



PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

30, Amersham Road, Chesham Bois, Amersham, HP6 5PE
Tel: (01494) 727469 / 07722 229811 Parish Priest: Fr Andy Ollard
Email: info@ourladyschurch-cheshambois.org

The Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust. Registered Charity No. 234091
Part of the Chilterns Pastoral Area, under the patronage of Venerable Mary Ward

NEWSLETTER

15TH NOVEMBER 2020

THIRTY-THIRD
SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00am	MASS – Int. Bernadette Woods, RIP
Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass – Int. Private intention
Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass – Int. Private intention
Wednesday <i>Feria</i>	NO MASS TODAY	
Thursday <i>Feria</i>	6.30pm	Adoration & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass – Int. Private intention
Friday <i>St Edmund</i>	9.00am	Mass – Int. Private intention
Saturday <i>Presentation of the BVM</i>	9.30am	Mass – Int. Private intention
	6.00pm	Vigil of Prayer, Holy Hour and Adoration
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING	10.00am	MASS – Int. Teresa Pereira, RIP

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!

As from Thursday 5th November 2020, Churches are only permitted to allow people to enter their buildings for private prayer and funerals.
Our Lady's Church is open for private prayer on Mondays 2pm – 4pm and Thursdays 10am to 12noon.

Scripture Insights

Without denying the value of family, hard work, or financial stability, we consider today's readings carefully in our context of global capitalism, the prosperity gospel, and ongoing patriarchy. We must, as Paul suggests, stay awake and alert. Like Psalm 128 and Proverbs 32, Matthew's parable of the talents is challenging to interpret. New Testament parables often create "aha" moments of dramatic discovery or even existential crises that listeners did not expect. Nor do they necessarily align with the teller's view. Instead, they present scenarios that ask one to take a side and, in the process, often reveal the self-understandings of a listener or reader.

A "talent" in those days was a monetary sum equalling more than a worker could make in fifteen years; eight talents would be more than 120 years of wages. The slave master must be rich indeed to have that kind of wealth to give to his slaves. Although capitalism did not exist at the time, wealth was generally in the hands of a few who did not hesitate to exploit the poor majority, including through the practice of usury. More insidiously, if the slaves received the money and lost it for whatever reason

(including investment losses), they could become liable for losing their owner's money.

In other words, a "harsh" slave master who harvests where he "did not plant" and gathers "where he did not scatter" seed would be a familiar figure for Matthew's first readers. Many of them, like the last slave, would be "afraid" of such an unjust rich person; they knew the whole setup was a trap.

Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

The parable in the Gospel of Matthew tells of servants who come to their day of reckoning with their master. Two servants have doubled the talents the master gave them while one servant returns with only what he was given. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains that each person is to care responsibly for what God has bestowed on them. The catechism states, "Everyone is responsible for his life before God who has given it to him. It is God who remains the sovereign Master of life. We are obliged to accept life gratefully and preserve it for his honour and the salvation of our souls. We are stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us. It is not ours to dispose of" (2280).

In the second reading, we hear St. Paul tell the Thessalonians to stay alert and awake. If we are alert to the stirrings of others. Pope Benedict XVI writes in *Caritas in veritate*: "Openness to God makes us open towards our brothers and sisters and towards an understanding of life as a joyful task to be accomplished in a spirit of solidarity (78).

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 Mass. *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 has had to close its doors only being permitted to open for Private Prayer and Funerals. 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 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. **We are now required to wear face coverings when inside places of worship.** *We do need more volunteers as stewards to cover the times the church is open for private prayer.*

As the colder autumn weather has now arrived, the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** or **Penance** or **Confession** will be celebrated in the Sacristy once the Church can be reopened.

21st November: 10-11am "Covid-safe ministry to the sick". Exploring safe ways to minister to the sick including the new diocesan guidelines on taking communion to people's homes. <http://formationpathways.co.uk/event/training-for-ministry-to-the-sick/>

Exploring the Post-Lockdown Church – The webinar series has been wonderful, and thank you to all who promoted it and came along throughout the series. We have had over 3,000 views! This is definitely something we will be looking to do again in the future, and if you have any ideas of speakers you'd like to hear, let me know. Distance is no issue with zoom. If you want to catch up with any you missed, all the videos are here: <http://formationpathways.co.uk/exploring-the-post-lockdown-church-webinar-series/>

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

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.

Online Marriage Support

Is your marriage under stress? **SmartLoving BreakThrough** can help! Identify your conflict triggers, learn strategies to de-escalate an argument and find constructive ways to re-establish connection. Available anywhere, anytime through our online platform, the course is completely private and doesn't require your spouse to participate. And it's subsidized by a generous UK donor. Restore hope for your relationship now. Visit: www.smartloving.org/bto-uk

LOOKING FOR EMPLOYMENT: For Parishioners who may be job hunting or going self-employed due to the pandemic, Sacred Heart Parish Luton has set up a free online career coaching programme <https://www.vitaeopus.co.uk> providing a wealth of information, tools, practical advice and activities to help anyone wanting to find new employment opportunities, especially if they are not receiving any outplacement or other back to work support. Please pass on the web link to anyone who might find it useful.

VIGIL OF PRAYER, SATURDAY 6pm 21 NOVEMBER 2020

The International Eucharistic Congress for 2020 has been postponed until next year. Cardinal Peter Erdo of Budapest-Estergom has asked that all parishes have a Holy Hour on Saturday 21 November – the Vigil of the Solemnity of Christ the King. He has asked that "in the current epidemiological situation...we can also join in from our homes with our personal prayers. Let us take part in this common adoration, join with your parish, your community and your family. Let this worldwide adoration be the next station of our preparation for the 52nd IEC in Budapest, and let us relive the regenerating love of God."