



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

10TH JANUARY 2021

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

(Holy Family Jesus, Mary, Joseph)	8.00am	MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	10.00am	MASS – Int. People of the parish
Monday Feria	9.30am	Mass – Int. Allington, Brennan, and Speer families' intentions
Tuesday Feria	9.30am	Mass – Int. Mary Farrelly special intention
Wednesday Feria	NO MASS TODAY	
Thursday Feria	6.00pm	Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass – Int. Private intention
Friday Feria	9.00am	Mass – Int. Private intention
Saturday 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
(Second Sunday After Epiphany)	8.00am	MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
SECOND 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

The verses from Isaiah culminate the peotic proclamation of the prophet who preached about 550 years before the birth of Christ, in the dark days after Jerusalem's destruction and the exile to Babylon.

The prophet announces that these events were not the end; they were an astonishing new beginning in the story of salvation. "I am doing something new!" declares the Lord (43:19). This prophet revels in the riches of a new version of the Davidic covenant. As David's royal line was lost during the exile, the prophet announced that the spectacular "sure love for David" was now the property of the entire people of God. He imitated the vendors' cries in the marketplace of Babylon as they sold necessities like water and bread and luxuries like wine and milk. But this vendour was offering – for free – the blessings of the God of Israel!

Five hundred years later, a man like the ancient prophets came proclaiming God's impending judgement. John preached that his baptism would prepare people for God's rending of the heavens to mete out justice. But his word was fulfilled in a way

he did not expect. The one mightier than John did indeed appear when he "was baptised in the Jordan by John." The heavens were indeed "torn apart": Mark's use of the Greek word *schizo*, "splitting," carries a threatening, apocalyptic image of judgment (Mark 1:10). But what emerged from the opening of the heavens was a dove, the Spirit of God in the form of the ancient symbol of God's peace following divine judgement (Genesis 8:8-12). The Gospel changed the template of salvation: Now salvation is offered *before* rather than *after* judgment. This remarkable change marks the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (1:1). "By water and blood" (1 John 5:6) links Jesus' baptism with his death. Jesus himself likened his death to a baptism (Mark 10:38-39). How is death like a baptism?



Liturgy and Life

What does the phrase "come to the water" mean to you? How has your belief in God strengthened you during difficulty? When do you imagine that God may have proclaimed that he is "well pleased" with you?

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.

THIS WEEKEND IS SPUC's WHITE FLOWER APPEAL
NEXT WEEK IS PEACE SUNDAY – APPEAL FOR PAX CHRISTI

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.

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