



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
23RD AUGUST 2020
TWENTY-FIRST
SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

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| Saturday (22 nd August) | 6.00pm | Vigil Mass (21 st Sunday in OT) – Int. People of parish |
| (Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost) | 8.00am | MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin)) |
| TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 10.00am | MASS – Int. Private intention |
| Monday ST BARTHOLOMEW, Apostle | 9.30am | Mass – Int. Private intention (Thanksgiving) |
| Tuesday Feria | 9.30am | Mass – Int. Private intention (Isabelle A.) |
| Wednesday Feria | NO MASS TODAY | |
| Thursday St Monica | 6.00pm | Adoration & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament |
| | 7.00pm | Mass – Int. Private intention |
| Friday St Augustine | 9.00am | Mass – Int. Private intention |
| Saturday The Passion of St John the Baptist | 9.30am | Mass – Int. Edna Welch, special intention |
| | 10.30am – 11.30 am | CONFESSIONS (Outside in garden behind Church) |
| (Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost) | 6.00pm | Vigil Mass (22 nd Sunday in OT) – Int. Private intention |
| TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 8.00am | 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)

You **DO NOT** require a Facebook account to access our Facebook page!

Scripture Insights

Paul closes his discussion in Romans about salvation and the Jews by alluding to Isaiah 40:13 and Job 35:7, which tell of God's surprises and generosity. Psalm 138 praises God's steadfast love, but Paul has shown that God works in unpredictable ways. This unpredictability, however, is related to God's faithful commitment to humanity. Because human beings are unreliable and God's love does not coerce, God often improvises to achieve the purpose to save all. (We see this in Isaiah 22 with Shebna's replacement by Eliakim). God will not give up on the first-chosen Jews, so God will likewise not give up on Gentiles if they fail again somehow.

We cannot presume to know God's ways, or assume that God works by our expectation or calculation. Doing so reduces the Christian Life to one of predictable repetitions, when life with God is a mystery of astonishing discoveries. We cannot dictate how God works, but we can trust his love and the ultimate achievement of his purposes. The question is whether we can follow and accept God's new work and revelations as they happen.

Peter, unlike some religious leaders, is able to accept Jesus as God's new revelation. In response, Jesus gives him special authority and responsibility. Of course, Peter also fails later by denying Jesus but is fully restored, because God will and

can always improvise to bring mercy and redemption. Matthew plays with the Greek words for "Peter" and "rock," as they sound very similar. Paul, in discussing the rejection of Jesus by some

Jews, conflates several verses from Isaiah (8:14-15; 28:16) to talk about a rock on which some will stumble and fall (Romans 9:33). That is what happens when someone misses God's new acts because of presumptions about God.

Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition
When Jesus gave Peter the keys to the kingdom, he tasked him with continuing the Lord's work on earth. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that "The Kingdom belongs to the poor and lowly, which means those who have accepted it with humble hearts" (544).

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus calls Peter a rock and tells him that he will build his Church upon him. Catholics honour the authority of the pope and bishops as being direct line from the authority given by Jesus to Peter and the other apostles. Quoting *Lumen gentium*, 20, the Catechism states, "Just as the office which the Lord confided to Peter alone, as first of the apostles, destined to be transmitted to his

successors, is a permanent one, so also endures the office, which the apostles received, of shepherding the Church, a charge destined to be exercised without interruption by the sacred order of bishops" (862).

Liturgy and Life

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks Peter, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" That is the most profound and intimate question any person can address to another. Responding to it calls for honesty, love, and commitment. Allow Jesus to ask you the same question. During your prayer time, imagine you are asking the question of God, about yourself. Pray and reflect on how God might answer you, on how God might see you. What things in you need affirmation? What things need to be challenged?

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 messages, and treats for me on The Presbytery steps. 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.

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. 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. Outside of public liturgies advertised, you are invited to come and spend time in private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament:

Mondays: 2pm – 4pm and Thursdays: 10am to 12noon. 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 register your name and phone number for contact tracing, and follow the guidance of our stewards. *Please observe social distancing of 2 metres whenever possible.* **We are now required to wear face coverings when inside places of worship.**

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED – LEBANON APPEAL

An emergency help of £226,000 is to be rushed out to Beirut by ACN in the wake of the huge explosion (4th August). The Christian zone of Beirut was "completely devastated", with at least 10 churches destroyed, 300,000 people homeless and many others suffering, with livelihoods "totally destroyed" by the blast. *To find out more and for ways to help:* www.acnuk.org

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation or Penance is now being celebrated outside in the garden behind Our Lady's Church. In a gazebo, for the safe celebration of the sacrament, either by a traditional screen or face-to-face. Please observe social distancing, and be respectful of others' privacy by waiting on the garden seat or inside the church. **Saturdays 10.30am – 11.30am.**

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.

Hear Mass by Phone

A new service, specifically provided for those without internet access. 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**. 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.*

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

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 Here is a link: missio.org.uk/free-event-mission-under-the-shadow-of-covid-19/ where you can see edited videos of Fr Francis from Kenya and Fr Basil from Sri Lanka (who were the guest speakers) at the Zoom meetings which took place in July. They describe the effect that Covid-19 has had on their congregations and the reliance that they have for the prayers/money from Missio supporters.

OUR CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHIES to all those who have lost loved ones in recent days. We pray for all 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.

