



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 22ND NOVEMBER 2020 SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING	10.00am	MASS – Int. Teresa Pereira, RIP
Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass – Int. Private intention
Tuesday <i>St Andrew Dung-Lac & companions</i>	9.30am	Mass – Int. Anitha & Charles, RIP
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>Feria</i>	9.00am	Mass – Int. Private intention
Saturday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass – Int. Private intention
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10.00am	MASS – Int. Allum Family intentions

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

Today's Old Testament passages present God's people as sheep. Matthew's parable continues this metaphor but contrasts them with goats. The parable's setting is similar to the one in 1 Corinthians 15. These, Paul assures the Corinthians of the resurrection and that, just as God raised Jesus, God through Christ will raise us from the dead and give Christ a place of supremacy.

Although the sheep are accepted and the goats rejected before the supreme Christ in Matthew's parable, they share two things in common. First, both call Jesus "Lord." Matthew's Jesus has made it clear that "not everyone who says . . . "Lord, Lord" will enter the kingdom of heaven but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven" (Matthew 7:12). Our actions are more important than our words, and God desires that our actions are expressions of mercy for the weak and vulnerable. In fact, that is how today's Old Testament passages describe God's attitude and actions towards us as our shepherd: God cares for us with goodness and mercy even, or especially when we are lost, astray, or injured.

Second, both the sheep and the goats express that they have never seen Jesus in a needy condition. Neither group knows or understands the reasons or implications of their actions, but one chose to act with mercy while the other chose to ignore the needs of people they encountered. The point here is not that ignorance is bliss, as Matthew's Jesus spends a lot of time teaching (such as in the Sermon on the Mount in chapters 5-7), and he tells people to learn and practice teachings of the religious leaders (Matthew 22:2-3). Rather, the significance is that while our understanding can be limited, the most important thing is how we treat "these little ones" (Matthew 25:40, 45).

Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

In the Gospel today, we hear how our action or inaction affects Christ. "In so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me," the Lord says to those who have fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and welcomed the stranger. Pope John Paul II, explains that the importance of being mindful of the fact that Christ is found in the poor. The pope states, "The Scriptures and the Eucharist [are] places of encounter with Christ. . . The Gospel text concerning the final judgement (Cf. Matthew 25:31-46) . . . indicates that we must not neglect a third place with whom Christ identifies himself" (*Ecclesia in America*, 12).

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.

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: **27 November - Fr**

Kevin Hughes MHM, **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 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.

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). **Please register by Monday 23 November so we can be sure we have enough books.** If you would just like a book, or with other questions, please contact Joanna Hale on (01494) 724487 or 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

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.