



# PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

30, Amersham Road, Chesham Bois, Amersham, HP6 5PE  
Tel: (01494) 727469 / 07722 229811 Parish Priest: Fr Andy Ollard  
Email: [info@ourladyschurch-cheshambois.org](mailto:info@ourladyschurch-cheshambois.org)

The Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust. Registered Charity No. 234091  
*Part of the Chilterns Pastoral Area, under the patronage of Venerable Mary Ward*

## NEWSLETTER 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

<b>(Quinquagesima Sunday)</b>	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
<b>SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	10.00am <b>MASS</b> – Int. Tom Wash, RIP, recently deceased
Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am Mass – Int. Smith – Special intention, (Foundation Mass)
Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am Mass – Int. Private intention
Wednesday ASH WEDNESDAY	9.30am <b>MASS</b> – Mass with Blessing and sprinkling of Ashes
<b>Day of Fasting and Abstinence</b>	11.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin)
Thursday <i>Lenten Feria</i>	6.00pm Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm Mass – Int. Private intention
Friday <i>Lenten Feria</i>	9.00am Mass – Int. Krystina Trelinska, RIP, (Recently deceased)
Saturday <i>Lenten Feria</i>	9.30am Mass – Int. Thomas O'Brien, RIP (Recently deceased)
	10.30am to 11.30am CONFESSIONS ( In the Sacristy )
	6.00pm Mass – Vigil Mass of Sunday – Int. Private intention
<b>(First Sunday in Lent)</b>	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	10.00am <b>MASS</b> – Int. People of the parish

All these Liturgies will be **live streamed online**. Join us on Facebook Live ( [www.facebook.com/OurLadyChurchCB](https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyChurchCB) )

**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

For lepers, the law of Leviticus must have seemed very harsh. They could not live in the camp with anyone. They had to warn people that they were coming. Actually, any skin disease was considered leprosy unless proven otherwise. The Book of Leviticus devotes two chapters (13 and 14) to laws requiring a period of separation and examination before anyone with a skin lesion is allowed back into the camp. Leprosy was worse than other ailments because the opening on the skin often exposed blood, the source of life, and any contact with blood made a person unclean.

Every Jew reading Mark's account of the Gospel would have been familiar with the laws regarding leprosy. When Jesus touched the leper to heal him, Jews collectively gasped. Not even the prophet Elisha (2 Kings 5) cured a leper this way. Touching the leper made Jesus unclean, yet neither he nor Mark seem concerned. The encounter with the leper again shows Jesus confronting the conditions that separate people from each other. The possessed man was disturbed and frightening; Peter's mother-in-law could not fulfill her place in the

family; the leper is alienated by the unclean nature of his disease. In each case, by word or touch, Jesus restores the person to the family and the community.

Mark adds two interesting details to this story. First, Jesus is "feeling sorry" for the man. Mark, who tells the story of Jesus more simply than the other Gospels, describes Jesus' emotional state. This makes Mark's portrayal of Jesus very human. But he also emphasises the healing power of Jesus to show his divine identity. Second, as he did with the demons, Jesus urges the leper to tell no one. Jesus did not want followers based solely on his ability to heal. If we were to hear all of verse 45 in this reading, we would understand what Jesus feared. He is no longer able to move about openly because people flock to him seeking healing. In the face of their preoccupation with physical healing, his message may well be lost.

### Connections to the Church Teaching and Tradition

When Jesus touched the leper to heal him, he was reaching out to someone who was unable to have contact with the community. In *Sollicitudo rei socialis*, Pope John Paul II calls us to the option of preference for the poor, stating that it applies to our social responsibilities and our way of living. The pope states "Love of preference for the poor, and the decisions which it inspires in us, cannot but embrace the immense multitudes of the hungry, the needy, the homeless, those without medical care and, above all, those without hope of a better future" (42).

### 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](http://www.ourladyschurch-cheshambois.org)

### THE LATEST DIOCESE NEWS

The latest Diocesan News may be found on the website: [www.northamptondiocese.org/news](http://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](http://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](http://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.

### Lent begins this Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021

This Lent, **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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 23<sup>rd</sup> February to 6<sup>th</sup> March. If you'd like to join one of these groups, please go to [www.stjosephs.org.uk/Lent\\_Reflections](http://www.stjosephs.org.uk/Lent_Reflections) to register.

**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](http://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 are 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/>

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** and **Colette Dowle** who died recently. We extend our sympathies to all their family and friends. May they rest in peace.