

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



12th April 2020

**EASTER SUNDAY
OF THE RESURRECTION
OF THE LORD**

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

EASTER SUNDAY	10.00am	MASS – <i>Int. People of the parish</i>
Monday within the Octave of Easter	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday within the Octave of Easter	9.30am	Mass
Wednesday within the Octave of Easter	9.00am*	Mass
Thursday within the Octave of Easter	6.30pm	Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
	7.00pm	Mass
Friday within the Octave of Easter	9.00am	Mass
Saturday within the Octave of Easter	9.30am	Mass

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 10.00am **MASS** – *Int. Kenneth Welch, RIP & deceased members of Welch & Giblin families*

All of these Liturgies will be Live Streamed online via Facebook Live (For details please see below)



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)

*Happy Easter to you all!
During this tense and challenging time
may the Hope and Joy of the
Resurrection of Jesus Christ be yours.*

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.

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.

Easter Offerings are your personal gift to the clergy. You may make your offer through the Diocesan website. Please include the name of the priest and **'Easter Offering'** in the information box. *Personal gifts to clergy cannot benefit from Gift Aid.*

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.

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

In the reading from Acts, Peter not only tells of Jesus' good works, and of his dying and rising, but attests to his being the Messiah the prophets had predicted. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, "Christ's Resurrection is the fulfilment of the promises both of the Old Testament and of Jesus himself during his earthly life" (652).

Each of the readings today points to one event – the Resurrection. Acts records that Peter, a first witness to Christ's rising from the dead, preached that the person he ate and drank with was the one to whom "the prophets bear witness." In Colossians, Paul tells his followers how they are to act if they had been "raised with Christ." With the Resurrection, we have been reconciled with God. For this reason, as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, "Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the 'Feast of feasts,' the 'Solemnity if solemnities'" (1169).

The Catechism teaches, that Christ is alive in a new way after the Resurrection. "In his risen body he passes from the state of death to another life beyond time and space. At Jesus' resurrection his body is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit: he shares the divine life in his glorious state, so that St. Paul can say that Christ is 'the man of heaven'" (645-647). One way Jesus is alive to us is in the Eucharist. Quoting St. Irenaeus, the Catechism states, "Just as bread that comes from the earth, after God's blessing has been invoked upon it, is no longer ordinary bread, but Eucharist, formed of two things, the one earthly and the other heavenly: so too our bodies, which partake of the Eucharist, are no longer corruptible, but possess the hope of resurrection" (1000).

OUR CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHIES

to all those who have lost loved ones in recent days. **Mary Geary** died on 2nd April. Her funeral has been arranged under Coronavirus Response Conditions at Chilterns Crematorium at 11am on Monday 20th April. **Luke Forde** died on 10th April 2020. *His funeral details are yet to be arranged.* 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:

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

Scripture Insights

Easter Sunday celebrate the core of Christian faith: belief in Jesus' Resurrection from the dead. All four Gospel accounts begin their Resurrection narratives with the experience of the empty tomb. In John, we hear the reactions of Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter, and the Beloved Disciple, Mary of Magdala reports immediately to the other two that "they have taken the Lord from the tomb." Clearly she does not yet believe that Jesus had risen. Simon Peter reacts by investigating the tomb itself. But all he discovers is the "burial cloths" and "the cloth that had covered his head." The Beloved Disciples also enters the tomb and likewise sees the burial cloths. But John tells that "he saw and believed." John also tells us that "they [Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter, and the Beloved Disciple] did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead." While none of the three followers yet understands, the Beloved Disciple alone believes without understanding.

In the First Reading from Acts, we hear part of a speech that Peter delivers in the household of Cornelius, a God-fearing Gentile centurion who comes to believe in Jesus, though he does not yet have understanding. Peter recounts the public ministry of Jesus, from the activities of John the Baptist to the resurrected Christ's apostolic commission to preach to all people. Peter had eventually come to believe and understand that "everyone [Jew and Gentile alike] who believes in him [Jesus] will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

We learn in these readings that the Resurrection of Christ often surpasses human understanding. Even more important than understanding the Resurrection is *believing* in it.

Liturgy and Life

(1) How can I keep alive the joy what I feel that Christ has risen? (2) What responsibilities came with my Baptism? (3) Is there someone who might benefit from hearing your story of faith this Easter season? Or might you benefit from hearing another's story of faith?

Prayer booklets for the days of the Easter Season (*My Day by Day and Walk With Me*) are available, contact **Fr Andy** if you would like one.

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

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.

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**.