



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

NEWSLETTER

12TH JULY 2020

**FIFTEENTH
SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

(Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Monday *Feria*

Tuesday *Feria*

Wednesday *St Bonaventure*

Thursday *Feria*

Friday *Feria*

Saturday *Feria*

(Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))

10.00am

9.30am

9.30am

NO MASS TODAY

6.00pm

7.00pm

9.00am

9.30am

MASS – Int. People of the parish

Mass – Int. Christopher Mansbridge, RIP - 1st anni.

Mass – Int. Kathleen McGrath, RIP

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

Mass

Mass

Mass – Int. Edna Welch, Special Intention

8am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))

10.00am

MASS – Int. People of the parish

Our Liturgies will be **live streamed online**. Join us on Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/OurLadyChurchCB)

Scripture Insights

The parable in today's Gospel reading is called the parable of the sower. In this parable, the sower represents Jesus, who spreads the message of the Kingdom of God like seeds. The Kingdom itself is planted like a seed in the world and in the hearts of those who are willing to accept it (Matthew 13:3). The different kinds of soil represent different responses to Jesus' preaching about the Kingdom. Jesus is encouraging his audience to be the rich soil – to take his words to heart and let them take root in their lives.

Today there are obstacles to accepting Jesus' teaching, just as there were when Jesus told this parable. There is no outright rejection of a message that seems too demanding (the unyielding path in the parable). There is brief enthusiasm, followed by a kind of spiritual short attention span. They are always looking for the next new thing (the shallow soil), and there are temptations and troubles that bring doubt and straying (the thorns). But in spite of our repeated wanderings, Jesus continually invites us back, calling us to open our ears to hear God's Word. And when we respond, we become the rich soil that produces fruit – the product of a life of faith.

St. Paul elaborated on what a life of faith produces, the fruit of the Spirit, in Galatians 5:22-23. When the seeds of the Kingdom are planted in a person's heart, the Holy Spirit causes this "fruit" to grow: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are the character traits of a person who accepts the Word of God, which lead that person to participate in works of mercy, peace, and justice, not to mention the work of spreading more seeds.

Liturgy and Life

For what do you think all of creation is groaning? (2) When in your life have you been fertile soil ready to hear God's Word and bear its fruit in the world? (3) When have you been like a thorny area and, because of anxiety, unable to hear God's Word and bear fruit?

Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

Humankind has been shown many ways to follow God's will and to bear fruit in the world. As Jesus tells the Apostles in today's Gospel, those who open their eyes to see and ears to hear will be converted and healed. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains that through God's Word and the spirit, followers bear fruit in the world. "The Decalogue, the Sermon on the Mount, and the apostolic catechesis describe for us the paths that lead to the Kingdom of heaven. Sustained by the grace of the Holy Spirit, tread them, step by step, by everyday acts. By the working of the Word of Christ, we slowly bear fruit in the Church to the glory of God" (1724). In the parable of the sower, Jesus reveals that when the seed is planted on rich soil, the Word of God is understood and the hearer bears fruit. The Catechism explains that it is not enough to hear and understand what Jesus teaches; action must be taken. Just as Isaiah states that the Word shall do God's will, the one who hears the Word should make a return to the Lord. The Catechism states, "Jesus' invitation to enter his kingdom comes in the form of parables, a characteristic feature of his teaching. Through his parables he invites people to the feast of the kingdom, one must give everything. Words are not enough; deeds are required. The parables are like mirrors for man: will he be hard soil or good earth for the world?" (546).

