



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 21ST FEBRUARY 2021 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

(First Sunday of Lent)	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	10.00am MASS – Int. People of the parish
Monday ST PETER'S CHAIR	9.30am Mass – Int. Josie Grady, RIP (Anniversary)
Tuesday St Polycarp	9.30am Mass – Int. Eileen Cullen, RIP (Anniversary)
Wednesday Lenten Feria	NO MASS
Thursday Lenten Feria	6.00pm Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm Mass – Int. Deceased Members of Searle Family (Foundation int)
Friday Lenten Feria CAFOD Fast Day	10.00am* Funeral Mass – Colette Frances Dowle, RIP
Saturday Lenten Feria	9.30am Mass – Int. Elizabeth Richardson, RIP (Foundation Mass)
	10.30am to 11.30am CONFESSIONS (In the Sacristy)
	6.00pm Mass – Vigil Mass of Sunday – Int. People of the parish
(Second Sunday in Lent)	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	10.00am MASS – Int. Patrick Pearson, RIP (Recently deceased)

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!

As the third lockdown in England continues, 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

On this First Sunday of Lent, a time when most of us are inclined to reflect more deeply on how we live as Christians, we are reminded of God's everlasting love. Our first reading, from Genesis, follows the well-known story of the great flood. While the text states that God addresses Noah and his sons, it is important to note that the covenant God makes goes well beyond this remnant of humankind and their future descendants. This covenant is with all that God had created. The "bow," which we associate with the rainbow, is said to have had its origins in the mythology of the Ancient Near East. Since it might have been a reference to a warrior's bow, we might easily imagine this bow as representing God's decision to hang up this weapon of destruction while promising anew to be in relationship with all of creation.

The psalm refrain picks up the already-mentioned theme with the words "Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant." The psalm's verses continue to remind us of God's compassion and goodness.

Words from the First Letter of Peter take us back to the first reading by referencing the days of Noah. The author then indirectly connects the floodwaters to the life-giving waters of baptism and proceeds to refer to the resurrection of Jesus. Four verses compose the Gospel reading. Verses 12 and 13 speak very briefly of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, while verses 14 and 15 find Jesus beginning his public ministry of proclaiming the Good News that God's Kingdom is near.

Connections to the Church Teaching and Tradition

In the second reading, we hear of God's love in Christ's dying for the unrighteous. This love changes us and moves us to a life of loving others. In the apostolic exhortation *Sacramentum caritatis*, Pope Benedict XVI states: "God's love in Christ encounters us, attracts us, and delights us, enabling us to emerge from and drawing us towards our true vocation, which is love" (35).

When Jesus preached the Gospel in Galilee, he not only told of God's love but modeled how we are to witness to those we encounter. Disciples today are to act in the same humble manner as Jesus. *Ad gentes* (the *Decree on the missionary activity of the Church*) states, "since this mission goes on and in the course of history unfolds the mission of Christ Himself, who was sent to preach the Gospel to the poor, the Church, prompted by the Holy Spirit, must walk in the same path on which Christ walked: a path of poverty and obedience, of service and self-sacrifice to the death from which He came forth a victor by His resurrection" (5).

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.

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. 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.

THE SEASON OF LENT 2021

Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. IT takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support.

Donate online at cafod.org.uk/give or you can also give via text. Text **LENT** to **70460** to donate £10*

*Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 **but do not wish to receive marketing communications**, text **LENTNOINFO** to **70460**. For more information please see CAFOD privacy policy: cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice

Also, CAFOD invites you and the whole Catholic community of England and Wales to join the *Big Walk for Water* virtual event. Help give the boot to water poverty across the world by walking a 5-mile route on Saturday 20th February at 2pm. Could you walk for water as a personal Lenten challenge by walking 10,000 steps a day, every day, for 40 days? Find out more at cafod.org.uk

There are many excellent resources to help us pray in Lent, both online and printed. In the Pastoral Area we're currently planning: **Knowing Jesus** online retreat from the Glasgow Jesuits <https://www.iscglasgow.co.uk/lent2021.html> and <https://www.onlineprayer.net/> with free daily emails from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday 11th April. The themes will link with the BBC Radio 4 Daily Service. Joanna Hale offers a weekday Zoom for this at 7.45am, Monday to Friday. And will add a weekly reflection if participants would like them. **Journeying with Jesus** with Fr Denis McBride. Seven weekly biblical themes for reflection. Christine Cornwall offers a weekly Zoom on Tuesdays 10:30-11:15am from 23rd February to 6th March. If you'd like to join one of these groups, please go to www.stjosephs.org.uk/Lent_Reflections to register.

There are more resources for **Lent during Lockdown** on the Northampton Diocese **Pastoral Ministry Office** website. Do take a look at <https://pastoralministryoffice.org/home-copy/growing-in-faith/parish-resources/lent-resources/>

There are copies of **Walk with Me: A journey of Lenten Prayer for 2021** available in the porch for £1.00. Ask Fr Andy if you would like a copy to be sent to your home.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of **Krystina Trelinska**, **Sabastano Andó**, **Tom O'Brien** (Funeral: Monday) and **Colette Dowle** (Funeral: Friday), **Patrick Pearson**, who died recently. We extend our sympathies to all their family and friends. May they rest in peace.