



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
6TH DECEMBER 2020
SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

(Second Sunday of Advent SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Monday *St Ambrose*

Tuesday **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF BVM**

Wednesday *Advent FERIA*

Thursday *Advent FERIA*

Friday *Advent FERIA*

Saturday *Advent FERIA*

(Third Sunday of Advent

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))

10.00am

MASS – Int. people of the parish

9.30am

Mass – Int. Private intention

9.30am

Mass – Int. Private intention

NO MASS TODAY

6.00pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

7.00pm

Mass – Int. Private intention

9.00am

Mass – Int. Private intention

9.30am

Mass – Int. Private intention

10.30am – 11.30am

CONFESSIONS (In the Sacristy)

6.00pm

Mass – Int. Private intention

8am – 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

What wonderful readings we hear on this Second Sunday of Advent! The text from Isaiah is often referred to as the opening of the “book of consolation,” a work attributed to a prophet who ministered near the end of the exile in Babylon.

The announcement of the return to Jerusalem under the tender care of a loving God must have seemed too good to be true for a community living under the rule of the Babylonians, the people who had devastated both the holy city and temple and who were responsible for the circumstances of the exiles.

Today’s reading from 2 Peter can be confusing since it addresses several related concerns. Perhaps our focus might best be directed to how we live each day while patiently awaiting the Lord’s coming. Although we know not when the Lord will come, that coming has been promised, and God is faithful.

As from Wednesday 3rd 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.

The opening lines of Mark’s Gospel account state clearly that what is to follow is good news about the Son of God. While Mark attributes the next two sentences to the prophet Isaiah, the quotation is actually a conflation of material about guarding

or preparing the way in the Books of Exodus, Malachi, and Isaiah. Although the author of Mark was quite familiar with the Hebrew Scriptures, his quotations are not always in perfect sync with the texts with which we are most familiar. Nevertheless, this reading introduces John the Baptist, who in turn prepares us for the arrival of Jesus in the next scene in Mark.

Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

The psalm tells of the time when “justice and peace have embraced.” Working towards this time is an ongoing endeavour. The Church’s many social doctrines seek to point the way as they instruct on the importance of respecting the dignity of others. As social and political realities change, the teachings continue to develop. The *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* states, “The Church’s social doctrine is presented as a ‘work site’ where the work is always in progress, where perennial truth penetrates and permeates new circumstances, indicating paths of justice and peace (86).

During Advent, we take to heart especially the call to change our lives. The call of the prophets, the call of John the Baptist to prepare the way, is the call of the Church. The *Rite of Penance* states, “This invitation to repentance, which had often been sounded by the prophets, prepared people’s hearts for the coming of the kingdom of God through the voice of John the Baptist, who came preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (1).

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

OUR CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHIES to all those who have lost loved ones in recent days. We pray for all those who have died, and their families, during Mass each day. **May the Lord enfold them in his mercy.** May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

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 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: **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). If you would like a book, or have a question, 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.

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.

Our Lady's Church votive candle lights with a image of the stained glass window of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour are available. They will burn for up to 24 hours are £2.00 each. They

are the perfect accompaniment to light in your home while joining live stream Mass each day.