

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



26th April 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF
EASTER

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	10.00am	MASS – Int. People of the parish
Monday <i>Easter feria</i>	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday <i>Easter feria</i>	9.30am	Mass
Wednesday ST CATHERINE OF SIENA	9.30am*	Mass – Int. End to the Covid-19 pandemic
Thursday <i>Easter feria</i>	6.30pm	Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
	7.00pm	Mass
Friday <i>St Joseph the Worker</i>	5.00pm*	Mass – Int. Luke Rory Forde, RIP
Saturday <i>St Athanasius</i>	9.30am	Mass
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	10.00am	MASS – Int. People of the parish



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)

We had planned that five of our children would be receiving the special gift of Jesus through Holy Communion for the first time today. Sadly we are unable to do this due to the measures put in place to protect us all from the Coronavirus. However, during our Live Streamed Mass today, we will pray especially for our children: **Lucinda, Thor, Nuala, Seth and Alice**. We have had to postpone their First Holy Communion Day, but we will reschedule this important date, once we are able to gather again for public worship in our Church. *Do keep these children and their families in your prayers this week.*

Money Matters – 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 - Offertory**' in the comments box to ensure the parish is allocated your donation. If you wish to Gift Aid your donation please state that in the information box too. Thank you for supporting the parish in this way.

Mass Offerings and Votive Candle donations may be made through the Diocesan website. Please include the name of the priest and '**Mass Offering**' or '**Votive Candle**' 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.

Infant Baptism and Marriage are currently being postponed

until our response to the Coronavirus Pandemic ends and things return to normal. **The Church requires** notice of at least six months prior to the Sacrament of Matrimony being celebrated.

An Act of Contrition My God I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

In today's reading from Acts, Peter tells of the work of the Father and the Spirit in the resurrection. He explains, "God raised this Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit." The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* notes that Jesus' appearances after his resurrection clearly reveal the Trinity, the fundamental mystery, and our destiny. The Catechism states, "Christ's Resurrection is an object of faith in that in it is a transcendent intervention of God himself in creation and history. In it the three divine persons act together as one, and manifest their own proper characteristics. The Father's power 'raised up' Christ his Son and by doing so perfectly introduced his Son's humanity, including his body, into the Trinity. Jesus is conclusively revealed as 'Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his Resurrection from the dead (648, quoting Romans 1:3-4).

OUR CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHIES

to all those who have lost loved ones in recent days. **Luke Forde** died on 10th April 2020. His funeral will take place at 10am at the Milton Chapel of the Chilterns Crematorium on Friday 1st May. We pray for those who have died, and their families, during Mass each day. **May the Lord enfold them in his mercy. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.**

Coronavirus (Covid-19) Update:

Since, 20th March, we have had to close Our Lady's Church building and are 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 Mass and the Liturgies of Holy Week 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

Dispensation from Easter Duties

As it is not possible for the faithful to receive Holy Communion at this time, and into the future, the Bishops of England and Wales have dispensed the Easter Duties for the year 2020.

The Bishops have asked that all should make a perfect Act of Contrition at this time. Perfect contrition (or a Contrition of Charity) is true and real sorrow for our sins which is created when we realise the immense love of God for each one of us. We express this contrition when we realise how we offend God by our sinful words, deeds and omissions in contrast to the immeasurable love and mercy that he continually shows us.

Scripture Insights

The readings for the Third Sunday of Easter present the basic *Kerygma* (proclamation) of the early Church, that they were all witnesses to the Resurrection. The witness of Jesus' Resurrection united both Jewish and Gentile Christians in faith.

The First Reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, is the first half of the speech that Peter delivers after the disciples' experience of Pentecost. (Next Sunday we will hear the second half of Peter's speech, Acts 2:36-41). Luke, the author of Acts, makes two very important points about Jesus' Resurrection in the first part of Peter's speech. First, everything about Jesus – from his mighty works and signs to his Resurrection from the dead – was accomplished by *God*. Second, Jesus' Resurrection from the dead fulfils God's "oath" to David. According to Luke's portrayal of Peter's preaching, the disciples' experience of the resurrected and ascended Christ has led them to identify God as the author of every moment of their story.

In the Second Reading, directed to the Gentiles churches of Asia Minor, Peter knows that the recipients of this letter, as believing Christians, must break from their past way of thinking in order to embrace what God has offered them in the Resurrection of Jesus. Peter writes, "You were ransomed from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors" (1 Peter 1:18). As in the speech in Acts, Peter points to God as the source and foundation of the Gentiles' faith and hope.

Today's readings tell us how Peter and the disciples brought the Good News of the resurrection to both Jews and Gentiles. In this season of Easter, we are also called to tell others in the Good News of what *God* has done in the Resurrection of Jesus.

Liturgy and Life (1) What does Jesus' Resurrection mean in your life? (2) How would another know that your faith is in God? (3) When have you been aware of Christ in your midst?

We have a fresh supply of church **votive candle lights** with a representation of the stained glass window of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. They burn for 24 hours and suggested donation is £2. The perfect accompaniment to prayer at Mass. Contact Fr Andy if you would like to place an order. He will ensure they are delivered to your home.

If you have any **special intentions for Mass** on any day, please contact Fr Andy by email, SMS text or phone.

Thank you to all those who sent Easter greetings, generous Easter Offerings, and supportive messages and emoji during the Live Streaming of Masses. *It is always good to know that you are part of the congregation even if I cannot see you!*

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**.