



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

20TH SEPTEMBER 2020

TWENTY-FIFTH
SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Saturday (19 th September)	6.00pm	Vigil Mass (24 th Sunday in OT) – Int. Private intention
(Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost)	8.00am	MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00am	MASS – Int. People of the parish
Monday ST MATTHEW	9.30am	Mass – Int. Private intention in thanksgiving
Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass – Int. Private intention in thanksgiving
Wednesday SS Cornelius & Cyprian	NO MASS TODAY	
Thursday Our Lady of Walsingham	6.00pm	Adoration & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass – Int. Private intention for a medical student
Friday <i>Feria</i>	9.00am	Mass – Int. Manuel Silvestre De Caires Perreira, RIP
Saturday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass – Int. Edna Welch, special intention
	10.30am – 11.30 am	CONFESSIONS (Outside in garden behind Church)
(Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost)	6.00pm	Vigil Mass (26 th Sunday in OT) – Int. Private intention
TWENTY-SIXTH 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

Today's parable from Matthew is notoriously difficult. Some have questioned the landowner's statement that he can do whatever he likes with his money, as it implies that he may be exploitative if he pleases. The parable seems to focus, however, on the landowner's generosity by juxtaposing two economies to make a statement about drastic change or complete reversal.

The economies on display are an exchange and a gift economy. An exchange economy is based on a tit-for-tat agreement; you know what you will get in exchange for what you give. This economy is generally to the advantage of the owner, centering on cost, price, and profit.

Labourers, in exchange for their work, receive wages, but they will only receive what is rightfully earned and rarely more. An exchange economy can be described by the words *debt* and *obligation*: Labourers owe owners service or toil, and owners are obligated to pay labourers money. In contrast, a gift economy declines this tit-for-tat calculation to operate by another principle. It goes by unmerited favour or extravagant generosity. Instead of something negotiated or agreed on, it turns calculated exchange into ungrounded magnanimity or, in Christian terminology, grace.

Psalm 144 praises God's goodness and declares that God is always just. Matthew's parable shifts the ground of how we think of justice or fairness: divine justice has to do with gift and generosity, not exchange of service for wages. God's way is beyond our ways because of God's mercy, so people can eat and drink without money (Isaiah 55:1,7-9).

God's generosity with us should model our interaction with each other. We see this in Paul's willingness to stop calculating what would benefit him and forgo his personal preference so he can imitate Christ and give the Philippians.

Liturgy and Life

What does it mean that you conduct yourself "in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ"? (2) Would it trouble you if a co-worker received equal payment when less work was accomplished? (3) Who do you think deserves your generosity? Who does not deserve it?

Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

In the Second Reading, Paul tells the Philippians, "Life is Christ." Formation in the faith aims to align our lives with Christ. John Paul II states: "Catechesis is a process of formation in faith, hope and charity; it shapes the mind and touches the heart, leading to the person to embrace Christ fully and completely" (*Ecclesiam America*, 69). Paul notes that Christ is magnified in his body, "whether by life or by death." Christians are to show Christ through their lives. The Catechism

explains, "By living with the mind of Christ, Christians hasten the coming of the Reign of God, 'a kingdom of justice, love, and peace.' They do not, for all that, abandon their earthly tasks; faithful to their master, they fulfill them with uprightness, patience, and love" (2046).

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.northamptondioocese.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.northamptondioocese.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 10am and 4pm, 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.** *We do need more volunteers as stewards for both the 6pm Saturday and 10am Sunday Masses.*

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** or **Penance** or **Confession** 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.

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 www.missio.org.uk/RedBox

You are invited to **Missio's** next online **Mission Animation**, which will be a chance to meet and hear from missionaries you are supporting throughout the world. 1 September - 4 October is the 'Season of Creation' and we will be marking the 5th anniversary of the publication of Pope Francis' encyclical **Laudato Si'**, on 'Care of Our Common Home'.

This year marks the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical, **Laudato si'** In 2019, the Vatican asked Catholic communities and pastors everywhere to join ecumenical communities around the world in celebrating the **Season of Creation** from **until 4th October**, a season dedicated to prayer, reflection and celebration of God as Creator.

On 5th August, **Pope Francis called on the Church to reflect on our current situation.** In response, the diocesan Pastoral Ministry Office is hosting a series of online webinars on Monday evenings through the autumn. We begin **tomorrow, 21 September** with Bishop David reflecting on the last six months, and posing some key questions as we go forward. Other topics include reaching out to the needy, building community, prayer and spirituality, and catechesis. The webinars are free to attend, but you will need to register to receive the web link. *For more information and to register, please go to postlockdownchurch.eventbrite.co.uk.*

OUR CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHIES to all those who have lost loved ones in recent weeks. We pray for all those who have died, and their families, during daily Mass. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Thank you to those who supported the **Appeal for the Holy Places of Palestine** last week. A total of £60.15 was donated. *We are still collecting for this appeal, if you missed out on donating last week.*