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

Thank you to all those who leave greetings, messages, and delicious treats for me on The Presbytery steps. I'm so touched and grateful for your support and encouragement during these past weeks of the pandemic. Thank you, too, for your messages and emoji during the Live Streaming of Masses. *It is good to know that you are there as part of the congregation even if I cannot see you!*

THE LATEST DIOCESE NEWS

The latest Diocesan News may be found on the website: www.northamptondiocese.org/news

MONEY MATTERS

Many parishioners generously support the parish financially. Your generosity is appreciated and you are encouraged to continue supporting the parish through online donations at www.northamptondiocese.org/donate. Please include '**Our Lady's Chesham Bois – Offertory**' in the comments box to ensure the parish is allocated your donation. Some parishioners may prefer to **donate by telephone** instead. Each Tuesday between 10:00am and 4:00pm, parishioners will be able to call **01604 712065**, to donate to our parish. All they will require is their debit or credit card to hand when they call. A one-off donation may be made to cover their missed Sunday offerings or call each week knowing their offering is going to the parish they wish. As only one person is answering the phone line it may be busy when you call, please leave your contact details on the answering service and you will be called back or phone back a little later.

REOPENING OF OUR LADY'S CHURCH FOR MASS

Our Lady's Church is now open for Mass and public worship. You are reminded that the dispensation for not attending Sunday Mass, granted by the Bishops, is still in force, so there is no obligation to parishioners to attend a Sunday Mass. Bishop David is advocating a 'soft re-installation' programme to begin with, and it could be some time before we return to normal. The safety of everyone is of paramount importance to our Bishop, and he does not wish for anyone to be placed in vulnerable position of any kind. As a general point any public act of worship that can be deferred until the autumn should be. Outside of public liturgies advertised, you are invited to come and spend time in private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. *If you are coming by car, and it is a school day, please do not park in Our Lady's School, instead park responsibly in nearby roads, to allow for those with limited mobility to park in the limited space around the church building.* I am so grateful to those who have volunteered to act as stewards to ensure that we have a prayerful environment in the church and keep everyone safe by doing all we can to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Please follow the guidance of our stewards.

MARY'S MEALS is a charity that Our Lady's parishioners have helped in recent years. They have made a video to update us on their work during the Coronavirus. You may watch the video here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ek0x5FbAypk

Our Lady's Church votive candle lights with a representation of the stained glass window of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour are available. They will burn for up to 24 hours and a suggested donation is £2.00 (*donations may be made online*). They are the perfect accompaniment to light in your home while joining live stream Mass each day. Contact Fr Andy if you would like to place an order.

Hear Mass by Phone

The Diocese of Middlesbrough has launched what it believes is the country's first Catholic Mass available to listen to directly by phone. The new **Mass-by-Phone** service, specifically provided for those without internet access, follows the success of online services introduced since churches were closed when the coronavirus lockdown began. Thousands of people have been tuning in to online Masses. But priests were aware that many people, especially older worshippers, were missing out because they don't have smartphones or internet access at home. The number to call is **01642 130120**. *Calls are charged at local rate and free if in your included minutes.*

We are **praying for our children** who are **preparing to receive Holy Communion** for the first time: **Lucinda, Thor, Nuala, Seth and Alice**, as we have had to postpone the originally planned date. We will reschedule, once we are able to gather for public worship in our Church. *Do keep these children, and their families, in your prayers this week.*

Missio's Mission Today is now available online. It may be downloaded at www.missio.org.uk/mission-today. Missio also now have a simple online donation process. See missio.org.uk/RedBox

Mission Under the Shadow of COVID-19

Join us online to hear about how communities you support around the world are coping with COVID-19. We will hear from a Missio National Director who is managing response locally and a Mill Hill Missionary speaking about the impact on the parish community in Kenya. Ask questions and share ideas on how we can keep in touch with Red Box holders and *encourage their support at this time*. *This meeting will be on Zoom* and will last between 1 – 1 & 1/2 hours. **Tuesday, 14 July from 6pm**. Please register in advance, here: https://us14.list-manage.com/survey?u=21674241bf803ffc7d5c45fd7&id=77bb19e541&mc_cid=60730469fd&mc_eid=25f2952cc5&e=25f2952cc5

We are praying for our engaged couples preparing for the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage at Our Lady's over the coming months: **Anna and Charlie, Clare and Andre, Emma and Brian, Natalie and Joe, Helena and Daniel.**