



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

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 MARCH 2021

THIRD SUNDAY
OF LENT

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

(Third Sunday of Lent)	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	10.00am MASS – Int. Frances Mendis, RIP
Monday Lenten Feria	9.30am Mass – Int. Searle Family, RIP (Foundation Mass)
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	9.00am Mass – Int. Caselton-Clark Family, RIP (Foundation Mass)
Saturday Lenten Feria	9.30am Mass – Int. A & R Powys-Lybbe, RIP (Foundation Mass)
	10.30am to 11.30am CONFESSIONS (In the Sacristy)
	6.00pm Mass – Vigil Mass of Sunday – Int. Private intention
(Fourth Sunday in Lent)	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)	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!

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

Even people with little familiarity with Judeo-Christian beliefs are well acquainted with the reading from Exodus of the giving of the Ten Commandments. While these commands may be quite familiar to us, it is essential to recognise that they were delivered within the context of God entering into a covenant relationship with Israel. To be God's treasured possession, Israel must follow the behaviours specified in the words of the commandments, also called the decalogue. To be in close relationship with God requires that Israel assume responsibilities towards its neighbour.

Psalm 18 is a song of praise for God's *torah*, or "instruction." Far different from the western mentality that views *torah* as "law" in a restrictive sense, today's psalm expresses quite clearly how Israel understood God's instruction as a guide for living well. Thus, the psalmist can speak of God's *torah* as being sweeter than "honey from the comb."

Within the first two chapters of John's Gospel, readers learn Jesus' identity, see him perform his first sign at the wedding celebration in Cana, and hear him confront the religious authorities in the temple in Jerusalem. The most obvious focus in today's reading is Jesus' cleansing of the temple, followed by

reference to his impending death and resurrection. Looking carefully at the passage, though, we see that the last verses turn attention to the people who "believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus would know them all and did not trust himself to them." The reading is clear that a reciprocal relationship between Jesus and true believers exists. It is implied that some people were beginning to follow Jesus because they were interested in seeing great works, not because they trusted in him.

Connections to the Church Teaching and Tradition

The only response to God's love is to return that love. Through the commandments, God shows how we are to live in relation to him and with our community. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains that the Ten Commandments show how we are called to respond to God with love (2083).

The Jews did not understand Jesus' statement "Destroy this sanctuary and in three days I will raise it up," for our Lord was speaking of his body as a temple. Through that temple, death would be conquered. *Gaudium et spes* (the *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*) explains that God has in mind another place for his followers, a place where sadness and injustice will be no more. The Second Vatican Council document states: "God is preparing a new dwelling and a new earth in which righteousness dwells . . . Then death will have been conquered, the daughters and sons of God will be raised in Christ and what was sown in weakness and dishonour will become incorruptable" (39).

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.

CAFOD FAST DAY COLLECTION: £80.00

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) **Thank you so much. Your generous gifts will help people like Hagos in Ethiopia, struggling to cope in an increasingly hotter and drier climate.**

Hagos and his family starved due to drought, but thanks to our Church family and support like yours, we provided him with solar-powered water pumps. Hagos and his neighbours now have flowing water to cultivate their land. Remember, it's not too late to give to our Lent appeal. cafod.org.uk/lent 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/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.

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.