



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

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE)	10.00am	Mass – Int. Frances Mendis, RIP
Monday Lent Feria	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday Lent Feria	9.30am	Mass
Wednesday Lent Feria	NO MASS	
Thursday Lent Feria	6.00pm	Adoration & Benediction of The Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass
Friday Lent Feria	9.00am	Mass
	5.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday Lent Feria	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confession
SUNDAY 7 th April Passion Sunday	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the parish

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN

There will be no Children's Liturgy TODAY as leader, Tasha, is away.



*Happy Mothering Sunday
to all our Mothers!*

Money Matters

Last Sunday's Offertory Collection – £239.90

**SECOND COLLECTIONS
TODAY – FOR CYCLONE IDAI –
DEC EMERGENCY APPEAL**

NEXT SUNDAY – AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED
Thank you for your generosity

The MARCH 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.

Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion 2019. The children celebrated the
Sacrament of Reconciliation during the First Week of Lent. At their Parish Enrolment, **Harrison,
Sebastian, Mylee, Aiden, Abigail, Arianna, Sage and Elsie**, all made promises, together with their
families, that they will work hard to prepare well for these great gifts from God. We their parish family,
promised that we would support and encourage them with our prayers and good example. *Please keep them
all in your prayers this week as they prepare for they prepare to receive Holy Communion for the first time.*

Carrying the Cross of Persecution - throughout the world today Christians are experiencing many
forms of persecution. Wherever they are, **Aid to the Church in Need** is there also, ensuring
practical & spiritual support. There will be an opportunity to find out more about their mission and
how you can share in it at Mass next Sunday (7th April).

Emergency in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi

CAFOD have written to the parish about the emergency in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi caused by Cyclone Idai: "The more we see and hear of the destruction caused, the more shocking the impact on the lives of children, women and men. We know that the Catholic community will want to respond. The Church and our local experts in the Southern Africa region are already responding but desperately need your support. If you are able to hold a second collection, your gifts will help families who have lost everything. Knowing they are not alone, will give people hope. Vital humanitarian aid is needed for the millions of people made homeless and our priority is to reach the most vulnerable with food and clean water, basic shelter and hygiene kits. The scale of the crisis is such that the Disaster Emergency Committee, of which CAFOD is a member, has launched a full-scale humanitarian appeal." You can read more about our Cyclone Idai Appeal at www.cafod.org.uk **We will take a second collection today for this appeal.**

Bishop Peter Doyle warmly invites you to **The Diocesan Mass for Married Life**, at **St. Mary's Catholic Church, Aspley Hill, Woburn Sands, MK17 8NN on Saturday 6th April 2019**. Gathering from 11.30am followed by Mass at 12noon. Bishop Peter will give his pastoral blessings to those couples celebrating significant milestones in their marriage i.e. 1, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 years etc. If you are contacting such a milestone please contact Eamonn & Paola McMorro on 07412 151517 or at mfl@northamptondiocese.com All are very welcome to attend. Refreshments available after Mass.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Fridays at 5pm.

CATHOLIC BASICS COURSE:

Part Two: Church – 11 April 2019; Part Three: The Moral Life – 16 May 2019; Part Four: Prayer – 13 June 2019. After a very successful launch, join us for another day of engaging teaching with opportunities for interaction and discussion. Cost: £25 per person per day (£10 for the unwaged). Price includes a full lunch. No qualifications needed – just interest, good will and a sense of humour! **Part Two: CHURCH – 11 April 2019, 10am–3pm** (arrive 9.30am for refreshments). **NORES Centre, Holy Ghost Parish, 33 Westbourne Road, Luton, LU4 8JD.** To book, contact admin@nores.org.uk or phone Jackie on 01582 723312.

Lectionary for Mass

The parable of the prodigal son can appear to be a story of the younger son's waste of wealth and potential. But more importantly, it's a story of a father's love that is expressed in forgiveness and mercy. A good son wouldn't ask for his inheritance while his father is alive. If would be an insult of the highest order. But this son asks and his father gives. He spends the money on a prodigal, lavish, wasteful life in a distant country (where presumably no one would know of his wild ways). When he loses everything and finds himself as a swine-tender on a farm, he decides to go home with hat in hand, heart on sleeve, and a humble apology. Notice the father who had been watching for him. Was he out on the porch every day? Did he know his son so well that he expected his imminent return? Or was he a broken-hearted father who refused to despair? Rather than act as expected after insult and injury, the father welcomes his son home and completely restores him to his place in the family. Prodigality runs in this family! A fine robe, a ring, and a fattened calf for a son who is an embarrassment? Such a response is unthinkable to the hard-working, obedient elder son. Such a welcome for his younger brother scalds his pride. He views this as unjust and irrational. Parables turn expectations upside down and thereby reveal something of God's reign. Once again, we are faced with a father who should have been furious and hurt but was instead filled with love and mercy for his wasteful son. He also shows mercy to the elder son by acknowledging that the remainder of the family estate belongs to him – he's been denied nothing. The good son is appreciated for his goodness and the wild child is welcomed home with open arms.

"Taste and see the goodness of the Lord," is the refrain for Psalm 34 today. It would be a perfect refrain to reprise after the proclamation of the Gospel. Imagine starting a homily with a singing preacher recalling the psalm proclaimed just minutes ago, but now with even more appreciation for God's mercy because of the lavish love of the father shown in the Gospel parable. Now we can consider what the Lord said to Joshua in the First Reading (Joshua 5:9a, 10-12), "Today I have removed the reproach from Egypt from you." The people of Israel are truly free and able to begin their new life on the plains of Jericho. In the Second Reading (2 Corinthians 5:17-21), St. Paul reminds us that, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them."

All three readings are focused on God's generosity towards his people. God is generous, not because we deserve it, nor because we are faithful or as a recognition that we are among the saints, but because we are loved. It goes beyond our human comprehension, yet should command a sense of gratitude.

If there are any **Red APF/Mill Hill boxes** which need to be collected, please bring them to church to be collected and emptied. Greta has paid in **£64.50** from the boxes brought in thus far. *Thank you.*