



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 7TH FEBRUARY 2021 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

(Sexagesima Sunday)	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00am MASS – Int. People of the parish
Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am Mass – Int. Leonard Joseph Brice RIP, (Foundation Mass)
Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am Mass – Int. Private intention
Wednesday <i>Feria</i>	NO MASS TODAY
Thursday <i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i> WORLD DAY OF THE SICK	6.00pm Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm Mass – Int. Private intention
Friday <i>Feria</i>	9.00am Mass – Int. Fr George Walker, RIP, (Foundation Mass)
Saturday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am Mass – Int. Rayner 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
(Quinquagesima Sunday)	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00am MASS – Int. Tom Wash, 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!

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

After the exorcism that is the first of Jesus' miracles, Jesus performs a physical healing on Peter's mother-in-law. Mark shows that Jesus exercises authority over both demonic possession and physical illness. Indeed, Jesus' ability to cast out demons and to heal the sick becomes the way in which the world first knows him.

The difference in the details of the two healings is significant. Jesus orders the demon out; he touches the mother-in-law, and the fever leaves her. For Mark, exorcism is accomplished through verbal authority (demons respond to command), and it is often an instrument for teaching and preaching. By contrast, physical healing is brought about by the touch of one who is holy. In both of these incidents, by command and by touch, Jesus is authoritative. His cure of both victims is total.

In the evening exorcisms that follow, Jesus will not allow the demons to speak, because they know him. Mark will show this many more times as Jesus seeks to be known in the full context of the passion and Resurrection and not just in a handful of miraculous healings. This "messianic secret" of Mark's account

of the Gospel places the full revelation at the end of Jesus' public life, not at the beginning.

Night is the traditional time for confrontation with evil, and here the sick and possessed are brought to Jesus at sundown. The power that Jesus wields is not diminished by darkness. In fact, it offers a way to encounter God with no distractions. Jesus seizes the opportunity to pray in a deserted place apart from his disciples and the crowds. Mark connects Jesus' power to his prayer by interrupting the healings to narrate this incident. When the disciples search him out, though, he immediately returns to his work, extending his mission to the neighbouring towns, proclaiming the message and exorcising demons. Jesus' fame spreads, but it also attracts the attention of the Jewish leaders who will begin to question him.

Connections to the Church Teaching and Tradition

St Paul explains to the Corinthians that "an obligation has been imposed on me" to preach the Gospel. After an experience with God, St. Paul changed the focus of his life and sought to become an apostle and lead others to Christ. In the encyclical *Deus caritas est*, Pope Benedict XVI explains that the Christian life is rooted in an encounter with Christ that changes everything. He states, "Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction" (1).

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.

THE SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL RAISED £57.00
PAX CHRISTI APPEAL FOR PEASE SUNDAY RAISED £42.50

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

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.

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 YouTube "Kensington Carmelite Church" The final talk is on **Wednesday 10 February at 10am and repeated at 8pm.**

Lent begins on Wednesday 17th February 2021

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 (jchale@earthling.net) is offering a weekday Zoom for this at 7.45am, Monday to Friday. **Journeying with Jesus** with Fr Denis McBride. Seven weekly biblical themes for reflection. Christine Cornwall (mccornwell@gmail.com) is offering 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 register on line via <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc13W-eH6tcy1zZR6NkNDhE4n2bB3RqjphZFNeZ0ve2ilochg/viewform> or contact Joanna or Christine. **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

Be Drawn to Christ using weekly Wednesday livestream and Bible Reflections inspired by Carmelite Spirituality, <https://www.oxcacs.org/product/lenten-retreat-be-drawn-to-christ/> There is a range of charges depending on what you choose.

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/>

RECENTLY DECEASED: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of **Krystina Trelinska** and **Thomas O'Brien** who died recently. We extend our sympathies to all their family and friends. May they rest in peace.