

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



23rd February 2020

SEVENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

QUINUAAGESIMA

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Quinuaagesima	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00am	Mass – Int. Eileen Cullen, RIP (Anni)
Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass – Int. Foundation Mass (Newton)
Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass – Int. Foundation Mass (Searle)
Wednesday ASH WEDNESDAY	9.30am*	Mass – Int. Foundation Mass (Fr George Walker)
A Day of Fasting and Abstinence	11.00am*	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
	7.00pm*	Mass – Int. Foundation Mass (Rayner)
Thursday <i>Lent Feria</i>	6.00pm	Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass – Int. Foundation Mass (Smith)
Friday <i>Lent Feria</i>	9.00am	Mass – Int. Foundation Mass (Kay Byrne)
	5.00pm*	Stations of the Cross
Saturday <i>Lent Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass – Int. Foundation Mass (Ambrose Peter Glover)
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confession
	4.00pm – 4.30pm*	Rosary & Benediction
SUNDAY 1st March First Sunday in Lent	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	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.

This afternoon we Welcome and Baptise **Isabella Annette Brankin** into the Faith of our parish community. Her parents **Rory and Samantha** will make solemn promises to bring him up in the practice of the Church, supported by her godparents, **Edward and Grainne**, and indeed by all who gathered here for Mass each Sunday. Please keep Max, her parents, brother Lucas, and godparents in your prayers.

We are collecting Last year's palm crosses to burn for Ashes to use on Ash Wednesday (26th February 2020)



Money Matters

Last Sunday's Offertory Collection - £308.74

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 February 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.

Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

In today's Gospel, Jesus urges his followers to love as the Father does when he says, "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." They are to strive to be holy, not just to obey the Commandments. The bishops of write in 2007 *Aparecida* Document that Christians are to follow Jesus' example and act out of love, no matter the difficulty. "Jesus, the Good Shepherd, wishes to communicate his life to us and place himself at the service of life . . . He likewise invites his disciples to reconciliation . . . love for enemies . . . and to opt for the poorest" (*Aparecida*, 353).

Jesus tells the crowd at the Sermon on the Mount to "be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect." For our Lord, this is not just a saying, but a way of living. His followers see this evidenced when he eats with the marginalised, touches lepers, and fails to rebuke those who mock him at the cross. The Catechism states, "The Word became flesh to be our model of holiness" (459).

The National Novena to St Joseph will take place from 10th - 18th March 2020 at **St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead** and at **Herbert House, Freshfield, Liverpool**. Each year the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society and the missionary outreach of the Church, as well as for the intentions of all those who support their work. You are invited to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena prayer.

Please write to Novena Director, St Joseph's Missionary Society, 58Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7HT or email novenamhm@gmail.com (There are a few copies of the Novena booklet near the statue of St Joseph, please take one).

Our NEW 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

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. *Thank you to those who have already agreed 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

"Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy." These words challenge us to imitate God in our actions. The word *holy* embraces the concept of wholeness, as opposed to being divided. Leviticus illustrates this meaning: "You shall not bear hatred for your brother in your heart." Instead, follow the command "Love your neighbour as yourself."

In Matthew's account of the Gospel, Jesus clearly builds on this passage from Leviticus. "Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." To "be perfect" is the same as to "be holy." Such holiness would mean that the individual is undivided in their interior and exterior lives. Jesus offers three succinct scenarios of humiliation that reflect Mediterranean culture: being struck on the right cheek by a backhanded slap is an insult; being sued in court where one is humiliated by losing property or dignity; and being forced to carry something by Roman soldiers (see Simon of Cyrene carrying Jesus' Cross [Matthew 27:32]). All of these cultural situations required action to defend one's honour. Instead Jesus advises a different approach: Find another way to respond that avoids violence. Rise above these insults. Jesus is abrogating a basic law of the Middle East, enduring to the present, known as the Law of Talion, the law of retaliation: "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." Jesus invites his followers to find a third way that rises above humiliation and avoids retaliating in the same way. Use your imagination to discover how best to overcome the insult in ways that rise above it and beyond violence.

Liturgy and Life

(1) How have you managed to love someone who has betrayed or harmed you? (2) The reading from Paul says not to boast. Is it difficult for you to attribute your successes to God? (3) Do you think that Jesus asks too much when he says to pray for those who persecute you?

LENT Walk with Me prayer booklets are for sale in porch

The Passage is a Christian Charity working with homeless people. Please support a **St David's Day concert** in aid of The Passage at **Methodist Central Hall, Westminster** on **Friday 28 February at 7.00pm**. The concert features the London Welsh Male Voice Choir Book online: stdavidsday.eventbrite.co.uk or telephone 020 75921856 or email info@passage.org.uk

Vocations Weekend for young women

28th Feb - 1 Mar 2020 Liverpool The weekend is organised by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). *There is nothing quite like religious life – it's an extraordinary adventure into a deep relationship with God.* If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them.