

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



5th January 2020

**THE EPIPHANY
OF THE LORD**

*THE MOST HOLY
NAME OF JESUS*

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

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
Monday Christmas Feria	9.30am	Mass – Int. Good Health of Christine
	11.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine) – (Epiphany)
Tuesday Christmas Feria	9.30am	Mass – Int. Brian Farrelly, RIP
Wednesday Christmas Feria	NO MASS	
Thursday Christmas Feria	6.00pm	Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass
Friday Christmas Feria	9.00am	Mass
Saturday Christmas Feria	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confession
SUNDAY 12th Jan.	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	10.00am	Mass – Int. Bert Mendis, RIP

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.

Thank you so very much for your generous offerings, cards, gifts and messages of good wishes for Christmas. Your kindness is much appreciated. I will offer Holy Mass for your intentions in thanksgiving. Fr Andy



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.

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.

Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

Through Paul and the other Apostles, the early Church spread the news of the revelation that had been given to them. The Church continues to show the light of Christ to the world. *Lumen gentium* explains: "Christ is the light of the nations and consequently this holy synod, gathered in the holy Spirit, ardently desires to bring to all humanity the light of Christ . . . by proclaiming his Gospel to every creature. . . The Church, in Christ, is a sacrament – a sign and instrument, that is, of communion with God and of the unity of entire human race" (1). St Paul says in the reading from Ephesians that we are "co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel." As co-partners, we are to reflect Christ to the world. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains, "Christians are called to be the light of the world. Thus, the Church shows forth the kingship of Christ over all creation and in particular over human societies" (2015). The white garment symbolises that the person baptised has 'put on Christ,' has risen with Christ. The *candle*, lit from the Easter Candle, signifies that Christ has enlightened the neophyte. In him the baptised are 'the light of the world'" (CCC, 1243). The celebration of the Epiphany marks the manifestation of Christ to the world. In the magi, we see people from different cultures and ethnicities coming to worship the Lord. His reign is for all. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, "The magi's coming to Jerusalem . . . shows that they seek . . . in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations" (528).

Lectionary for Mass

The prophet Isaiah contrasts a picture of the world living in darkness with "the glory of the Lord" shining on Jerusalem (Isaiah 60:1-6). The nations of the world are drawn towards this light. Isaiah proclaims a profound truth: God's love and salvation, first offered to Israel, is meant to be shared with all nations. This message calls for joy: "your heart throbbing and full."

In today's Second Reading (Ephesians 3:2a-3a, 5-6), Paul stresses the theme that God's salvation is intended for all people. This mystery, hidden beforehand, has now been revealed to Paul through the inspiration of the Spirit: all human beings are called to become "coheirs, members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel."

Our Gospel narrative (Matthew 2:1-12) expresses this same mystery. On the day of Christ's birth, the first to receive the Good News were Jewish shepherds in the fields. Now, at the Epiphany, pagan astrologers, wise men from the East, the Magi, come searching for the "infant King of the Jews" by following the light of a star. This event fulfils Isaiah's prophecy announced in the First Reading. The Contrast of King Herod to the Magi is remarkable: the leader of the Jewish people refuses to accept the news of the Jewish king's birth and plans to kill him, while those pagan Magi have travelled far searching for this king and prostrate themselves in worship before him. Their gifts symbolise their belief: gold, the most precious of metals, is a suitable gift for a king, Frankincense, used in worship, symbolises the child's divinity. Myrrh, used in preparing a body for burial, symbolises Jesus' humanity. We recall how after Jesus' death his body was anointed with "myrrh and aloes" (John 19:38-42).

Our readings remind us of the powerful truth that God's love is for everyone. Like the Magi, we are called to open our hearts to accept that love.

Liturgy and Life

(1) When have you let the light of Christ guide you? (2) What does it mean to you to be a co-partner in the promise of Christ Jesus? (3) How do you manifest the light of Christ to the world?



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.

Money Matters

Last Sunday's Offertory Collection - £177.76

**SECOND COLLECTION – NEXT SUNDAY:
SPUC – WHITE FLOWER APPEAL**

Thank you for your generosity

The January 2020 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.