



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 28TH FEBRUARY 2021 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

(Second Sunday of Lent)	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	10.00am MASS – Int. Patrick Pearson, RIP (Recently deceased)
Monday ST DAVID, Bishop, Patron of Wales	9.30am Mass – Int. Thanksgiving intention
Tuesday Lenten Feria	9.30am Mass – Int. Private intention
Wednesday Lenten Feria	NO MASS
Thursday Lenten Feria	6.00pm Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm Mass – Int. Private intention
Friday Lenten Feria Women's World Day of Prayer	9.00am Mass – Int. Briggs Family, RIP (Foundation Mass)
Saturday Lenten Feria	9.30am Mass – Int. Newton Family, RIP (Foundation Mass)
	10.30am to 11.30am CONFESSIONS (In the Sacristy)
	6.00pm Mass – Vigil Mass of Sunday – Int. People of the parish
(Third Sunday in Lent)	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	10.00am MASS – Int. Frances Mendis, RIP

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

God acts in mysterious ways in many places in the Old Testament: rejecting Cain's sacrifice (Genesis 4:5), choosing Jacob over Esau (Genesis 25:23), sending Job's time of trial (Job 10:1-22), forcing Jeremiah to suffer (Jeremiah 20:7-18), using Babylon to judge Judah (Habakkuk 1:12-13). But the story of Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac renders God almost completely incomprehensible.

The entire story line about Abraham from Genesis 12 to this point has pointed to the birth of an heir to fulfill the astounding promise of descendants as countless as the sands of the seashore (Genesis 15:1-6). But God's frightening demand throws everything into jeopardy. The story-teller seems unconcerned about the picture of God that this episode draws: God putting God's own integrity at risk. Nor does the story teller take into account the other parts of the Bible that repudiate child sacrifice (see Jeremiah 7:31).

If God is incomprehensible, Abraham's steadfast faith stands out more boldly than ever. Abraham bargained with God about destroying Sodom (Genesis 18:22-33) but not about this. Why? He became the father of the faithful not only by boldly believing in God's promise but by boldly believing despite God's threat. He not only trusted, as Paul

taught in his letters (Romans 4:16-22; Galatians 3:6-9), but acted on his trusting faith (James 2:28-24).

Put Isaac's sacrifice side-by-side with today's passage in Romans ("God did not spare his own Son," 8:32). In Jesus' death, God is not the one to demand the sacrifice but the one to make the sacrifice. In the Jesus story, God is more like Abraham than like God in the Isaac story. So what made God believe in us? "God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). In this sacrifice, God became the *Abba* of those who believe.

Connections to the Church Teaching and Tradition

Peter, James, and John could not help but be changed by their witness of the conversation among Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. Our relationship with Christ should affect the manner in which we give witness to the love of God. In *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis explains, "Jesus wants evangelisers who proclaim the good news not only with words, but above all by a life transfigured by God's presence" (259).

The word *transfiguration* is usually used in relation to the event on the mountain in which the transfigured Jesus speaks to Moses and Elijah. In *Sacramentum caritatis*, Pope Benedict XVI speaks of the world being transfigured through the radical change brought about during the consecration. The pope explains that the change in the bread and wine to the Body and Blood of Christ can transform reality. The apostolic exhortation on the Eucharist states: "The substantial conversion of bread and wine into his body and blood introduces within creation the principle of a radical change, a sort of nuclear fission, to use an image familiar to us today, which penetrates to the heart of all beings, a change meant to set off a process which transforms reality, a process leading ultimately to the transfiguration of the entire world, to the point where God will be all in all (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:28)" (11).

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.

RETIRING COLLECTION TODAY FOR CAFOD FAST DAY

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. 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.**

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

CAFOD FAST DAY (26 February 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

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/len2021.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/len-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 soul of **Patrick Pearson**, who died recently. We extend our sympathies to all their family and friends. May they rest in peace.

The Novena to St Joseph takes place from **10th March 2021**. St Joseph's Missionary Society (*Mill Hill Missionaries*) have produced prayers and reflections for the Year of St Joseph.