

# PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

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



6<sup>th</sup> January 2019

FEAST OF  
THE EPIPHANY OF THE  
LORD  
EPIPHANY

## TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

<b>Epiphany</b>	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the parish
Monday Christmas Feria	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday Christmas Feria	9.30am	Mass– Int. Brian Farrelly, RIP
Wednesday Christmas Feria	<b>NO MASS</b>	
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 – 11.00am	Confession
SUNDAY 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan. <b>Baptism of the Lord</b>	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>	10.00am	Mass – Int. Thanksgiving and private intentions



## 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 Tasha and Grant for all they do to prepare and lead these children's sessions throughout the year.**

*Thank you so very much for your generous Christmas offerings, cards, gifts and messages of good wishes for Christmas. Your kindness is so much appreciated. I will offer Holy Mass for your intentions in thanksgiving. Fr Andy Ollard*

## Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

The Magi followed the light of the star as they looked for Jesus. As members of the Church, we look forward to the light of Christ. *Lumen gentium* points out that God has gathered the faithful as the Church to be a visible sacrament to all. The document from the Second Vatican Council states: "All those, who in faith look towards Jesus, the author of salvation and the source of unity and peace, God has gathered together and established as the church, that it may be for each and everyone the visible sacrament of this saving unity. In order to extend to all regions of the earth, it enters into human history, though it transcends at once all times and all boundaries between peoples" (9). Paul informs the Ephesians that they are to act as Jesus did when he tells them that they are "of the same body and share in the promise of Christ Jesus through the gospel." Pope Francis draws on this as he speaks of the communities that Paul formed. In *The Joy of the Gospel*, the Holy Father states: "To his communities, Paul presents the Christian life as a journey of growth in love: 'May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all' (1 Thessalonians 3:12)" (161).

**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.**

**WHITE FLOWER APPEAL** – the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal next weekend. SPUC is currently campaigning to stop the decriminalisation of abortion, which means taking abortion outside the law. This is the most dangerous threat to unborn children and their mothers in decades. Please be generous as you can to help defeat this latest attack on unborn babies and their mothers, and to stop abortion getting even worse in this country by decriminalisation.

## Lectionary for Mass

Epiphany is one of the oldest feasts of the Christian calendar, and as its name suggests, it is a celebration of the manifestation of Christ to the world. The Greek *epiphaneia* means "manifestation," especially as it relates to the manifestation of a deity.

Today's First Reading (Isaiah 60:1-6) is about the reestablishment of Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile. The prophet issues a double imperative. He tells them to arise and then to allow their light to shine, because God's glory has dawned on them and radiates forth in the city to such an extent that they become the light to the nations. The Hebrew word *kabowd*, translated here as "glory," is also used to describe God's presence in the Holy of Holies. During the exile, God's glory left the Temple, but now it will return in full radiance! Compare this song, to the Gospel that tells the story of the Magi who come from the East, perhaps Persia or Arabia, to seek out the newborn King of the Jews. Scholars of the esoteric sciences (for example, dream interpretation and astrology), these men also represent the Gentile nations who come to see this great king. However, this manifestation is also fraught with danger as we see in Herod's treacherous activity.

The Magi's gifts of gold, frankincense are also mentioned in today's First Reading, but myrrh is a strange gift to give a mother and baby, since it was used as a painkiller and for burial. Is it an omen of the future?

In the Second Reading (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6), we are told that God planned from the beginning that the nations (Greek *ethne*, also translated "Gentiles") would be coheirs of the one body in Christ. Thus, we celebrate the manifestation of Christ to the world.

### Liturgy and Life

(1) How do you allow the Lord to light the way for you? (2) What does it mean to you to share "in the promise of Christ Jesus through the gospel, as Paul tells the Ephesians in the Second Reading? (3) This coming year, how can you manifest Christ to the world?

## Money Matters

Last Sunday's Offertory Collection – £326.80

**SECOND COLLECTION – NEXT SUNDAY:  
SPUC 2019 WHITE FLOWER APPEAL**

**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 JANUARY 2019 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.



## 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.

A very big Thank You to all who have been working so hard in recent weeks to keep Our Lady's Church clean, vacuuming and clearing away the cobwebs, and washing the lampshades covering the wall lights. It all helps to make the church building bright and welcoming place for our worship of God.

We are always looking for more help in these areas. If you are able to offer some time and energy for a few minutes on a regular or even irregular basis please speak with Fr Andy.

*A Blessed Epiphany  
& Happy New Year!  
Fr Andy*