



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 4TH OCTOBER 2020 TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Saturday (3 rd October)	6.00pm	Vigil Mass (27 th Sunday in OT) – Int. John & Sheila Setright
(Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost)	8.00am	MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00am	MASS – Int. People of the parish
Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass – Int. Seamus O'Malley, RIP
Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass – Int. Private intention
Wednesday <i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i>	NO MASS TODAY	
Thursday <i>Feria</i>	6.00pm	Adoration & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass – Int. Private intention
Friday ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN	9.00am	Mass – Int. Private intention
Saturday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass – Int. Edna Welch, special intention
	10.30am – 11.30 am	CONFESSIONS (Outside in garden behind Church)
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass (28 th Sunday in OT) – Int. Private intention.
(Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost)	8.00am	MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	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

Both of our Old Testament passages today refer to God's people as a vine that God has planted deliberately and carefully. Despite God's efforts, something goes wrong with the vine in both scenarios. While Isaiah 5 clearly faults Judah, the vine, for failing God's intention with its social injustice in the eighth century BC and threatens its destruction, Psalm 80 is a plea for God to restore this ravaged vine.

Matthew's parable extends this metaphor by referring to God as a landowner who planted a vineyard and rents it out to tenants, but these tenants end up trying to take over the vineyard with violence, including the killing of the landowner's slaves and heir. The parable ends with a declaration similar to that in Isaiah 5: God expects a harvest, or produce, of right(eous) fruits and will not tolerate injustice.

Paul writes to a Philippian community that is struggling with conflict and division (see 1:27;2:1-15;4:1-3). In our passage today, Paul offers what seems like indispensable ingredients to peace – even the peace of God that “surpasses all understanding” (4:7,9). Note how Paul contrasts thanksgiving with worry (4:4-6). Conflict and chaos happen when gratitude gives way to anxiety. Anxiety makes people insecure, competitive, and hungry for power; what inevitably results then is social discord. In contrast, if we can trust in God's limitless love for us and in God's provision, we can share with God in prayer for our needs, be gentle with each other, focus on what is good, and live in joy and peace, even if we do not know what life will

bring or understand how everything will work out. Failing to be grateful to God is failing to trust in God and turning away from the peace of God.

Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

By describing God's people as a *vine*, the Old Testament writers illustrate the closeness God has to humankind, whom as Psalm 80 states, God's “right hand has planted.” Isaiah proclaims that “the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished plant.” From Psalm 80, we hear the psalmist cry to the Lord to “take care of this new vine, / and protect what your right hand has planted.” In *Christifidelis laici*, Pope John Paul II explains that the depiction of humanity as a vine in Scripture is to “express the *Mystery of the People of God*.” He notes, “The prophets in the Old Testament used the image of the vine to describe the chosen people. Israel is God's vine . . . the joy of his heart: ‘I have planted you a choice vine’; ‘Your mother was like a vine in a vineyard transplanted by the water, fruitful and full of branches by reason of abundant water’”(8).

The Gospel tells us that the kingdom of God will be taken from the unrighteous “and given to a people who produce its fruit.” Pope John Paul II explains in *Christifidelis laici* that as “the choice vine,” members of the Church are to lead holy lives. “Life according to the Spirit, whose fruit is holiness . . . requires each to follow and imitate Jesus Christ . . . in family or community, in the hunger and thirst for justice, in the practice of the commandment of love . . . , in service to the brethren, especially the least, the poor and suffering” (16).

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 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 or use the QR code with the NHS app, 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.**

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, Danielle and Matt.**

Missio's Autumn Mission Today is now available online. It may be downloaded at www.missio.org.uk/mission-today. Printed copies have been forward to Red Box Supporters. There are a few printed copies available in the porch. Missio also now have a simple online donation process. See missio.org.uk/RedBox

Pope Francis has 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. **Tomorrow, 5 October at 7.30pm** the speaker is Francis Davis, Professor of Religion, Community and Public Policy, speaking on *Making it real, a parish for the poor.* 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.

On **10/11 October** our parish is marking **CAFOD's Family Fast Day** to help people facing the worst of the coronavirus crisis. We've all felt the impact of this terrible disease – let's come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild and heal. Please pray for all those affected. You can donate: **online** at cafod.org.uk/give, using one of the **envelopes** or **Text CAFOD to 70085** to donate £10. Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text CAFODNOINFO to 70085.

This weekend the Appeal Collection is for **Peter's Pence**, the name given to the financial support offered by the faithful to the Holy Father as a sign of their sharing in the concern of the Successor of Peter for the many different needs of the Universal Church and for the relief of those most in need. Usually collected on the Feast of Saints Peter & Paul, instead this year it is taken on the Feast of St Francis! For more information, visit: www.obolodisani Pietro.va