

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



22nd December 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

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
Monday Advent FERIA – O Emmanuel	9.30am	Mass – Int. Christmas Intention
Tuesday Advent FERIA	9.30am	Mass – Int. Christmas Intention
CHRISTMAS EVE – THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD	6.00pm	Evening Mass of the Vigil – Int. Christmas Intention
	10.00pm	Carols & Readings
	10.30pm	Mass during the Night – Int. Christmas Intention
Wednesday CHRISTMAS DAY – THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
	10.00am	Mass during the Day – Int. Christmas Intention
Thursday ST STEPHEN	NO MASS	
Friday ST JOHN	NO MASS	
Saturday HOLY INNOCENTS	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confession
SUNDAY 29 th Dec. Sunday in Christmas Octave	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	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.

*May the joy and peace
of this holy season
brighten all days
of your New Year
Fr Andy*



Money Matters

Last Sunday's Offertory Collection - £176.66

Thank you for your generosity

The Offertory Collection taken during the Christmas Masses is your gift to the clergy.

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 First Reading, Isaiah tells the House of David that God will send a sign. That sign will be a son, who will be born to a virgin, who will name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." In the encyclical *Deus caritas est*, Pope Benedict XVI points out that Jesus Christ is the incarnate love of God. "In Jesus Christ, it is God himself who goes in search of the 'stray sheep,' a suffering and lost humanity. When Jesus speaks in his parables of the shepherd who goes after the lost sheep, of the woman who looks for the lost coin, of the father who goes to meet and embrace his prodigal son Jesus, these are no mere words" (12).

Telling the story of Jesus birth, Matthew notes that "Mary was found with child through the Holy Spirit." These few words indicate Mary's "intimate union with God," as Pope Benedict XVI states in *Dives in caritate*. He continues, "Mary, Virgin and Mother, shows us what love is and whence it draws its origin and its constantly renewed power" (42).

The Gospel's account of the birth of Jesus shows the link that Mary has to our salvation. Mary submitted to God's will to conceive by the Holy Spirit. *Lumen gentium* states, "The holy Father see her as used by God not merely in a passive way, but as freely cooperating in the work of human salvation through faith and obedience" (56)

OUR ADVENT GIVING TREE – THANK YOU All the gifts have been delivered to the two local charities who work with the homeless: **NOAH Welfare Centre (Luton) & Emmaus Herts (St Albans)**, and in turn, passed on the homeless people with home they work.

"Julia has just delivered the Christmas gifts your wonderful parishioners have kindly donated to Emmaus. Christmas for some of our Companions can be an upsetting time, especially for those who are not in contact with family members, and being in receipt of some presents can really raise spirits...Thank you once again for the gifts, and for Julia dropping them off to us." *Fin Lawrence, Emmaus St Albans.*

We have exciting fundraising news. You can now find **Northampton Cathedral Development Campaign** on TheGivingMachine, a great fundraising site that lets you raise donations for **Northampton Cathedral Development Campaign** whenever you shop online. It's easy to use and doesn't cost you (or us) a penny! TheGivingMachine is a fundraising charity setup to help other charitable causes raise money online. By signing up and shopping online via TheGivingMachine you will generate a free cash donation for us. With over 2,200 of your favourite retailers, including Amazon, Ebay, M&S, NEXT, Tui, Sainsbury, John Lewis & Partners and Waitrose & Partners, you are bound to find what you need and generate a donation. To start raising free donations go to <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/northampton-cathedral-development-campaign> enter the sign up code **265642** and join – it's that easy. Thank you for your support.

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

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.

Lectionary for Mass

On this final Sunday before Christmas, the readings highlight the foundation of our faith in Jesus' identity and, by extension, our identity as his followers.

Matthew opened his Gospel, in imitation of the Old Testament, with a genealogy of Jesus Christ that identifies him as a descendant of Abraham through the lineage of David. Today's reading (Matthew 1:18-24) gives Matthew's account of Jesus' birth presented from Joseph's perspective. Joseph's dilemma regarding Mary's pregnancy is resolved when in a dream an angel reveals that the child is conceived "through the Holy Spirit." The child to be born is the Son of God and the son of Mary. This is Jesus' identity: fully divine and fully human. Matthew supports this by quoting from Isaiah's prophecy: "Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel."

This is the same Gospel message that St. Paul hands on so clearly in the beginning of his Letter to the Romans (today's Second Reading, Romans 1:1-7). The message of the Good News of our salvation centres on the person of Jesus: fully human, as a descendant of David and foretold by the prophets, and fully divine, as the Son of God and demonstrated by the Resurrection.

Jesus' identity has significant implications for us. We are called to "belong to Jesus Christ" by being transformed in holiness through the grace and peace that comes through Jesus' Resurrection. This is our faith. This is our inheritance: "We belong to Jesus Christ" as God's beloved children called to be saints. As such, like St. Paul, we are called to witness to this message by our lives.

Liturgy and Life

(1) Do you think of the earth as belonging to God or belonging to human beings? (2) What does it mean to you to be called to holiness? (3) How can you spend time in quiet this Advent to listen to God?



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.

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.