

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

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30th June 2019

SAINTS PETER & PAUL, APOSTLES

3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



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

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

3rd Sunday after Pentecost	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
SAINTS PETER & PAUL, APOSTLES	10.00am	Mass – Int. Richard Parkinson, RIP.
Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass
Wednesday ST THOMAS, Apostle	NO MASS	
Thursday <i>Feria</i>	6.00pm	Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass
Friday <i>Feria</i>	9.00am	Mass
Saturday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confession
SUNDAY 7th July – 4th Sunday after Pentecost	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the parish



LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN

During the 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.

Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

Peter's confession of faith is a turning point in the ministry of Jesus. Caesarea Philippi was the site of various temples and shrines dedicated to pagan gods, ranging from the Syrian god Baal to Pan, the Greek god of nature; in the middle of the city was a great white temple built by Herod and dedicated to the 'divinity' of Caesar (hence the city's name). In this marketplace of gods and temples, Jesus asks his disciples what people are saying about him. They reply that many believe Jesus is the reincarnation of John the Baptist or the long awaited return of the Prophet Elijah or Jeremiah (Mal 4:5-6), whose return would signal the restoration of Israel. Before any can answer, Simon Peter declares, 'You are the Christ . . . the Son of the living God'. Jesus blesses the fisherman's faith and bestows on Simon a new name: 'rock'. Peter's faith is the 'rock' that will be the foundation of Jesus; church. Peter is entrusted with the keys of the kingdom of heaven and the mission to proclaim the mercy and forgiveness of God. The question Jesus asks Peter and his disciples is asked of us everyday. Every decision we make is ultimately a response to the question, Who do you say I am? Our love for family and friends, our dedication to justice, our commitment to high moral standards, our effort toward reconciliation and forgiveness, our acts of kindness and charity declare most effectively our belief in Jesus as Messiah and Redeemer.

Christ entrusts to Peter and his fledgling church the 'keys of the kingdom': his Gospel of compassion, justice, and hope to all. That Gospel was handed on by that first generation and to the next and to the next . . . and now to us. By our simple expressions of compassion and love for others, we reveal God's kingdom in our midst; by our everyday efforts to heal divisions and lift up the broken and abused, we 'loose' the hope of God's mercy and forgiveness in this time and place.

Lectionary for Mass

The Solemnity of Saints, Peter and Paul finds us rooted in the ancient Christian Church, probably as early as the mid-third century. Both Peter and Paul witness to our human failings and our ability, by the grace of God, to be bold and courageous for the sake of the Gospel. Both men offered their lives as martyrs in Rome and through their blood the budding Church grew.

While we have a similarity of witness, the two men also have great difference. One knew the earthy Jesus, the other did not. One denied; one persecuted. One was comfortable in his Jewish roots, the other travelled widely, embracing the Gentiles in many lands. One struggled with the changes, the other thrust the Church into uncharted territory. Today we celebrate them together. Today we remember the diversity of the Spirit in the Church. We are a community of unity, not uniformity. For parishes experiencing mergers, clustering or even closing, today's celebration offers affirmation and hope.

Locked in the double chains and then set free by an angel: we have another story in the First Reading (Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11) of God's power over the evils of this world. But look closely: the sacred author notes that Peter did not realise what was happening – he thought it was just a dream. Sometimes God's plan of freedom for us can seem like a dream. We may be caught in family squabbles, work pressures, addictions, or depression. God is a God of liberty, at times working slowly without our ever realising it.

Our Second Reading (2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18) contains the words Paul might have written, (he had had the chance) as he approached death. "Poured out like a libation" ties Paul to the Blood poured out for our salvation. In context, the crown spoken of is more likely made out of olive branches as were placed on the heads of Olympic champions, rather than the later golden crowns of royalty. Paul has run the course as a champion while insisting it is not he but Christ who has provided his strength.

In the Gospel (Matthew 16:13-19), Peter is chosen as the "rock", preeminent as among the Apostles following his confession of faith. In Matthew's account, Peter's profession is a theological masterpiece. Linguistically, Peter's act of faith ties together various titles that referenced different personages. "The Son of Man," "the Christ," "Son of God" now and forevermore refer to the One who asks, "Who do you say that I am?" We answer this question each day.

Vacancy Parish Youth Minister – Bedford – Full Time

We are delighted to advertise the role of Catholic Parish Youth Minister in the parishes of Ss Philip and James and Holy Cross, Bedford. This is a rare and exciting opportunity for a practising Catholic, with the right skills and experiences, to support and develop local young people in their faith and relationship with their parish. Full details of the role can be found by visiting www.northamptondiocese.org/vacancies or calling the diocesan HR Advisor on 01604 714840. **The closing date for applications will be 8th July 2019.**

Full Time Youth Ministry Coordinator – NYMO

A rare opportunity has occurred to join our youth ministry office (NYMO) and take youth ministry in the Diocese of Northampton into its next phase of development. The offices are based in Luton, but the role will involve travel throughout the diocese. Support with relocation can be provided if necessary, the detail of which would depend on the needs of the candidate. For full details of the role, job profile and an application form, visit www.northamptondiocese.org/vacancies or call 01604 714840. The closing date for applications will be 8th July 2019.

Sister Jacinta Davenport, IBVM has written to thank our parishioners for the recent cheque we sent to support the work of the Albania Hope project which the Loreto Sisters oversee in Albania. Thanks to all who so faithfully and generously give to the mission appeal box in the porch.

YOUTH FEST '19: A wonderful afternoon of relaxation and fun was enjoyed yesterday with live music, games, BBQ. It was great to be able to welcome and share with the young missionaries from Ecuador with whom we celebrated a special family Mass to round off the afternoon. Our thanks to the Pastoral Area Youth Group who organised the entire event.

Money Matters

Last Sunday's Offertory Collection - £292.23

TODAY – SECOND COLLECTION – PETER'S PENCE

Thank you for your generosity

The JULY 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.

Summer Camp 2019 4th – 8th August 2019 Fun and activities where young Catholics gain formation and friendships. Included in the price is Accommodation in the castle, all food, all activities including a day at Alton Towers Theme park. Book online www.nymo.org email: fiona@nymo.org, call 01582 720627