

# 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**



8<sup>th</sup> December 2019

**SECOND SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT**

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

## TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

<b>Immaculate Conception of the BVM 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. of Advent</b>	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the parish
<b>Monday IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BVM</b>	9.30am	Mass
<b>Tuesday Advent Feria</b>	9.30am	Mass
<b>Wednesday Advent Feria</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Thursday Advent Feria</b>	6.00pm	Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass
<b>Friday St Lucy</b>	9.00am	Mass
<b>Saturday St John of the Cross</b>	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confession
<b>SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. Gaudete Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> of Advent</b>	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Gaudete</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.

**Our condolences and sympathies** to the families of two **parishioners who have died recently:**

**Adam Budzynski**, who funeral Mass will take place here at Our Lady's Church on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 11am; and **Anne Parkhouse**, whose funeral will take place at Chilterns Crematorium on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 2.45pm. *They were both fortified by the Sacraments of the Church. Please pray for their eternal rest.*

**Times of Masses and liturgies during the Christmas Season** of our local Catholic Churches are available in the porch. **Do take a booklet.** Also, **Religious Christmas Cards and Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards** are for sale in the Guild Room.

## Money Matters

**Last Sunday's Offertory Collection - £188.88**

*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

Isaiah tells of a time when "there will be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain." On that day, he says, the root of Jesse will be sought out. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 439, states, "many Jews and even certain gentiles who shared their hope recognised in Jesus the fundamental attributes of the messianic 'Son of David,' promised by God to Israel (see Matthew 2:2; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30; 21:9, 15)." John the Baptist recognised Jesus as the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy and pointed others towards Jesus, telling them to repent and prepare the way. From Isaiah, we hear that the Lord "judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land." As followers of Christ, we are to put the poor uppermost in our hearts and the actions we take. In *Sollicitudo rei socialis*, Pope John Paul II points out the option for preference for the poor, to which he states the whole Christian tradition bears witness. He says, "Love of preference for the poor, and the decisions which it inspires in us, cannot but embrace the immense multitude of the hungry, the needy, the homeless, those without medical care and, above all, those without hope of a better future" (42). The Responsorial Psalm states that the Lord "shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him." The 1971 World Synod of Bishops' document *Justice in the World (Justitia in mundo)* focused on the People of God's mission to further justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel, or, in other words, of the Church's mission for the redemption of the human race and its liberation from every oppressive situation" (6).

**Admissions for Our Lady's Catholic School** for September 2020 are now open. Please apply through the Buckinghamshire website and complete a supplementary Certificate of Catholic Practice form to be signed by a priest who knows you. Both forms can also 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 15 Jan 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 information see: <http://catholicnews.org.uk/thegodwhospeaks>. Today, along with other parishes throughout our Diocese, we will Commission our Readers during the 10am as requested by Bishop Peter, in his Pastoral Letter read last Sunday (*copies are available in the porch*).

## Lectionary for Mass

Today's First Reading, from Isaiah (11:1-10), looks forward to the coming of the long-awaited Messiah, who will be filled with the fullness of God's Spirit. He will bring peace to the world, a peace he describes in a vision where the "calf and lion cub feed together." The coming of Jesus inaugurates this fulfilment.

The reading from the Letter to the Romans (15:4-9) connects back to the hopes of the Old Testament. Jesus' coming fulfils the promises made to the patriarchs and extends them to the Gentiles so that they "may give glory to God for his mercy." Jesus' coming brings all peoples together in their praise and glory of God.

In the Gospel reading (Matthew 3:1-12), God's Word came to the people in the desert through the person of John the Baptist. The desert is the place where the Israelites had wandered for forty years and where God formed the people back to the desert to form them again into God's people.

John the Baptist, who resembles the prophets with is clothing and diet, calls for a change of heart: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand!" John speaks of one who is to come, one who is far greater than he. Whilst John baptised with water, the one to come, Jesus, will baptise "with the Holy Spirit and fire." As John the Baptist called on the people to set things right, so we are called this Advent to set things right with God as we await the coming of Jesus at Christmas and welcome his presence into our lives.

## Liturgy and Life

(1) What do you need to set right with God this Advent? With friends, family, or colleagues? (2) Where in your life do you hear John the Baptist calling for a change of heart? (3) Who needs to be welcomed by you?

**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** took place last evening at The Beech House, Amersham. It was a wonderful opportunity for parishioners to meet and enjoy the now traditional Christmas Quiz. Our thanks to those who arranged both the meal, the quiz and the prizes.

**Advent Prayer booklets** are available to help our spiritual preparation for Christmas. Prayer and Scripture Reflections for sale in the porch. *Do take a look!*

**Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land?** 7 nights from 21<sup>st</sup> 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.