

# PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

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The Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust. Registered Charity No. 234091  
**Part of the Chilterns Pastoral Area, under the patronage of Venerable Mary Ward**



1st December 2019

FIRST SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

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## TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

<b>1st Sunday of Advent</b>	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the parish
Monday Advent FERIA	9.30am	Mass – Thanksgiving Intention
Tuesday St Francis Xavier	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Wednesday Advent FERIA	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Thursday Advent FERIA	6.00pm	Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass
Friday St Nicholas	9.00am	Mass
Saturday St Ambrose	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confession
<b>SUNDAY 8th Dec. – 2nd Sunday of Advent</b>	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	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.

**Congratulations to Oliver Jude Moxham**, who was baptised this weekend. Please keep Oliver, his parents, Jonathan and Jacinta, and his godparents, Francis and Lucia in your prayers as he begins his journey in the Sacramental life of the Church

**Religious Christmas Cards and Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards are for sale in the Guild Room.**

## Money Matters

**Last Sunday's Offertory Collection - £368.29**

*Thank you for your generosity*

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

**The December 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.

## Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

In the reading from Romans, we hear that as Jesus' coming approaches, we are to "appear in the light" and "live decently as people so in the daytime." Our preparations for Christmas anticipate readying ourselves for when Christ comes again. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) notes that "by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviour's first coming, the faithful renew their desire for his second coming" (524).

The Gospel tells us to "stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming." The readings during Advent implore us to stay alert and to examine how we live, for Christ could come at any time. During this season, we await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time, described as "eschatological," which can happen at any moment (see CCC, 673, 840, 2853).

Isaiah provides a vision of peace in which swords are turned in to ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks. Such a time comes about, Isaiah notes, after people have been instructed in God's ways and have walked his path. They will have gained knowledge, a gift of the Holy Spirit. Through that gift comes the fruit of peace. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains that peace is God's gift, the fruit of the Holy Spirit and charity, the foundation of the common good (see 736, 1828-1832, 1909).

**Advent begins today.** To help our spiritual preparation during this Holy Season there are prayer and Scripture Reflection booklets for sale in the porch. *Do take a look!*

**Admissions for Our Lady's Catholic School** for September 2020 are now open. Please fill in a supplementary form and ask your priest to sign a Certificate of Catholic Practice as well as applying through the Buckinghamshire website. Both can be obtained from [www.ols.education](http://www.ols.education) or from the porch. If you would like to visit the school, please contact the school office (01494 726390) to make a convenient appointment. Deadline for submissions is 15th January 2020

**Our Lady's Catholic Primary School** in Chesham Bois is looking for a new Foundation Governor to join the Governing Body. We are a successful, academically strong, single-form primary. The Governing Body's focus is the strategic direction of the school and ensuring we support and enhance the wonderful work the staff do with our children.

We are looking to recruit a new foundation governor to help the school develop its relationships with the Catholic and wider local community. Should you also have HR or Legal experience, that would be particularly helpful, but we would happily welcome any volunteer to the team. If you are interested in helping your local Catholic School or would like more information please contact the Chair of Governors Mr Chris Elson via [governors@ols.education](mailto:governors@ols.education) or by telephone via the school on 01494 726390

**CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES (CCRS)** Want to learn more about the Catholic Faith? There is an exciting opportunity to study for the CCRS starting in January 2020 at St Anthony's Catholic Primary School in Slough (SL2 3AA). This is a real opportunity to strengthen knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith amongst interested members of our parish and school communities. For further information and a registration form please take a leaflet from the porch, visit the NORES website [www.nores.org.uk](http://www.nores.org.uk) or email [obrien@nores.org.uk](mailto:obrien@nores.org.uk)

**YEAR OF THE WORD 2020** is the 1,600 anniversary of Saint Jerome's death and the 10th of Verbum Domini - Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord'. The Bishops of England and Wales are marking these events by designating 2020 a year of focus on the Bible. For initial information see: <http://catholicnews.org.uk/thegodwhospeaks>. Our Diocese **will launch the Year of the Word: The God Who Speaks** during **Mass in honour of Mary Immaculate in Northampton Cathedral next Saturday, 7 December at 11am. All are welcome.**

## Lectionary for Mass

As we enter a new liturgical year, we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. We learn again how God comes into our world and into our individual lives to set us free. Our readings call us to embrace God's transforming presence in our lives. The First Reading (Isaiah 2:1-5) comes from a popular song the Israelites sang in captivity. It lifted their spirits as they reflected on God's promises to lead them back to their homeland. This song tells of a new age when God will reveal himself so that not only the Israelites but "all the nations will stream to" the house of the Lord, the Temple in Jerusalem where God will bring peace among all humanity: "These will hammer their swords into ploughshares."

St Paul (Romans 13:11-14) continues this theme of transformation by reminding us that our salvation is closer now than when we first believed! Our minds and actions need to embrace the necessary changes. True transformation can occur only through the power of Christ's grace: "Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ." Like a new set of clothes, Christ embraces us totally and transforms the essence of our being.

The Gospel (Matthew 24:37-44) reiterates the urgency to stay awake and prepare for the Lord's coming at the end of our lives or at the end of the world. We do not approach this encounter in fear and trepidation but, in the spirit of our first two readings, with a joyous expectation of God's fulfilment of the longings in our hearts for true happiness, peace, and rest, as St Augustine addressed God, "For you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rest in you."

## Liturgy and Life

(1) In what ways do you use Advent to prepare for the Lord? (2) How does a person who has "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" act? (3) What images come to mind when you imagine peace?

**OUR ADVENT GIVING TREE** will be in our church porch until 15 December in aid of 2 homeless charities: NOAH Welfare Centre (Luton) & Emmaus Herts (St Albans). Each tag has details of an inexpensive gift (less than £10). Please take one, or more tags, & bring back wrapped presents with tags to put under the tree. *Please support this very deserving cause at Christmas time.*

The annual **Parish Christmas Dinner** will take place this year at "The Beech House", 16 Hill Avenue, Amersham, HP6 5PW next **Saturday 7th December at 7pm**. It is normally a lovely evening including the now traditional Christmas Quiz with prizes to boot! *Bookings have now closed.*

**Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land?** 7 nights from 21st November 2020 for £1000.00 sharing a room (£1275 single room). A wonderful way of marking the Year of God's Word. There is a pilgrimage itinerary and a signup sheet in the porch. So that we can get some idea of numbers, please show your interest without any financial obligation at this stage. Deposits and bookings will be required in the New Year.