

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



15th December 2019

THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- GAUDETE

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

3 rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the parish
Monday Advent FERIA	9.30am	Mass
	11.00am	Funeral Mass – Adam Budzynski, RIP
Tuesday Advent FERIA – O Wisdom	9.30am	Mass – Int. Anne Parkhouse, RIP
Wednesday Advent FERIA – O Adonai	NO MASS	
Thursday Advent FERIA – O Root of Jesse	6.00pm	Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass – Int. Kitty Kingston, RIP
Friday Advent FERIA – O Key of David	9.00am	Mass
Saturday Advent FERIA – O Rising Sun	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confession
SUNDAY 22 nd Dec. 4 th Sunday of Advent	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – O KING	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 16th December at 11am; and **Anne Parkhouse**, whose funeral will take place at Chilterns Crematorium on Tuesday 17th 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 - £331.14

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.

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 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 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 or email obrien@nores.org.uk

St Francis Ramblers welcome you to our ramble on Saturday 21st December. Meet Great Missenden station (walkers' train due in at 10:08 [calls Amersham 10:02]). Lunch will be at the Generals Arms, 77 The Broadway High Street, Chesham. Distance 6.5 miles finishing at Chesham Underground station. Please call Paul on 07847 282626 for more details. For more information about our club: www.stfrancisramblers.ukwalkers.com

Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

In the Gospel reading, from Matthew, Jesus tells John the Baptist's followers to tell of what has been accomplished through him – the blind regaining sight, the lame walking, the deaf hearing, the dead being raised. All these are the signs of the Messiah. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 547, states, "Jesus accompanies his words with many 'mighty works and wonders and signs,' which manifest that the kingdom is present in him and attest that he was the promised Messiah" (Acts 2:22; see Luke 7:18-23).

The signs worked by Jesus . . . invite belief in him . . . So miracles strengthen faith in the One who does his Father's works; they bear witness that he is the Son of God. But his miracles can also be occasions for 'offense'" (CCC, 548).

Jesus tells John's disciples of the signs and wonders he has performed, but those miracles are not the point. The Lord points to the kingdom of heaven. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, "By freeing some individuals from the earthly evils of hunger, injustice, illness, and death, Jesus performed messianic signs. Nevertheless he did not come to abolish all evils here below, but to free men from the gravest slavery, sin" (549).

The Responsorial Psalm proclaims that the Lord gives food to the hungry, sight to the blind, and protects the stranger. Christians are to do likewise. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, "God blesses those who come to the aid of the poor and rebukes those who turn away from them . . . It is by what they have done for the poor that Jesus Christ will recognise his chosen ones. When 'the poor have the good news proclaimed to them' (Matthew 11:5), it is the sign of Christ's presence" (2443).

Lectionary for Mass

As we approach Christmas, today's readings speak about an active, joyful waiting. With this type of waiting, total trust is placed in God while we do everything to accomplish our task. In the Second Reading (James 5:7-10), James offers an example of patient waiting. Farmers sow seeds in the ground, then let nature take its course.

The Gospel (Matthew 11:2-11) offers the perfect example of waiting in John the Baptist, whose whole life was spent in active waiting for the coming of the promised Messiah. As John the Baptist languishes in Herod's prison, he hears of a different Jesus than he expected. Following the Jewish tradition, John believed the Messiah would be a powerful figure who would overthrow the Romans and establish the Kingdom of God.

John sends his disciples to inquire if Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?" Jesus quotes from the prophet Isaiah: "The blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor." These words challenge John's idea of the Messiah. Jesus says that the true reading of Scripture looks forward to a messiah who would touch the lives of people where they are. He would heal them spiritually and physically and restore them to a relationship with God. Jesus is saying that his actions show who he is.

Liturgy and Life

(1) How do you recognise God's presence in the world? (2) Where in your life do you need to grow in patience? (3) Who do you know whose life radiates Christ?

OUR ADVENT GIVING TREE will be removed today. Thank you all who have taken tags and provided gifts for the homeless. The gifts will be passed on to the two homeless charities: NOAH Welfare Centre (Luton) & Emmaus Herts (St Albans), and in turn, passed on to the homeless people with home they work. On their behalf 'thank you'. Thanks also to Julia Hamilton for her work in coordinating this charitable endeavour.

Catholic Basics Part I "God" on Jan 25 2020 at the Diocesan Centre, Luton, LU4 8JD. Come and join us from **10am to 3pm (arr. 9.30 for refreshments)** for an engaging and informative day. Course pack and sandwich lunch provided in £15 cost. This is the second year of this successful course. For details and booking: Tel 01582 723312 or admin@nores.org.uk.

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 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.