



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

24TH JANUARY 2021

**THIRD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**
**'Sunday of
the Word of God'**

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

(Third Sunday After Epiphany)	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00am MASS – Int. People of the parish
Monday CONVERSION OF ST PAUL	9.30am Mass – Int. Thanksgiving intention
Tuesday St Timothy & Titus	9.30am Mass – Int. Castleton-Clarke Family, RIP, (Foundation Mass)
Wednesday Feria	NO MASS TODAY
Thursday St Thomas Aquinas	6.00pm Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm Mass – Int. Private intention
Friday Feria	9.00am Mass – Int. Cannon Tomlinson, RIP, (Foundation Mass)
Saturday Feria	9.30am Mass – Int. Mgr Michael Casey, RIP (Foundation Mass)
	10.30am to 11.30am CONFESSIONS (In the Sacristy)
	6.00pm Mass – Vigil Mass of Sunday – Int. Private intention
(Septuagesima Sunday)	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	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 England is now in its third lockdown, our church building 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

Today's first reading, from the Book of Jonah, can easily give us the wrong impression of this prophet. Why? This selection provides the picture of a prophet who hears the Word of God and immediately responds to the Lord commands.

It is important for us to know that in the first three verses of the book, we hear God giving Jonah a more detailed command to preach against Ninevah. How does Jonah respond? He completely ignores this command and flees in the opposite direction! The material between Jonah's first and second command from the Lord is familiar to many. While on a ship during a storm, is swallowed by a large fish, and then prays to God, after which he is spewed onto dry land. Then, only then, do we hear today's reading that portrays Jonah as the obedient prophet. Interestingly, the psalm refrain "Lord, make me know your ways," would certainly have been an appropriate prayer for this prophet.

Our short passage from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians and the opening lines from Mark's Gospel continues with material not unlike what we heard from the Book of Jonah.

Both of these excerpts can be referred to as "call narratives," texts, in which an individual or individuals are called by God and given a particular command. You may notice that Mark's call of Simon and Andrew (as well as James and John) is somewhat different from how John presented the call of these two men in last Sunday's Gospel.



Connections to the Church Teaching and Tradition

The Gospel portrays the disciples' first encounters with Jesus. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains that God continues to meet humankind in many ways (31-35) in the world (32) and in the human person (33).

In the Gospel, we see the beginning of Christ's years-long relationship with the disciples. Though we do not see Christ physically, he desires a relationship with us and for us to participate in his life. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains God allows us to come to know him through grace. The *Catechism* describes grace as "the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God" (1996) and "a participation in the the life of God" (1997). It further states, "The peace of Christ is the gratuitous gift that God makes to us of his own life, infused by the Holy Spirit into our soul to heal it of sin and to sanctify it" (1999).

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' 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.

NEXT SUNDAY – APPEAL FOR RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

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 winter 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.

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.

Today is **SUNDAY of the WORD of GOD**, called by Pope Francis for Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. It is a day to encourage the reading of the scriptures, for the blessing of readers, which can take place at parish masses and also **Bishop David will preside at a livestreamed Bible Service on that Day at 3pm from the Cathedral**, where he will also bless readers. [northamptondiocese.org/live](https://www.northamptondiocese.org/live)

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/

Introduction to the Gospel of Mark which we hear most Sundays during this liturgical year. Fr Matt Blake, OCD will give a general introduction to Mark's Gospel to help us enter more deeply into the extract we hear each Sunday. He will look at the overall structure of the Gospel and some of its principle themes. The talks will be on Live Stream and YouTube, www.carmelitechurch.org YouTube "Kensington Carmelite Church" Dates are **Wednesdays 27 January and 3, 10 February at 10am and repeated at 8pm.**

Sunday of the Word of God

Pope Francis instituted 'The Sunday of the Word of God' to be held every year on the third Sunday of Ordinary Time, with the Apostolic Letter in the form of a Motu proprio 'Aperuit illis' issued on 30 September 2019.

The Pope intended it to be a day dedicated to the celebration, reflection and dissemination of the Word.

"Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world." Pope Francis - 'Aperuit illis'

David McLoughlin invites you to join him on a journey through the whole Bible in this wonderful 7 week course, which may be downloaded online. Find out more at www.thegodwhospeaks.uk