



PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

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The Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust. Registered Charity No. 234091
Part of the new Pastoral Area of South Buckinghamshire

NEWSLETTER

25TH APRIL 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

(Third Sunday after Easter)	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))	
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	10.00am	MASS – Int. People of the parish
Monday of Easter	9.30am	Mass – Int. private intention
Tuesday of Easter	9.30am	Mass – Int. Brian Farrelly, RIP
Wednesday of Easter		NO MASS
Thursday ST CATHERINE OF SIENA	6.00pm	Adoration and Benediction of Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass – Int. private intention
Friday of Easter	9.00am	Mass – Int. private intention
Saturday St Joseph the Worker	9.30am	Mass – Int. private intention
	10.30am to 11.30am	CONFESSIONS (In the Sacristy)
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of 5 th Sunday of Easter – Int. private intention
(Fourth Sunday after Easter)	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))	
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	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!

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

Today's first reading appears near the end of chapter 9 of Acts. The opening verses of this chapter recount Saul's request for letters of approval from Temple officials. These letters would acknowledge Saul's authority once he reached Damascus, where he intended to persecute followers of Jesus. In verse 3 of this chapter, the first of three accounts of Saul's conversion begins. (Two other recordings of this experience are found in Acts 22:3-16 and 26:4-23.) Thus, it is no wonder that in today's pericope, beginning in verse 26, we hear that the disciples were reticent to believe that Saul had become a follower of Jesus. In a few words, the text details how Barnabas intervened and how the apostles accepted Saul as one who had seen the Lord. Immediately, Saul began to proclaim that Jesus is Lord. The reading from the First Letter of John reminds us that love expresses itself most perfectly in action. While words are important, the lived expression of our words speaks a truth more strongly. Belief in Jesus is identified by our actions, by our love for one another.

The Gospel of John presents us with the metaphor of the vine and the branches. Jesus identifies himself as the true vine and speaks of his relationship to the Father. Earlier texts that

referred to Israel as the vine, primarily prophetic texts, quite obviously did not speak of the Father. Here, Jesus identifies his Father as the vine grower, or vine dresser, the one who carefully tends to the vine so that it will bear fruit.

Connections to the Church Teaching and Tradition

In the reading from the First Letter of John, we hear the command to love one another, a command that echoes what Jesus says in Matthew 22: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." *Gaudium et spes* explains that everyone should consider his neighbour "as another self." The document continues, "Today, there is an inescapable duty to make ourselves the neighbours of every individual, without exception, and to take positive steps to help a neighbour whom we encounter" (27).

Upon accepting the Lord in his life, St. Paul would not be deterred from preaching the Gospel. First, the disciples did not trust him and then the Hellenists sought to kill him. Unafraid, he continued. *Dei verbum*, the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, explains that the calling of the Church is to pass the faith to generations. The document states, "Christ the Lord . . . commanded the apostles to preach [the Gospel] to everyone as the source of all saving truth and the moral law, communicating God's gift to them" (7).

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.northamptondioocese.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.northamptondioocese.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 and for Mass.*

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 EASTER 2021

Copies of **Walk with Me: A journey of Easter Prayer for 2021** are now available in the porch for £1.00. Ask Fr Andy if you would like a copy to be sent to your home.

STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION

We offer the opportunity to reflect on the [Stations of the Resurrection](https://www.vitaeopus.co.uk) by Richard Q Greatrex. There are 16 stations so Joanna Hale and Christine Cornwell would run Zoom sessions on Monday-Thursday for weeks 3-6 of Easter, 19th April to 13th May, at 7.45 - 8.15 am and 10.30 - 11 am. [Click here](#) to request a book.

The **'Way Inn' bookshop** in Berkhamsted is keeping the presence of a specialist independent Christian shop in our High Street. We are pleased to welcome old friends & new at our shop behind the Post Office, where we offer gifts & a wide range of cards for every occasion including Baptism, Holy Communion & Confirmation. We are also happy to order in items for you.

PASTORAL AREA NEWS: Bishop David has decided to amalgamate the two pastoral areas of South Bucks and Chilterns into one larger area. The new Pastoral Area (PA) is made up of ten parishes and the Dean is Mgr Seán Healy, Parish Priest of St Teresa's, Beaconsfield. The combined PA Councils are to meet shortly to see how we can further the mission of the Church in this part of the Diocese.

PARISH NEWS: Bishop David has appointed Fr Andy Ollard as Parish Priest of St Bernardine of Siena in Buckingham. We will soon be welcoming Fr Roy Karakkattu, MSFS, who will take over as priest in charge of Our Lady's, Chesham Bois, and St Aidan's in Little Chalfont, living at Our Lady's. Fr Ken Payne is retiring from active ministry, but will continue to live at St Aidan's Presbytery. Fr Roy will take up his post as from the 18th May 2021. I am sure you will warmly welcome Fr Roy to the parish. He will need support from parishioners at both Our Lady's and St Aidan's as he 'shepherds' both parishes. Please hold us all in prayer during these days of transition.

Liturgy and Life

On the Fourth Sunday of Easter we always celebrate Jesus, our Good Shepherd, who protects his flock, provides for our needs and goes in search of any sheep that are lost. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep and seeks to restore all sheep into his sheepfold. As Christians, we are called to extend hospitality of the Good Shepherd to members of the flock who have wandered or become disconnected from the Church.