



# 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@ourladychurch-cheshambois.org](mailto:info@ourladychurch-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**  
**13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020**  
**THIRD SUNDAY**  
**OF ADVENT**  
**GAUDETE SUNDAY**

## TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

**(Gaudete Sunday – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Monday *St John of the Cross*

Tuesday *Advent Feria*

Wednesday *Advent Feria*

Thursday *Advent Feria – O Wisdom*

Friday *Advent Feria – O Adonai*

Saturday *Advent Feria – O Root of Jesse*

**(Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – O Key**

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

10.00am

9.30am

9.30am

**NO MASS TODAY**

6.00pm

7.00pm

9.00am

9.30am

10.30am – 11.30am

6.00pm

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

10.00am

**MASS** – Int. people of the parish

Mass – Int. Private intention

Mass – Int. Private intention

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

Mass – Int. Private intention

Mass – Int. Private intention

Mass – Int. Private intention

**CONFESSIONS** (In the Sacristy)

Mass – 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!

**Our Church 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

For the third consecutive week, our first reading is from the Book of Isaiah. In today's selection we hear the words of one who is called by God to be an instrument of God's nurturing love to those most in need – the poor, the broken-hearted, and those imprisoned and held captive.

Our responsorial psalm today is one of the most well-known poems of the New Testament, Mary's Magnificat. The words are reminiscent of the song Hannah sings (1 Samuel 2:1-10) as she rejoices after having borne a son and offered him back to the Lord.

In Paul's first letter to the Thessalonian community, we hear a series of rapid commands: *Be happy. Pray. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything.* Paul then offers a brief but beautiful prayer that reminds us that God is always faithful.

Today's Gospel from John harkens back to last week's Gospel from Mark, where we were introduced to John the Baptist. Once again, we find ourselves at the beginning of a Gospel. Unlike Mark's straight forward telling of the Baptist's ministry, this Gospel presents the Baptist somewhat more mysteriously. He

is one who came "as a witness to speak for the light." When questioned by the authorities about his identity, his responses are "I am not" and "no." Finally, John the Baptist identifies himself as the one who is preparing the way for one far greater than he. That one, although not named in this reading, is Jesus the Christ.

### Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

Time is counted during Advent through the candles on the Advent Wreath, candles that tell of the light that Christ brings to the world. The rose candle for the Third Sunday of Advent announces the joyfulness of this time. "The candles [of the wreath] represent the four weeks of Advent, and the number of candles lighted each week corresponds to the number of the current week of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday" (*Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*, 73).

In the responsorial psalm, we sing Mary's words of praise for god. The spirit of these words should animate our faith lived out in our works as we advocate for the marginalised. The *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* states: "Looking to the heart of Mary, to the depth of her faith expressed in the words of the Magnificat, Christ's disciples are called to renew ever more fully in themselves 'the awareness that the truth about God who saves, the truth about God who is the source of every gift, cannot be separated from the manifestation of his love of preference for the poor and humble, that love which, celebrated in the Magnificat, is later expressed in the words and works of Jesus' (59).

Parish Website: [www.ourladychurch-cheshambois.org](https://www.ourladychurch-cheshambois.org)

Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/OurLadyChurchCB](https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyChurchCB)

## LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN

Worksheet activities for this Sunday's readings may be downloaded from our parish website:

[www.ourladychurch-cheshambois.org](http://www.ourladychurch-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](http://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](http://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 now reopened for Public Worship, 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 on Saturdays between 10.30am and 11.30am.

**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: **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 **until 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 [ichale@earthling.net](mailto:ichale@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.

**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.