

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



29th March 2020

FIFTH SUNDAY
OF LENT

5TH SUNDAY IN LENT

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	10.00am	Mass – Int. David Vivian Slater, RIP, Anni
Monday <i>Lent Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday <i>Lent Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass
Wednesday <i>Lent Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass
Thursday <i>Lent Feria</i>	7.00pm	Mass
Friday <i>Lent Feria</i>	9.00am	Mass
Saturday <i>Lent Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass
PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION	10.00am	Mass – Int. Betty Shawyer, RIP, Recently Deceased



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)

Our new bishop, **Bishop David Oakley** has written his first **Pastoral Letter**. The Pastoral Letter may be downloaded from our parish website along with our parish Newsletter and the Sunday Message cover page.

Lent Prayer booklets (*My Day by Day and Walk With Me*) are available, contact Fr Andy if you would like one.

Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

Martha first states that she knows that Lazarus will rise at the resurrection of the dead and then professes her faith when she says, "Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." In the Creed each Sunday, we profess our belief in the resurrection of the dead and in the eternal life that God offers us. The Catechism states, "The Christian Creed . . . culminates in the proclamation of the resurrection of the dead on the last day and in life everlasting" (988).

"I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be held a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead. Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image. Rise, let us leave this place, for you are in me and I am in you; together we form only one person and we cannot be separated." (Liturgy of the Hours, II 497, an ancient homily for Holy Saturday).

The Preface for the Fifth Sunday of Lent connects the life that Jesus gave Lazarus with the life given to us in Jesus' dying and rising. With the priest, we pray in the Preface: "For as true man he wept for Lazarus his friend / and as eternal God, raised him from the tomb" (*Roman Missal*, Preface for Fifth Sunday of Lent).

During the third scrutiny, on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, the community prays that the elect may live with Christ in the glory of the resurrection. With hands outstretched over the elect, the priest prays: "Lord Jesus, / by raising Lazarus from the dead / you showed that you came that we might have life / and have it more abundantly" (RCIA, 178).

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. Sadly, Our Lady's Church building will remain closed until further notice.

Sunday and daily Mass will be live streamed online via **Facebook Live** on our Facebook page: **Our Lady's Catholic Church Chesham Bois**.

Liturgies are also live streamed from Northampton Cathedral: www.northamptondiocese.org/live

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

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

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.

Scripture Insights

Today's readings remind us that God alone has the power of life over death.

The First Reading describes vision of the prophet Ezekiel during Israel's captivity and exile in Babylon, 587-538 BC. The Babylonian Empire had destroyed Jerusalem and carried Israel into exile. The Israelites felt dead and buried; Babylon had become their grave. But Ezekiel prophesied that God would one day open their graves and that together they would rise from the dead. Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones in grounded in a firm belief in the restoration of Israel. Historically, the Israelites did rise from the dead in their release from Babylon in 538 BC. Six hundred years later, Christians would look back at Ezekiel's prophecy and see its ultimate fulfilment in Jesus' Resurrection from the dead.

In the Gospel story, the sisters Mary and Martha are profoundly grieved by their brother's death, but each reacts differently. When Jesus arrives, Mary remains at home, mourning. Martha goes out to greet him. Jesus tells Martha, "I am the Resurrection and the life" and then asks, "Do you believe this?" Martha responds, "Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world" (John 11:25). This confession of faith by Martha in John's account parallels Peter's confession of faith in the other Gospels (that is, Matthew 16:15-16; Mark 8:29; Luke 9:20).

It would take time for Martha and Peter to understand the implications of their confessions. Like them and the prophet Ezekiel, we are called to believe in God's power of life over death. And like Lazarus, we who believe in Jesus will rise from our graves at the sound of his voice.

Liturgy and Life

(1) As Easter nears, do you need to offer forgiveness to someone? (2) How have you slowed our belief in eternal life to comfort you when a loved one has died? (3) From what sin or fault would you like Christ to release you?

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.

Money Matters

Thank you for your generosity

If you would like to support the parish through Offertory Envelopes or directly from your bank, please contact Fr Andy. You may also donate online at www.northamptondiocese.org/donate please include 'Our Lady's Chesham Bois' in the information box

The April 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/donate). 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.