

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



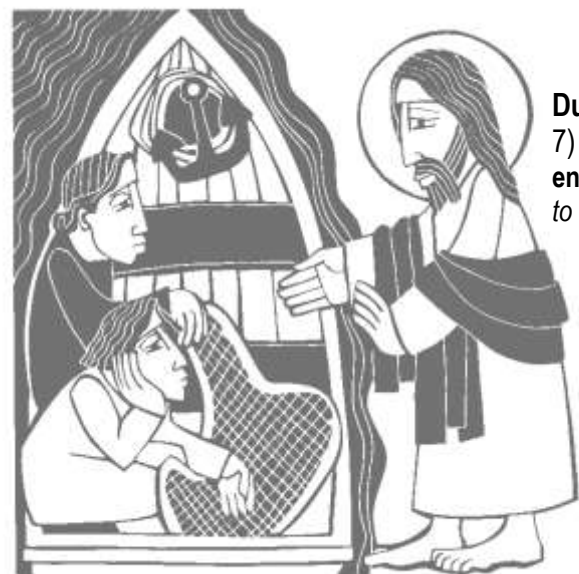
26th January 2020

**THIRD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

3RD SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

3rd Sunday after Epiphany	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the parish
Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass – Int. Joseph Leonard, RIP (Anni)
Tuesday <i>St Thomas Aquinas, Doctor</i>	9.30am	Mass – Int. Thanksgiving
Wednesday <i>Feria</i>	NO MASS	
Thursday <i>Feria</i>	6.00pm	Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass
Friday <i>St John Bosco</i>	9.00am	Mass
Saturday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confession
SUNDAY 2nd Feb. Purification of the BVM	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of 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.

CAFOD have written alerting us to the escalating drought and food shortages in Zimbabwe and Zambia affecting more than 7.7 million people and the situation is worsening. CAFOD are supporting local aid experts in delivering emergency food aid to the people in greatest need, through their church network, and creating access to safe, clean water through new pipelines, boreholes and water points. **We will take a special emergency collection today.**



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.

Sunday of the Word of God – 26 January 2020

In his Apostolic Letter *Aperuit illis*, declared that the **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time** is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God. “This *Sunday of the Word of God* will thus be a fitting part of that time of the year when we are encouraged to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to pray for Christian unity.” (3). “Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the Word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of His Word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world.” (Pope Francis *Aperuit illis* 2) Christ Jesus is knocking at our door in the words of sacred scripture. If we hear His voice and open the doors of our minds and hearts, then He will enter our lives and remain ever with us. (Pope Francis *Aperuit illis* 8).

May this Sunday of the Word of God open our minds and hearts in faithful witness.

Regular reading of sacred Scripture and the celebration of the Eucharist makes it possible for us to see ourselves as part of one another... A day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event but rather a year-long event, for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the risen Lord, who continues to speak his word and to break bread in the community of believers.

CANON DAVID OAKLEY APPOINTED BISHOP OF NORTHAMPTON

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has appointed Canon David Oakley, a priest of the Archdiocese of Birmingham and currently rector of St Mary's College, Oscott, to be the thirteenth Bishop of Northampton. Pray for God's blessing for Bishop Peter as he continues his ministry, and for our bishop-elect, Canon David Oakley

O Lord, who for the feeding of your flock have chosen your servant David as our bishop elect, grant him, we pray, a spirit of counsel and fortitude, a spirit of knowledge and piety, so that, by faithfully governing the people entrusted to him, he may build up in the world the sacrament of the Church.

Frank Pace and Joe Tavernier will represent our parish at the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Elect David Oakley on **Thursday 19 March at 11.00am at the Cathedral in Northampton.**

PASTORAL AREA MISSION PLAN

Last September representatives from the five parishes in our Pastoral Area came together, as directed by Bishop Peter, to reflect prayerfully on the needs and opportunities within our community and to identify a number of local projects.

Getting a real “grass roots” perspective on our strengths and needs as well as hearing from a wide range of voices with local knowledge and experience enabled us to explore ideas from different perspectives. Four areas of focus were identified and prioritised: Liturgy, Welcoming & Social Community, Children & Youth and Communications.

Working groups need to be quickly established for each of these projects. If you feel passionate about any of these areas, have an open heart about new ways of working and have some time and energy to support us, we'd like to hear from you. Please contact Fr Andy if you would like to be involved.

The reflections, findings and initiatives identified during the Reflection Day will be used to produce a Mission Plan for our Pastoral Area. This needs to be ready by mid-March, ahead of a gathering of all Pastoral Areas on 28 March with Bishop Peter and Bishop Elect David.

Lectionary for Mass

Much of today's First Reading (Isaiah 8:23-9:3) was proclaimed during the Christmas Mass at Midnight. Early in Ordinary Time, the theme of light overcoming darkness remains. This passage from Isaiah was originally a hymn holding out hope for the coming of a prince of peace after the disastrous reign of King Ahaz. Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the prince of Peace. He smashed the yoke that burdened the people, so that they will never again be loaded down with it.

Psalm 27 is a common psalm for Ordinary Time. The hope and trust of the psalmist in God are palpable. Even in the rhetorical question about whom the psalmist should fear, hope resides. The Lord is his light and his salvation. Our journey through the weeks of Ordinary Time and the high seasons of the liturgical year lead us to the one thing the psalmist requests: “to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.” We wait for the Lord with courage. We believe nothing less than that we shall see the goodness of the Lord.

Many divisions exist among the Corinthians: rich and poor, male and female, Jew and Gentile, those who follow ritual purity laws and those who do not. Yet Paul does not put off addressing the main challenge facing the community. In today's Second Reading (1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17), we hear that already in chapter 1, he exhorts the Corinthians to agree in their speech and to create unity among themselves. The “same mind” and the “same purpose” ought to bring them together. Christ is one and so also should they be. Paul preaches the Gospel of Christ and holds out his Cross for believers to embrace should they choose to follow. We follow the Cross of Christ together as one Church. We journey to Jerusalem together, human foibles and all, graced by Christ who leads us to Easter.

Will we accept Jesus' invitation to come after him and invite others to do the same? Matthew's account of the call of the first disciples serves as today's Gospel reading (Matthew 4:12-23). The immediacy of the response of Simon, Andrew, James and John in accepting Jesus' invitation bears note. No second thoughts. No detailed examination of the rightness or wrongness of following Jesus. They simply acted. They followed. For a time, Jesus will school them in the requirements of discipleship, and then he will send them out on their own.

The readings speak of discipleship. Jesus, the Servant, responds to God's love. We ask to follow his path of whole-hearted love. There are many things that can get in the way: personal internal divisions. Christ wants to bring wholeness into our lives and through us, into the lives of others.

Catholic Basics Part 2 "The Church" on February 15 at the Diocesan Centre, Luton, LU4 8JD. Come and join us from **10am to 3pm (arrive 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.