



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

3RD JANUARY 2021

**SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER CHRISTMAS**

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

(Most Holy Name of Jesus	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))	
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS	10.00am	MASS – Int. Bert and Frances Mendis, RIP
Monday Christmas Feria	9.30am	Mass – Int. private intention
Tuesday Christmas Feria	9.30am	Mass – Int. Private intention
Wednesday THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	9.30am	MASS NO MASS TODAY
(11.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))	
Thursday Christmas Feria	6.00pm	Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass – Int. Private intention
Friday Christmas Feria	9.00am	Mass – Int. Private intention
Saturday Christmas Feria	9.30am	Mass – Int. Private intention
	10.30am to 11.30am	CONFESSIONS (In the Sacristy)
	6.00pm	Mass – Vigil Mass of Sunday – Int. Private intention
(Holy Family Jesus, Mary Joseph	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))	
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	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 magnificent beginning of chapter 24 in the book of Ecclesiasticus sets the tone for this Sunday, which is one of awestruck wonder at the power of God. Psalm 147 is a festive response to the celebration of Wisdom, the mysterious presence at God's right hand. In a certain sense, the personification of *Sophia* a kind of companion to the Most High suggests the intimate relationship that the transcendent Hebrew God has with the depths of wisdom. Christians might read Jesus as the personification of wisdom, with some important differences, which will be clarified in the Prologue of John's Gospel. The Word (*Logos*) was present (though uncreated) at the dawn of time, collaborating in fashioning creation with the Eternal Father and, though like Wisdom dwelling in highest heaven, became flesh. The Word has made his home with humanity. A haunting line in this regard is in verses 6-7 from the book of Ecclesiasticus: "Over waves of the sea, over all land, over every people and nation I held sway. Among all these I sought a resting place; in whose inheritance should I abide?"

If we think of the Prologue of John's Gospel as a hymn, its contours become more lucid, its insights more penetrating. Clearly, the language in John allows for a kind of glorious praise enhancing the creation narrative itself in the book of Genesis, one that is now informed by the Word becoming flesh. In contrast to the First Reading, John substantiates not ethereal Wisdom, but the Word become Light in the world. Likewise, the presence of the Word engages testimony (from John the Baptist), which then lives among us in proclamation even though "His own people did not accept him." The plea from St Paul to the Ephesians, then, is for "a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him."

Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

What does God show us about himself when he sends his Son to us?

Through Jesus Christ the invisible God becomes visible. He becomes a man like us. This shows us how far God's love goes: He bears our whole burden. He walks every path with us. He is there in our abandonment, our sufferings, our fear of death. He is there when we can go no further, so as to open for us the door leading into life. *Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church*

In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son. *Hebrews 1:1-2*

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

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 IS SPUC'S WHITE FLOWER APPEAL

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

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

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.
My prayer is that this New Year brings hope and God's blessings to you all.
Fr Andy Ollard*