

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



22nd March 2020

**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF LENT**

4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - LAETARE	10.00am	Mass – Int. John Richard Sullivan, RIP, Anni
Monday Lent Feria	9.30am	Mass – Int. Foundation Mass (Fr B J Davenport)
Tuesday Lent Feria	7.00pm*	Mass – Int. (Protection from Coronavirus)
Wednesday THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	NO MASS	
Thursday Lent Feria	7.00pm	Mass – Int. Foundation Mass (Casleton-Clark)
Friday Lent Feria	9.00am	Mass – Int. Foundation Mass (Margheurita Glover)
	5.00pm*	Stations of the Cross
Saturday Lent Feria	9.30am	Mass – Int. Kenneth Welch, RIP, B'day Anni
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confession
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	10.00am	Mass – Int. David Vivian Slater, RIP, Anni



LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN

Worksheet activities for this Sunday's readings may be downloaded from our Parish website

(www.ourladyschurch-cheshambois.org)

***Wishing all mothers a very
happy Mothering Sunday!***

We are being advised not to make family visits today, but we can make a phone call, use Face Time and video chat to let them know we are thinking about them!

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

Money Matters

Last Sunday's Offertory Collection - £334.68

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY - £45.00

COMBONI MISSIONARY APPEAL £313.78

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 March 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.

Online Donations to Support Our Parish

Many parishioners generously support the parish financially by bank standing orders, others make their offerings through the collection baskets at Sunday Mass. Your generosity is appreciated and encourage you to continue supporting the parish through online donations at Diocesan website (www.northamptondiocese.org). Please include 'Our Lady's Chesham Bois' in the comments box to ensure the parish is allocated your donation. Thank you for supporting the parish in this way.

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.

Upon advice from **Missio** headquarters the emptying and counting of the contents of **the Red Boxes**, which would normally take place over the next few weeks, is postponed until the current Coronavirus threat has ended. The contents of any boxes already handed in will be banked. As soon as the situation changes a note will be placed in the Newsletter. Thank you for your patience and understanding at this time.

Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

After the man born blind washed himself in the Pool of Siloam, he was able to profess, "I do believe, Lord." Not only was he now able to see with his eyes, but he had been enlightened. When a person is baptised and incorporated into the Body of Christ, he or she views the world from another perspective. Christ now shed his light on them to see as he sees. In its teaching on Baptism, quoting St. Justin, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, "This bath is called *enlightenment*, because those who receive this [catechetical] instruction are enlightened in their understanding" (1216).

In the Gospel, we hear that Jesus noticed the man blind from birth, smeared clay on his eyes, directed him to wash, and went looking for him after hearing that the Pharisees rejected the man. Finding the man, Jesus conversed with him, guiding him, to faith. The Preface on this Sunday emphasises that Christ leads humankind into the light of faith. "By the mystery of the Incarnation, / [Christ] has led the human race that walked in darkness / into the radiance of the faith" (*The Roman Missal*, Preface for the Fourth Sunday of Lent).

Just as Jesus smeared clay on the eyes of the man born blind, through Baptism Christians have been given a way of seeing through faith. In a quote from St. Augustine in the *liturgy of the Hours* what occurs at Baptism is likened to the clay on the man's eyes. "I am the light of the world.' . . . That light shines on us now, for we have had our eyes anointed with the eye-salve of faith" (*Liturgy of the Hours*, II:276 from a treatise on John by St. Augustine, bishop).

On the Fourth Sunday of Lent, in the second scrutiny the priest prays that the elect will rejoice in the light of Christ gives. He begins by praying, "Lord Jesus, you are the true light that enlightens the world" (RCIA, 167)

Coronavirus (Covid-19) Update:

We are now unable to celebrate public worship with a congregation. Our new Bishop David Oakley, along with the college of Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have instructed parish priests to celebrate Mass alone. Sunday and daily Mass will be streamed live (see below) so that parishioners may join in the prayers and readings of the Mass from home. Our Lady's Church will remain open during the day for personal prayer, to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament. Do observe social distancing. There are prayer booklets and reading material available from the porch. Please take and use these. Stay safe and well during these challenging times.

We are now a Virtual Parish!

We now have our own Facebook Page which enables us to Live-stream our Sunday and daily Masses during the Coronavirus pandemic. The Facebook page can be accessed through our parish home webpage.

BEHOLD 2020

Next Sunday 29 March at 11am Bishop David Oakley will rededicate England as the Dowry of Mary. See www.behold2020.com for prayers and more details.

Scripture Insights

We learn in today's readings for the Fourth Sunday of Lent that divine vision penetrates beyond the superficial and sees into our deepest selves.

The First Reading, from 1 Samuel, recounts the anointing of the young shepherd boy, David, as king of Israel. In the story, God directs Samuel to Jesse of Bethlehem, who had eight sons. From Jesse's sons would come the next king of Israel. Jesse's eldest son, Eliab, was by all outward signs the logical choice among Jesse's sons. But to the surprise of all, God chooses Jesse's youngest son, David. It was what God saw in David's heart that made him different from his brothers. Israel was learning to rely on divine vision to guide its history and its destiny.

The divine vision of Jesus drives today's Gospel reading from John, the healing of the man born blind. The blind man's healing begins with a simple and logical question from the disciples: Was the man born blind because he or his parents had sinned? In fact, throughout this healing story, a total of sixteen questions are asked by various people. All of these questions express some form of limited human vision. It is Jesus alone who sees that the man was born blind not because of sin; rather, the man was born blind "so that the works of God might be made visible through him." In his Letter to the Ephesians, Paul encourages the Ephesians to "live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8), producing "goodness and righteousness and truth" (Ephesians 5:9). During this season of Lent, we are called to challenge our own limited human vision, to look beyond mere appearances, and to seek what is good and true and righteous. In this way, we will learn to see as God sees.

Liturgy and Life

(1) When have you struggled to see a person as God sees and not as you see? (2) How does your parish help the community see that God is at work in the world? (3) In what conflict or issue in your life do you need to ask for sight?

Sister Jacinta has written to thank parishioners for their donations to the Loreto Sisters' Albania Project.

Dear Father Ollard,
Many thanks for your generous cheque (£388.88) received today. We are most grateful for it. I hope you and your parishioners are coping well during this pandemic.
God bless you all.
Jacinta.

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.