

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

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



23rd December 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

4th Sunday of Advent - Gaudete	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – O Emmanuel	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the parish
Monday Advent FERIA	9.30am	Mass
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of Christmas
	10.00pm	Carols and Readings
	10.30pm	Christmas Mass during the Night – by candlelight
Tuesday Christmas	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST	10.00am	Christmas Mass during the Day – Int. Kenneth Welch, RIP
Wednesday ST STEPHEN, Deacon & Protomartyr	NO MASS	
Thursday ST JOHN, Apostle & Evangelist	NO MASS	
Friday THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs	9.00am	Mass – Int. Mr Jackie Reidy, RIP (anni)
Saturday ST THOMAS BECKET	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confession
SUNDAY 30 th Dec. <i>Within Octave of Christmas</i>	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	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!*



Money Matters

Last Sunday's Offertory Collection – £271.48

Christmas Flowers for OL's Church – £184.00

The Offertory Collection taken during Christmas Masses is your gift to the parish clergy
Thank you for your generosity

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.



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

In the Gospel, Elizabeth points to the faith that Mary evidenced in her response to the angel. For this reason, Elizabeth calls Mary "blessed." The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains, "Mary most perfectly embodies the obedience of faith. By faith Mary welcomes the tidings and promise brought by the angel Gabriel" (148). When Mary submitted to will of God, she showed great faith. By surrendering our will to God, The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains, we attain spiritual freedom. "[T]he more docile we are to the prompting of grace, the more we grow in inner freedom and confidence during trials . . . [T]he Holy Spirit educates us in spiritual freedom in order to make us free collaborators in his work in the church and in the world" (1742). The reading from Hebrews presents Jesus as the perfect sacrifice. The Son of God Jesus Christ, as man, in the ardent prayer of his Passion, enabled the Holy Spirit . . . to transform that humanity into a perfect sacrifice through the act of his death as the victim of love on the Cross" (40).

Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion 2019. Thank you to parents and children for attending the meeting last Sunday. The children will present the children at 10am Mass early in the New Year. In the meantime, our children and their families will continue begin to work through the activities in the I Belong books they received last Sunday. They will bring these books along to Mass and follow the prayers and the Bible Readings.

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. Or if you would like to volunteer for Pact, please email volunteer@prisonadvice.org.uk. You can also call Pact on 020 7735 9535.

YOU CAT for Kids Sessions 2019

Following the publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the *Youth Catechism* (YOUCAT) a wonderful new resource aimed at younger children, **YOUCAT for Kids** is now available. This is a great new tool for catechists, and for parents and carers as they pass on the faith to children. **YOUCAT for Kids sessions** will take place on **Friday 1 February 2019, 7.30pm-9pm** at **St Aidan's Church Hall, Little Chalfont**. During this 90 minute session there will be the opportunity to:

- Browse the YOUCAT for Kids
- Be guided through a method of using the YOUCAT for Kids
- Have the opportunity to purchase a copy of the YOUCAT for Kids at the reduced price of £10 (please bring £10 cash or a cheque made payable to R.E Service).
- Hear about support and training for catechists.

There is no charge for the event itself. Booking however is essential as capacity is limited. Please book early to secure your place. Booking forms are on church porch noticeboard.

Lectionary for Mass

Today's Scripture readings are filled with joyful expectation in the face of incredible odds. In the First Reading (Micah 5:1-4a), the prophet issues an oracle of hope to a people whom he had been railing against for their failure to act justly. Though they must pay the price for their sins now, in God's time, a messiah-king will act in peace and be peace! Bethlehem was David's hometown. Hence, the messiah-king will be of the lineage of David. The woman of whom he speaks is the mother of this long awaited messiah-king, but she remains nameless.

In the Gospel (Luke 1:39-45), we are privileged to imagine the tender and private encounter of two seemingly insignificant women. Both would have been the target of much gossip – one because she was pregnant before her marriage was finalised and the other because she had been denied children for all the years of her marriage. The former would become the mother of the messiah-king and the latter the mother of John the Baptist, whom God chose to announce the long-awaited reign of God.

As today's Second Reading (Hebrews 10:5-10) reminds us, however, salvation and God's reign of peace come at a cost. The author of his reading imagines the incarnate Christ paying from Psalm 40 and committing himself to do the temple with his body, which will be sacrificing the sin offerings of the temple with his body, which will be sacrificed on the cross. Thus, we are consecrated to God once and for all time.

Liturgy and Life

How do today's readings show God raising the lowly? (2) What is your attitude towards those of humble stature in society's eyes? (3) How might looking to Mary strengthen your life of faith?



*Wishing you all
A Holy and Joyful Christmas and
Peace for the New Year!
Fr Andy*