

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



29th December 2019

THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

SUNDAY IN THE
CHRISTMAS OCTAVE

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Sunday in the Christmas Octave	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the parish
Monday ST THOMAS BECKETT, Martyr & Bishop	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday Seventh Day of Christmas Octave	9.30am	Mass – Int. Brian Farrelly, RIP
Wednesday MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	9.30am	Mass
Thursday Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazienzan	NO MASS	
Friday Christmas Feria	NO MASS	
Saturday Christmas Feria	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confession
SUNDAY 5th Jan. 2020 The Most Holy Name of Jesus	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	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*



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

Just as Christ was nurtured in a family so has the Church been given to us as a place to grow and be nurtured. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, "Christ chose to be born and grow up in the bosom of the holy family of Joseph and Mary. The Church is nothing other than 'the family of God' (1655).

The Responsorial Psalm describes a wife as "a fruitful vine." Our reliance is on the vine of Christ. *Lumen gentium* explains that the Church is made known as a piece of land to be cultivated. The document states, "The true vine is Christ who gives life and fruitfulness to the branches, that is, to us (6).

In the Gospel reading, we hear how Joseph listened to the angel and fled with his family to Egypt. The Church fathers states in *Gaudium et spes*, that God, who lovingly looks after each of us, desires that we live in community. The Second Vatican Council document states, "God who has a parent's care for all of us, desired that all men, and women should form one family and deal with each other as brothers and sisters. . . Love for God and of one's neighbour, then, is the first and greatest commandment" (GS, 24).

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

Our reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus (3:2-7, 12-14) sets the tone for the Feast of the Holy Family by drawing attention to the loving relationships that should permeate every family. The commandment "honour your father and your mother" is the foundation for this reflection. Love for parents continues throughout life and brings with it the reward of many blessings.

Paul's letter to the Colossians (3:12-21 or 3:12-17) focuses on family life. Paul reminds us of our identity as "God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you." We are called to live out our identity in all relationships especially within the family. Paul uses a beautiful analogy: just as we consciously select our clothes every day, so we should consciously clothe ourselves daily with the virtues inspired by Jesus: "humility, gentleness and patience."

On this first Sunday of Christmas Time, our minds turn to the heart of the message of the Incarnation. The Gospel (Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23) offers a beautiful narrative that reflects the life of the Holy Family. The Son of God entered the human family as a helpless child, cared for by a loving family. Joseph and Mary immediately exercise their role as protectors of their child amid dire circumstances. They become refugees, escaping the tyranny of King Herod, who had ordered the death of their child.

Liturgy and Life

(1) What role does compassion, kindness and humility play in your relationship with family members? (2) How is Christ a part of your family life? (3) Does your family seek God's help when making decisions?



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.

Money Matters

Last Sunday's Offertory Collection - £395.35

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.*