



# 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](mailto: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

29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

FIRST SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT – YEAR B

### TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

#### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Monday ST ANDREW  
Tuesday Advent FERIA  
Wednesday Advent FERIA  
Thursday St Francis Xavier

10.00am

9.30am

9.30am

#### NO MASS TODAY

6.00pm

7.00pm

9.00am

9.30am

10.30am – 11.30am

6.00pm

10.00am

Friday Advent FERIA  
Saturday Advent FERIA

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS – Int. Allum Family intentions

Mass – Int. Private intention

Mass – Int. Private intention

Adoration & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Mass – Int. Private intention

Mass – Int. Private intention

Mass – Int. Private intention

CONFESIONS (In the Sacristy)

Vigil Mass for 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – Int. Private intention.

MASS – Int. People of the parish

Our Liturgies will be **live streamed online**. Join us on Facebook Live ( [www.facebook.com/OurLadyChurchCB](https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyChurchCB) )  
You **DO NOT** require a Facebook account to access our Facebook page!

**As from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020, Churches may reopen for Public Worship under Covid-secure conditions. Please wear a face covering when entering, use hand sanitiser and observe 2-metre social distancing for the safety and protection of all our church users. Our Lady's Church is open for private prayer on Mondays 2pm – 4pm and Thursdays 10am to 12noon.**

#### Scripture Insights

This First Sunday of Advent opens with a selection from the Book of Isaiah. More specifically, within these verses, we hear the plea of community members shortly after their return from exile. The rousing of an earlier prophet who had proclaimed incredible words of hope must have seemed like false promises to the Jews, who homeland was far from what they had envisioned it would be. In a verse that is not part of the lectionary reading, God is asked: "Why have our enemies trampled your sanctuary?" (Isaiah 63:18).

This reading is a portion of a longer lament that shows pain, doubt, and expectation. The suffering community turns to God and pleads for God to respond, to make things right. While the implication is that God is responsible for the current state of affairs, this people who claim God as "our father" (twice in the text) and "our redeemer" firmly believe that God can change their situation.

An interesting element appears to link the first reading with the responorial psalm. The statement "you have hidden your face from us," near the end of the reading from Isaiah, is followed by

the psalm refrain "Lord, make us turn to you: let us see your face and we shall be saved."

The brief selection from Mark reminds us that we are indeed in the season of Advent. We are told to be watchful and alert while we await the coming of Christ. Although Mark's message was first addressed to Christians of the first century, we too are invited to actively await the kingdom of God.

#### Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

"Be watchful! Be alert!" These words direct us to be ready for the second coming but also to be aware of how we can spread the Gospel by our faithfulness, good works, and kind words. Called to lives of holiness and prophetic witness, we need to be alert to how we respond to others. Our acts of love are a witness to our faith. God calls us to witness and share their faith in the midst of the world. By our Baptism we share in Christ's priesthood and are sealed by the Spirit. We are called to holiness, to a prophetic witness in the world, and to a kingly resolve to sanctify the world by our words and deeds.

The **First Sunday of Advent** is the Church's official "New Year's Day." Today's reading from the Gospel suggests a good new year's resolution: develop one good habit for keeping alert to God's saving action. When we look around, what do we see? How can we find a centre in this distracting world? Perhaps keeping a spiritual journal could help. Make time each day to write your thoughts and questions about where God is leading you at this moment. By paying attention to the quiet, hidden things God is already doing in your life every day, you will see that you already live as God's beloved. Happy New Year!

#### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

**During Advent the Hill Mill Missionaries** will help us to pause and reflect in preparation for Christmas. Each Friday you are invited to join us online to reflect on the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday. Our time of prayer will be at 10.30am each Friday and will last for about 20 minutes. Join us on: **4 December - Fr Gerry**

**Hastie MHM, 11 December - Fr Dermot Byrne MHM, 18 December - Fr Vincent Oates MHM Christmas Day - Fr Anthony Chantry MHM** (this will be pre-recorded and available to view from Christmas Eve) Please do not worry if you cannot make every session, you are welcome to come along whenever you can. If you are able to join us, we would love for you to stay around after the time of prayer to **meet with us and other Local Secretaries to share ideas** and ask any questions that you have. To do this, you can join us from 10.25am each Friday via Zoom. Please email [redbox@missio.org.uk](mailto:redbox@missio.org.uk) to receive the link to join the Zoom. Please invite others to join us for the Advent Reflection. They can join by going to the **Missio YouTube channel: [youtube.com/MissioUK](https://youtube.com/MissioUK)**.

**Advent 2020** An opportunity to prepare for Christmas in the Season of Advent is offered in our Pastoral Area. We will use **Stations of the Infancy** by **Fr Denis McBride** for our reflection. The book is beautifully produced with colourful artwork, prayers and reflections covering important events around the birth of Jesus and the role of his Mother Mary. On Mondays to Fridays from **30 November to 18 December** we will run daily sessions via Zoom when we will pray and reflect on one station each day. Sessions will last approx 30 mins. To order your copy of the book and register to join one of daily Zoom sessions please visit St Joseph's website, <https://www.stjosephs.org.uk/node/180> We have pre-ordered some books and these are available at the reduced price of **£10.00** each (full price is £12.95). If you would like a book, or have a question, please contact Joanna Hale on (01494) 724487 or [jchale@earthling.net](mailto:jchale@earthling.net).

#### 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](http://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.

**Sr Jacinta Davenport, IBVM**, has written to thank Parishioners for your generosity for the **sum of £371.62 raised for the Loreto Sisters' Albania Mission Project**. The Sisters are remembering you all in their prayers.