

# 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**



15<sup>th</sup> March 2020

THIRD SUNDAY  
OF LENT

3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT

## TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

<b>3rd Sunday in Lent</b>	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	10.00am	Mass – Int. John Richard Sullivan, RIP, Anni
Monday Lent Feria	9.30am	Mass – Int. Foundation Mass (Ambrose Glover)
Tuesday ST PATRICK, Bishop, Patron of Ireland	9.30am	Mass – Int. Mary Farrelly (Special Int)
Wednesday Lent Feria	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Thursday ST JOSEPH, Spouse of the BVM	7.00pm	Mass – Int. Foundation Mass (Newton)
Friday Lent Feria	9.00am	Mass – Int. Foundation Mass (Searle)
	<b>5.00pm*</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
Saturday Lent Feria	9.30am	Mass – Int. Foundation Mass (John & Doris Byrne)
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confession
<b>SUNDAY 22<sup>th</sup> March 4th Sunday in Lent</b>	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – LAETARE</b>	10.00am	Mass – Int. John Richard Sullivan, RIP, Anni



## LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN

**Tasha is unable to lead our session this morning.**

There are sheets with an image of today's Gospel for children to colour available in the porch.. Please take one and some colouring pens for the children to use during Mass.

At our Masses today we welcome a priest from the **Comboni Missionaries** who will tell us about their missionary work around the world and how we can support them. *Please give generously to this appeal.*

**Lent Prayer booklets** (*My Day by Day and Walk With Me*) are for sale in the porch.



*We have been advised to suspend refreshments during this time because of the fears over spreading the coronavirus.*

**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 Gospel, we see how Jesus brings the woman to faith. By the time the conversation between Christ and the Samaritan woman ends, she is ready to bring the news of the Messiah to the townspeople. The Preface of the Eucharistic Prayer today speaks of how Christ creates the gift of faith in those who seek him. With the priest, we pray in the Preface, "For when he asked the Samaritan woman for water to drink, / he had already created the gift of faith within her" (*The Roman Missal*, Preface for the Third Sunday of Lent). Jesus, tells the Samaritan woman that he can give her "living water." On the Third Sunday of Lent, in the exorcism during the first scrutiny, the priest prays over the elect "Lord Jesus, you are the fountain for which they thirst; ... / Show your elect the way of salvation in the Holy Spirit" (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, 154). The Samaritan woman is changed through the encounter with Jesus. She had been a woman who lived in sin but now is proclaiming the Gospel with enthusiasm. St. Augustine explains in a treatise that the woman portrays the Church. "The woman of Samaria is a symbol of the Church not yet made righteous but about to be made righteous" (*Liturgy of the Hours*, II: 212, from a treatise on John by St. Augustine, bishop).

**Coronavirus (Covid-19) Update:** Several measures have been put in place here in Our Lady's Church to help keep us all safe. Holy water stoups and baptismal font have been removed, passing of the collection basket is by collector only and the physical sign of peace has been suspended. For Communion at the Sunday 10am and weekday Masses only the Host will be given, and only on the hand. There will be no refreshments after the 10am Mass. These measures are effective until further notice and aim to reduce the physical contact between individuals. If you have cold or flu symptoms, or a temperature, please refrain from attending Mass until you are well again. The situation will remain under review.

**The National Novena to St Joseph** will take place from 10<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at **St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead**. 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, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7HT or email [novenamhm@gmail.com](mailto:novenamhm@gmail.com) (There are a few copies of the Novena booklet near the statue of St Joseph, please take one).

**COACH TO CHRISM MASS:** A coach is booked to take parishioners from our Pastoral Area to the Chrism Mass at Northampton Cathedral on Maundy Thursday, 9 April. The Mass starts at 11am and we aim to arrive in good time. Our pickup point is from St Aidan's at 8:15am. Please contact the IHM Parish Office to reserve your seat by emailing [ihmparishsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ihmparishsecretary@gmail.com) or calling 01494 862049. The coach is FREE but reservations must be made by Monday 23 March.

Our parish raised a fantastic £228.39 for **CAFOD's Family Fast Day**. Your support will help ensure no one is beyond reach of love and care they need to flourish. Thank you for fasting in solidarity, and please keep our brother and sisters in your prayers throughout Lent. There are CAFOD prayer cards available in the porch.

## Scripture Insights

Today's readings pose two questions that bring our Lenten journey into focus: "Is the Lord with us or not?" and "What are you looking for?" The First Reading comes from Exodus 17, the early stages of Israel's forty-year journey in the desert. The Israelites had begun quarrelling among themselves and grumbling against Moses, complaining about a lack of food and water. They even tested God, asking whether he was even in their midst. Moses pleads to God for intervention, and God responds by empowering Moses to draw water from the rock for the people to drink. Even though the Lord was indeed in the midst of the community during the desert journey, the Israelites' fears, intensified by their grumbling and complaining, blinded them to the Lord's presence. In today's Gospel reading from John, Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at a well. With the simple request for her to give him a drink, Jesus initiates a dialogue that intrigues and transforms her. Just as she has come to believe in Jesus, the disciples return from their errand to a nearby town. John tells us in an aside that on seeing the woman, they fail to ask her what she is looking for – the very question Jesus had asked the first disciples, the question that initiated their conversion (see John 1:38). In the Gospel according to John, true discipleship involves first and foremost bringing others to Christ. The distracted disciples fail to evangelise – in contrast to the Samaritan woman, who, once she believes that Jesus is the Christ, hurries to her town to bring others to him. As we continue through our Lenten journey, we are challenged to overcome fears and distractions, to find the Lord in our midst, and to bring others to him.

### Liturgy and Life

(1) How can you cease grumbling this Lent and trust that the Lord is present in your life? (2) Do you nurture the hope that God has given you? (3) At what point in the Gospel, can you identify with the Samaritan woman? How can you continue that encounter with Christ?

**Frank Pace and Joe Tavernier** will represent our parish at Canon David Oakley's **Ordination** as the thirteenth Bishop of Northampton this coming **Thursday at 11.00am at the Cathedral in Northampton**. Pray for God's blessing for Bishop Peter as he retires, and for Canon David Oakley. The Ordination Mass will be live-streamed online see [www.northamptondiocese.org/live](http://www.northamptondiocese.org/live) . St Aidan's Church in Little Chalfont are showing the live streaming in their Parish Hall. You are asked to arrive before 10.45am on Thursday.

**THE GIFT – A LIFE IN THE SPIRIT COURSE** There will be a six week course starting on 6th May at St Joseph's Church aimed at people of all ages to help them encounter the Holy Spirit and empower them to share their faith. Sessions will run on Wednesday evenings starting at 8.00pm and finishing at 9.30pm, with refreshments served from 7.30pm. Contact St Joseph's Parish Office on 01753 886581 to sign up.