



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

2ND MAY 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

(Fourth Sunday after Easter)	8.00am	MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	10.00am	MASS – Int. People of the parish
Monday SS PHILIP & JAMES	9.30am	Mass – Int. private intention
Tuesday MARTYRS OF ENGLAND & WALES	9.30am	Mass – Int. private intention
Wednesday of Easter	NO MASS	
Thursday of Easter	6.00pm	Adoration and Benediction of Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass – Int. private intention
Friday of Easter	9.00am	Mass – Int. private intention
Saturday of Easter	9.30am	Mass – Int. private intention
	10.30am to 11.30am	CONFESSIONS (In the Sacristy)
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass of 6 th Sunday of Easter – Int. private intention
(Fifth Sunday after Easter)	8.00am	MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
SIXTH 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 Thursdays 10am – 12noon.

Scripture Insights

Today's readings continue the previous Sunday's emphasis on the community of the resurrected Christ – living and life giving. The First Reading (Acts 9:26-31) gives us a thumbnail sketch of the illustrious teacher and missionary Paul, who began as Saul, a zealous Jew and persecutor of the Jesus followers, who experienced conversion, was persecuted by fellow Jews, and for some time was viewed warily by Jesus' disciples. Eventually he became the missionary to the Gentiles. The reading from the First Letter of John (3:18-24) highlights the most important attribute that makes the Church truly alive and authentic – love. But this love is not simply a warm feeling or tender words. Rather is love "in deed and truth." If we stay grounded in God's command to believe in his Son and love one another we remain in him and he remains in us. In today's Gospel (John 15:1-8), John gives us another metaphor for understanding what it means to be Church – the vineyard, for wine was considered a necessity of life. First-century vineyards were constructed differently from today's vineyards. They were surrounded by a stone wall to keep animals from trampling the vines, which were pruned to increase production, the discarded branches were placed on the wall to

dry so that they could later be used for fuel. Vineyards also had towers, where the owner and his workers kept watch during harvest time to protect their produce from thieves and marauders. This is the cultural context for understanding the metaphor of the vineyard.

Connections to the Church Teaching and Tradition

In the reading from the First Letter of John recalls the Commandment that we are to love our neighbour as ourselves. *Gaudium et spes* helps us to understand that the neighbour is everyone and that we should not discriminate in giving aid. The document from the Second Vatican Council states, "Today, there is an inescapable duty to make ourselves the neighbour of every individual, without exception, and to take positive steps to help a neighbour whom we encounter" (27). After encountering Jesus on the road to Damascus, Saul submitted to God's will and wasted no time in aligning himself with the Apostles and other disciples and preaching the Good News. He embraced the call of the disciple to bring others to the Lord. *Dei verbum* notes that the Apostles were left with the mandate to spread word of Jesus' saving work. "Christ the Lord . . . commanded the apostles to preach [the Gospel] to everyone as the source of all saving truth and moral law, communicating God's gift to them" (7). Though Saul was blinded by the light that flashed when Jesus appeared, he still did as the Lord said, travelling to Damascus to do what he was told. The Lord's words lighted his path as stated in Psalm 119:105: "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path."

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.

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](http://www.stationsoftheresurrection.org) 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](http://www.stationsoftheresurrection.org) to request a book.

Monday 3rd May, 7.30pm. Diocesan Summer Webinar: Divine Renovation week 3, Clearing out the junk

Reflecting on some of the baggage that holds us back in our faith lives and finding new inspiration in the Gospel, with well known speaker and writer Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ. You can find out more and register here: <https://readalong.divine.renovation.eventbrite.co.uk>.

Tuesday, 4th May, the National Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of abuse. Our diocesan **Prayer Service to mark this Day** begins at 6pm in the Cathedral and will be led by Bishop David. The Service will be both live-streamed and recorded for watching later; for access click: www.northamptoncathedral.org/live.

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

When has the work of the Holy Spirit defied your expectations? How does our parish help the community recognise that they are to love "as something real and active" as today's reading from the First Letter of John states? How does the fruit you bear glorify God?