



PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

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

NEWSLETTER
27TH DECEMBER 2020
FEAST OF
THE HOLY FAMILY
OF JESUS, MARY,
AND JOSEPH

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

(Sunday in the Octave of the Nativity	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))	
HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH	10.00am	MASS – Int. people of the parish
Monday FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS	9.30am	Mass – Int. Emma Goldstein, special intention
Tuesday ST THOMAS BECKET	9.30am	Mass – Int. Private intention
Wednesday Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas	NO MASS TODAY	
Thursday Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas	6.00pm	Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass – Int. Private intention
Friday MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD	9.00am	Mass – Int. Private intention
Saturday Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzan	9.30am	Mass – Int. Private intention
	10.30am to 11.30am	CONFESSIONS (In the Sacristy)
	6.00pm	Mass – Vigil of the Epiphany – Int. Private intention
(Most Holy Name of Jesus	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))	
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS	10.00am	MASS – Int. People of the parish

All these 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!

Even though Buckinghamshire is now in Tier 4, Our Church is able to open 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. We are also open for private prayer: Monday 2pm–4pm and Thursday 10am–12noon.

Scripture Insights

"The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision." The Bible explains the mechanics of God's communication with the patriarchs, matriarchs, prophets, and the apostles. But God's Word was a vivid reality to its hearers, and it caused them to act decisively, even if to outsiders that obedience appeared strange or even insane.

Abraham and Sarah set out to receive an unseen inheritance, sure of nothing except the word that had burned itself into their souls. They went out, not knowing where they were going, *the Lord* prompting them in vague but unmistakable ways. Most translations of Hebrews 11:11 say that Abraham received the power to father Isaac by faith. Some manuscripts, followed by the *New Jerusalem Bible*, say that it was Sarah who received this word: "it was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise was faithful to it." Whether or not this is the original reading, her pregnancy shows that Sarah shared Abraham's habit of trusting the Word of the Lord.

Venerable Simeon and Anna represent Old Testament piety at its best, very much like Abraham and Sarah. Their hidden source of life was their expectant trust in the Word given by the Lord. Simeon was "awaiting the consolation of Israel" (2:25); Anna was counted among those "awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem" (2:38). From long experience they knew and lived *the Word* and its prophetic fulfilment as if it already existed. Because they loved and lived it, they sensed its near approach and instantly recognised the reality when it arrived.

Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

In the gospel, Simeon calls Jesus "alight for revelation to the Gentiles / and glory for your people Israel." The first words of *Lumen gentium*, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, reflect Simeon's prayer. The Second Vatican Council document proclaims that the Church is to spread Christ's light. *Lumen gentium* states, "Christ is the Light of nations. Because he is so, this Sacred Synod gathered together in the Holy Spirit eagerly desires, by proclaiming the Gospel to every creature, to bring the light of Christ to all men, a light brightly visible on the countenance of the Church" (1).

The responsibility to proclaim the Gospel, spreading the light of Christ, begins in the family. *Gaudium et spes*, the *Pastoral Constitution in the Modern World*, states: "As a result, with their parents leading the way by example and family prayer, children and indeed everyone gathered around the family hearth will find a readier path to human maturity, salvation and holiness. Graced with the dignity and office of fatherhood and motherhood, parents will energetically acquit themselves of a duty which devolves primarily on them, namely education and especially religious education" (48).

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

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' or 'Christmas Offering – OL Chesham Bois' in the comments box to ensure the parish or priest 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.

Your Christmas Offering is your gift to the parish Clergy.

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.

With restrictions on Masses and the difficulty of uniting with loved ones, remembering that Christmas is not just a single day feels more important than ever. **The Feast of Christmas lasts for eight days – The Octave of Christmas. The Hill Mill Missionaries** invite you to join us each day of the Octave of Christmas. There are prayers, reflections, meditations and music for each day. And please do share with your family and friends!

https://missio.org.uk/the-christmas-octave/?mc_cid=8214fed9ea&mc_eid=25f2952cc5

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.

Act now and ask your MP to oppose introducing assisted suicide Right To Life UK have set up an easy to use tool which will enable you to email your MP asking them to make it clear to the Government that it should not give into demands from the assisted suicide lobby to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It only takes 30 seconds to email your MP by visiting the link: righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide

On Saturday 30th & Sunday 31st January 2021, we can all come together **online** for **LUX.Valour!** During our **LUX.Valour weekend**, we will be exploring what it means to be a young person of great bravery. How we can walk into the unknown of this New Year, confident that we are "not given a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power." 2 Timothy 1:7. There will still be amazing talks, fun small groups, moving times of prayer, ridiculous games and a theme night and all completely free! So if you are aged 11-18 get booked on Lux.Valour by clicking on the link and completing the form on the NYMO website: nymo.org/lux-valour/

'In The Studio' was launched two weeks ago and is a live broadcast from the studio in Northampton. The hour long program has a variety of segments including; praise and worship, teaching, 'grill the priest', an advent quiz and the best bit is it is all hosted by young people themselves. You can view the first program here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1uHKXBC-zU>

Thank you so very much for your generous Christmas offerings, cards, gifts and messages of good wishes for Christmas. Your kindness is so much appreciated. I will offer Holy Mass for your intentions in thanksgiving. Fr Andy Ollard

May the wonder of that first Christmas, the joy of God's abundant blessings, and the peace of Jesus' presence be with you always!