



## TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - Gaudete</b>	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Gaudete</b>	10.00am	Mass – Int. Bert Mendis, RIP
Monday Advent Feria – O Wisdom	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday Advent Feria – O Adonai	9.30am	Mass
Wednesday Advent Feria – O Root of Jesse	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Thursday Advent Feria – O Key of David	6.00pm	Adoration & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass
Friday Advent Feria – O Rising Sun	9.00am	Mass
Saturday Advent Feria – O King	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confession
SUNDAY 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – O Emmanuel</b>	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.

## CHRISTMAS 2018

The times of our Christmas Mass times and other liturgies celebrated in the churches across our Pastoral Area of South East Buckinghamshire are available in the porch. *Please take a copy!*

**Walk with Me Prayer Booklets** are available in the porch at a price of £1.00. They will lead us on a journey of prayer for Advent 2018.



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.

## Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

Pope Francis references one of the last verses in the reading from Zephaniah as he writes in *The Joy of the Gospel* of our response to God's love. He states, "The . . . Old Testament predicted that the joy of salvation would abound in messianic times . . . Perhaps the most exciting invitation is that of the prophet Zephaniah, who presents God with his people in the midst of a celebration overflowing with the joy of salvation." Such joy, the Holy Father writes, is experienced daily "amid the little things in life" (4).

Zephaniah states the Lord "is in your midst," and Paul tells the Philippians that "the Lord is near." In our day, Pope Francis writes that God is with us. He states in *The Joy of the Gospel*, "God's presence accompanies the sincere efforts of individuals and groups to find encouragement and meaning in their lives. He dwells among them, fostering solidarity, fraternity, and the desire for goodness, truth and justice. . . God does not hide himself from those who seek him with a sincere heart, even though they do so tentatively, in a vague and haphazard manner" (71).

The prophet Zephaniah tells of God's love as he exclaims that God will rejoice over the people and will sing joyfully because of them. Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical on love, *Deus caritas est*, describes an encounter with God as an encounter with love. He states, "We have come to believe in God's love in these words the Christian can express the fundamental decision of his life. Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice. . . but the encounter with . . . with a person, which give life a new horizon and a decisive direction" (1).

**Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion 2019.** The *'I Belong'* books have arrived! **There will be a meeting for parents and children after the 10am Mass TODAY at 11.30am. This is an important meeting please do your best to attend.**

*In the meantime please continue to bring your children to Sunday Mass here at Our Lady's Church each week and help them to reflect on the Bible readings we have all heard at Mass.*

**Sister Jacinta writes:** A thousand thanks to you and the Parishioners of Our Lady's for your cheque for £ 388.19. It is very good of you to keep remembering our mission in Albania. It is hard to believe that it is six years this week since Fr. Bernard died. He is, I am sure, very proud of you all. Best wishes for a very happy Christmastide. God bless you all.  
*M. Jacinta Davenport IBVM.*

**Prisoners' Sunday 2018** Pact – Prison Advice & Care Trust send their thanks for the generous £97.22 raised by the parish for Prisoners' Sunday. The funds raised will enable Pact to continue to provide their vital services to prisoners, people with previous convictions, their children and families. Pact asks us all to continue to keep those affected by prison in our prayers. Should you like to receive Pact's quarterly newsletter, please contact them on [news@prisonadvice.org.uk](mailto:news@prisonadvice.org.uk). Or if you would like to volunteer for Pact, please email [volunteer@prisonadvice.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@prisonadvice.org.uk). You can also call Pact on 020 7735 9535.

**Embrace the Middle East**, (formerly *BibleLands*, is based in Amersham) are looking for a **Trustee Treasurer** who shares their values and vision and have the skills, qualities and expertise to provide oversight of the charity's finances. *This is a voluntary role.* Full details about, and how to apply for, this role can be found at [www.embraceme.org/vacancies](http://www.embraceme.org/vacancies) or contact Lucy Insua HR Manager – Embrace the Middle East Direct: 01494 897934 Office: 01494 897950 Email: [lucy.insua@embraceme.org](mailto:lucy.insua@embraceme.org) **Embrace Middle East** Tackling poverty and injustice in the Middle East by partnering with local Christians in education, healthcare and community development.

## Lectionary for Mass

Good news! Let us rejoice in anticipation! This theme is evident in today's readings. In the First Reading (Zephaniah 3:14-18a), we hear that on that final day when God's justice is fully manifest, he will take away Jerusalem's shame and give her cause for great rejoicing. "Daughter Zion" is personification of the ideal city of Jerusalem where God, the king of Israel, can dwell as its saviour and lover.

Today's Responsorial Psalm (Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6) closely parallels this notion of the exultant "Daughter Jerusalem," even though the phrase is not used. Likewise, in the Second Reading (Philippians 4:4-7), Paul exhorts his readers to rejoice in the nearness of the Lord and not to be anxious, but always to act with kindness (Greek *epieikēs*, meaning "mildness, forbearance, fairness, moderation"). Then, when they make their requests known to God, they will experience the fullness of God's peace.

Today's Gospel (Luke 3:10-18) describes a scene in which John the Baptist preaches repentance in anticipation of the coming messiah. When John tells the crowds that they must live righteously, they are so enamoured of his words that they think he is the long-awaited messiah. He lays that idea to rest, saying, "one, mightier than I is coming. . . He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire." The Greek *baptizo* means "to dip or submerge, as in a ritual." With that, John continues to preach the "good news" to the people. One may wonder how the crowds could consider a baptism "with the holy Spirit and fire" to be good news?

## Liturgy and Life

How can you make the final period of Advent one in which you rejoice because of God's presence in your life? (2) What difference does your Baptism make in your life? (3) During this Advent, have you asked in prayer what you should do to follow the Lord?

## ANNUAL PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER

**Thank you to Agostino DiFalco for organising the Parish Christmas Dinner** last weekend. Thanks also to those who set the questions for the traditional festive quiz. And Congratulations to the winners!

**LUX.Gold** In February 2019 **NYMO** are hosting another LUX weekend. These weekends are a mixture of teaching and fun activities. Some people find believing in God easy. Most of us do not! For all of us it will only grow if we work at it. At **LUX.Gold**, will explore ways to prepare for a life of faith. We will be receiving tips on how best to develop in our faith both individually and as a community. This event is open to anyone from Year 7 ad up aged 11-18 years old and costs £100.00 which includes accommodation and all meals over the weekend. Please contact Fiona on 01582 720627 or email [fiona@nymo.org](mailto:fiona@nymo.org) for more information.

## Money Matters

Last Sunday's Offertory Collection – £232.70  
**TODAY – SECOND COLLECTION –**  
**Christmas Flowers for Our Lady's Church**  
*Thank you for your generosity*

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

The **DECEMBER 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.*