



# 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 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2021 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

<b>(Septuagesima Sunday)</b>	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	10.00am <b>MASS</b> – Int. People of the parish
Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am Mass – Int. Briggs Family, RIP, (Foundation Mass)
Tuesday THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	9.30am Mass – Int. Private intention
Wednesday <i>Feria</i>	<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>
Thursday <i>Feria</i>	6.00pm Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm Mass – Int. Private intention
Friday <i>St Agatha</i>	9.00am Mass – Int. Searle Family, RIP, (Foundation Mass)
Saturday SS Paul Miki & Companions	9.30am Mass – Int. Castleton-Clark Family, RIP (Foundation Mass)
	10.30am to 11.30am CONFESSIONS ( In the Sacristy )
	6.00pm Mass – Vigil Mass of Sunday – Int. Private intention
<b>(Sexagesima Sunday)</b>	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	10.00am <b>MASS</b> – Int. People of the parish

All these 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!

**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

Jesus' first miracle is an exorcism set in the context of his teaching. Why is this so important? When Jesus entered the synagogue and spoke, the people were amazed at the power and authority with which he taught. The scribes quoted previous experts and authorities for important interpretations of Scripture and the Law. The Greek word used to describe Jesus' teaching, *exousia*, means that he taught "out of himself." In other words, he did not use other authorities to strengthen his arguments.

Into this context wanders the possessed man. The unclean spirit, a demon in other translations, reveals the identity of Jesus as the Holy One of God. In the Old Testament, particularly in the prophecy of Isaiah, God is the Holy One of Israel. In this passage, in Acts 3:14, and in 1 John 2:20, Jesus is the "Holy One." These similar phrases imply a connection between Jesus and God. Jesus silences the demon, not because it is wrong about his identity, but because the time has not yet come for Jesus to be revealed.

With the confidence of authority, he commands the unclean spirit to come out. The crowd watches in astonishment – often a

signal that they do not understand what is happening. Their remarks about a new teaching are meant for the reader. Jesus' power is greater than any other power. Even the demons obey him.

Throughout Mark's account, Jesus' identity is revealed by demons who are then silenced, while the people with Jesus come to know who he is only slowly, if at all. The remarkable exorcism and healings of Jesus defeat the powers of evil that oppose God. But they will soon lead to a greater question for both his followers and his detractors: What is the source of Jesus' authority?

In Mark's account, things happen very quickly. Consequently, when Mark slows down enough to tell the details of the story, the readers pay more attention. What do the details have to say about the nature of Jesus or the unclean spirits?

### Connections to the Church Teaching and Tradition

In the reading from First Corinthians, St Paul is concerned that people are putting others before God. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* recalls the first commandment, which tells us we are to worship and serve only the Lord our God. It forbids the worship of others gods (2084-2141). Our love for God, the Catechism states, is a response to God's love. "Faith in God's love encompasses the call and the obligation to respond with sincere love to divine charity. The first commandment enjoins us to love God above everything, and all creatures for him and because of him" (2093).

### 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](http://www.ourladyschurch-cheshambois.org)

### 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 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.

### TODAY – 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](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.

This weekend 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/](http://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](http://www.carmelitechurch.org) YouTube "Kensington Carmelite Church" Dates are **Wednesdays 3, and 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.

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](http://www.thegodwhospeaks.uk)

### Lent begins on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Those who took part in the Advent Reflections Online greatly appreciated the weekday prayer over Zoom using The Stations of the Infancy. The team are considering having weekly, weekday or even daily Zoom meetings during Lent within the Pastoral Area if people would like to pray together. If you'd be interested, please contact Joanna Hale (01494) 724487 or [jchale@earthling.net](mailto:jchale@earthling.net) or Christine Cornwell [mccornwell@gmail.com](mailto:mccornwell@gmail.com)

There are many excellent resources to help us pray in Lent, both online and printed, including: **Reflecting with Paintings** with Fr Denis McBride - one a week. The retreat material will be available free online, but the books and CD are also available to purchase at [www.rpbooks.co.uk/borrowing-the-eyesawakening-to-yourself-set](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk/borrowing-the-eyesawakening-to-yourself-set)