most Holy Name of Jesus	NO MASS	
Thursday Christmas Feria	6.00pm	Adoration & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass
Friday Christmas Feria	9.00am	Mass
Saturday Christmas Feria	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 10.50am*	Confessions
	11.00am*	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine) (Epiphany)
Sunday 7th January 2018 Holy Family	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	10.00am	Mass – Int. Bert Mendis, RIP



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.

*Wishing you all a Holy and Joyful Christmas Season
and a peaceful New Year! Fr Andy*

Money Matters

Last Week's Offertory Collection – £120.53

Thank you for your generosity

If you would like to support the parish through Offertory Envelopes or directly through your bank, please see Fr Andy.

JANUARY 2018 edition of The Vine

The Diocese of Northampton newspaper is now 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.

A big THANK YOU to all who work so hard throughout the year to ensure Our Lady's Church is a place of beauty, welcome, and prayer: those who take time to clean our church, porch and guild room, keep the grounds clipped and tidy, those who count the collections, those who provide and prepare tea, coffee and biscuits, those who launder the Altar linens, our welcomers, Altar servers, those who prepare and lead the Liturgy of the Word for Children, Readers, and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, and those who take Communion to the housebound.

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 representing Our Lady's Church please ring Elizabeth Beckwith on 01494 433363. We are particularly looking for younger women.

Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

The Church considers today's Gospel as she acts in the world. At the beginning of the Second Vatican Council document *Lumen gentium*, the Church Fathers proclaim, "Christ is the Light of Nations!" The authors of this document go on to state, "Because this is so, this Sacred Synod gathered together in the Holy Spirit eagerly desires, by proclaiming the Gospel to every creature (cf. Mark 16:15), to bring the light of Christ to all men, a light brightly visible on the countenance of the Church" (1).

As prescribed in Jewish law, Mary and Joseph presented Jesus at the temple, along with an offering. Travelling to the temple was likely a financial and physical hardship for the couple, but since their life centred on God, they did not shirk the duty to bring their son up in the faith. The Vatican II document *Gaudium et spes* relates the value of a family life that has faith at its core. It states: "As a result, with their parents leading the way by example and family prayer, children and indeed everyone gathered around the family hearth will find a readier path to human maturity, salvation and holiness. Graced with the dignity and office of fatherhood and motherhood, parents will energetically acquit themselves of a duty which devolves primarily on them, namely education and especially religious education" (48).

Sister Jacinta Davenport, IBVM, emails us...

Dear Father Ollard & Parishioners,
Thank you very much for your most generous cheque of £595.76, for the Albania Project. You are so good to keep on helping us out. Best wishes for a very Peaceful Christmas and every blessing for 2018.

Kind regards,
Jacinta Davenport IBVM.

'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.

Lectionary for Mass

Family is a wonderful thing. But many of us also know the pain and suffering of family life. Today's Scripture readings invite us to reflect on biblical families. In particular the Holy Family, so that that we can see what holds them together through times of trouble – faith in God who is always faithful. In the First Reading, we hear Abram complaining about how God promised him a horde of descendants, but, as an old man, he still does not have a single son. In spite of Abram's rudeness, God simply repeats his promise of many descendants (Genesis 12:1-9). Abram responds in faith, and God gives him a son, Isaac. The Abraham stories (Genesis 12-22) remind us how hard it is for humans to trust in God's faithfulness.

The Second Reading reinforces this theme of faith and faithfulness by recalling the stories of Abraham in a repeated pattern reminiscent of a litany, each section beginning with the words "by faith." The author of this letter finds Abraham's faith exemplary since even when he could not see God's promise fully realised, he still believed.

In the Gospel, we hear about Mary and Joseph traveling with the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Luke portrays them as people of deep faith since Jewish Law did not require them to come to Jerusalem to perform this sacrifice. Because of their poverty, instead of the year-old lamb prescribed in the Law, they brought a poor woman's offering – two pigeons. Yet their trust in God's faithfulness was genuine.

Liturgy and Life

(1) How did your family members show you that faith matters? (2) The reading from St. Paul provides a litany of what St. Paul has done "by faith." Reflect on your litany of what you have done by faith. (3) When have you trusted in God in the midst of a hardship?

OFFICIAL FAMILY PRAYER FOR WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018

God, our Father,
We are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son,
One family, in the Spirit of your love.

Bless us with the joy of love.

Make us patient and kind,
gentle and generous,
welcoming to those in need.
Help us to live your forgiveness and peace.
Protect all families with your loving care,
Especially those for whom we now pray:
[We pause and remember family members and others by name].

Increase our faith,
Strengthen our hope,
Keep us safe in your love,
Make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share.
This we ask, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

