



# 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

14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF LENT

LAETARE SUNDAY

### TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

<b>(Fourth Sunday of Lent)</b>	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	10.00am <b>MASS</b> – Int. <i>Moria Allum, RIP, (Recently deceased)</i>
Monday <i>Lenten Feria</i>	9.30am Mass – Int. <i>Private intention</i>
Tuesday <i>Lenten Feria</i>	9.30am Mass – Int. <i>John Grady, RIP, Anni</i>
Wednesday ST PATRICK, Bishop – Patron of Ireland	<b>NO MASS</b>
Thursday <i>Lenten Feria</i>	6.00pm Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm Mass – Int. <i>Private intention</i>
Friday ST JOSEPH, Spouse of the BVM	9.00am Mass – Int. <i>Peter &amp; Margaret Byrne, RIP (Foundation Mass)</i>
Saturday <i>Lenten Feria</i>	9.30am Mass – Int. <i>Ambrose Peter Glover, RIP (Foundation Mass)</i>
	10.30am to 11.30am CONFESSIONS ( In the Sacristy )
	6.00pm Mass – Vigil Mass of Sunday – Int. <i>Private intention</i>
<b>(Passion Sunday)</b>	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	10.00am <b>MASS</b> – Int. <i>People of the parish</i>

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

Three things are presented in the first reading. The conclusion of the Second Book of Chronicles contains a condensed account of the fall of Jerusalem, Israel's exile in Babylon, and the possibility of Israel's return to Judah. The Persian defeat of the Babylonians under King Cyrus brought an end to the exile and ushered in the period often referred to as "the restoration." Psalm 136 provides insight into the exilic experience that was glossed over in the first reading. As the psalmist tells us, the Judeans were taunted by the Babylonians, who asked the exiles to sing songs from their homeland. The exiles refused to sing for their captors and instead held fast to their fond memories of Jerusalem as expressed in today's refrain: "O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!" This psalm is a lament, a song of longing for the world that the exiles had known prior to their defeat by the Babylonians. Today's New Testament readings broaden our understanding of what it means to believe in Jesus, the Christ. Ephesians reminds us that God's mercy and grace are freely given to all who believe in Jesus and that our faith is a gift of God. While we know from the very first chapter of Genesis that we are made in the image and likeness of God, in Ephesians we hear that, in addition to

being God's "handiwork," we are created "in Christ Jesus" for good works. Meanwhile, the Gospel reminds us that the life we have in Jesus is eternal. If eternal life is desired, we must choose to walk in the light of God.

### Connections to the Church Teaching and Tradition

The imminence of God's love for us is hard to comprehend, but most can understand it would be difficult for a father to give up his son to the world. The Gospel according to John explains that God did this because he "so loved the world." In the encyclical *Deus caritas est*, Pope Benedict XVI reflects on how our belief in God's love changes us and that we become Christians through an encounter with God. The pope states: "We have come to believe in God's love: in these words the Christian can express the fundamental decision of his life. Being Christian is . . . the result of . . . an encounter with an event, a person. . . Saint John's Gospel describes that event in these words: 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life'" (1).

In the reading from the Gospel of John, we hear that God sent the light to the world and that whoever "lives by the truth comes out into the light." Through the light Christ offers, we come to know who God is. *Guadium et spes* explains, "The Word of God, through whom all things were made, became man and dwelt among us . . . He reveals to us that 'God is love'" (38).

*Wishing all mothers a very happy  
Mothering Sunday!*

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

### THE LATEST DIOCESE NEWS

The latest Diocesan News may be found on the website: [www.northamptondiocese.org/news](https://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](https://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. The safety of everyone is of paramount importance. 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](https://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

There are many excellent resources to help us pray in Lent, both online and printed: **Knowing Jesus** online retreat: <https://www.iscglasgow.co.uk/len2021.html> and <https://www.onlineprayer.net/> with free daily emails from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday 11th April. 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](https://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/len2-resources/> 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 **10<sup>th</sup> March 2021**. St Joseph's Missionary Society (*Mill Hill Missionaries*) have produced prayers and reflections for the Year of St Joseph.

### DEMENTIA PRAYER WEEK 12 - 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021

#### A Prayer

It steals upon our loved ones,  
it steals when we do not understand  
what is happening;  
why it is happening?  
The happening is that slow dying  
the taking away of a precious loved one.  
We see someone we loved and treasured,  
someone who won our respect,  
we see that person denied  
of dignity and slowing losing  
an awareness of life and living.  
It hurts...oh, how it hurts.  
Let prayer be our help  
let prayer be our strength  
let prayer rise like a fountain of love.  
May we come together in prayer  
for our cherished one.  
Dear God,  
we pray, may your will be done.  
*Michael Cauchi,*  
*former carer and trustee Pastoral Care Project 2007*

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Moria Allum**, who died last week. We extend our sympathies to Jonathan and all their family. May she rest in peace.