



# 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

9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021

### SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

#### TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

<b>(Fifth Sunday after Easter)</b>	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
<b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	10.00am <b>MASS</b> – Int. People of the parish
Monday of Easter	9.30am Mass – Int. Tom Flannery, RIP (recently deceased)
Tuesday of Easter	9.30am Mass – Int. private intention
Wednesday of Easter	<b>NO MASS</b>
Thursday <b>ASCENSION OF THE LORD</b>	9.30am Mass – Int. private intention
<b>HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION</b>	11.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin)
	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 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – Int. private intention
<b>(Sixth Sunday after Easter)</b>	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	10.00am <b>MASS</b> – Int. People of the parish

**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 only this week**

#### Scripture Insights

In today's first reading from Acts, we are introduced to the Gentile Cornelius. In the verses immediately preceding today's selection, Cornelius has a vision in which he is instructed to meet Peter. Meanwhile, Peter has a vision that confounds him and that he will later understand as a sign that Gentiles who proclaim Jesus as Lord should be welcomed into this new community. Upon his first meeting with Peter, Cornelius falls before Peter's feet. While a conversation between the two ensues, a large crowd gathers. For the first time, Peter begins to teach that "God does not have favorites" between Jew and Gentile. The Holy Spirit descended upon the believers, and the Baptism of Cornelius and his household followed. Our responsorial psalm is identified as a psalm of God's kingship. Psalms of this type proclaim that God is king over history, all the earth, and all nations. Praise of God in these psalms is very explicit.

The Gospel text for today is a continuation of last Sunday's passage of the vine and the branches. These verses emphasize that the love that exists between the Father and the Son is the same love that must characterise the relationships of Jesus' followers. This love is so foundational for Christians that we are

commanded to love one another. The noun *friend*, which Jesus uses to describe his relationship with the disciples, is derived from the verb *to love*. Thus, the friendship identified in this Gospel emphasizes mutual self-giving. Such friendship is far more than a casual relationship with another person.

#### Connections to the Church Teaching and Tradition

Jesus' command to "love one another" is direct and without any qualifications. He does not say to love at certain times or when there is a need; he just tells his followers to love. *Gaudium et spes* explains: "This love is not something reserved for important matters, but must be exercised above all in the ordinary circumstances of daily life" (38). The reading from the First Letter of John explains that the love humankind shares with one another comes from God. In the encyclical *Caritas in veritate*, Pope Benedict XVI describes the love that flows from the Father to the Son as grace. The pope writes: "Charity is love received and given. It is 'grace' (*chárís*). Its source is the wellspring of the Father's love for the Son, in the Holy Spirit. Love comes down from the Son. It is creative love, through which we have our being; it is redemptive love, through which we are recreated. Love is revealed and made present by Christ and 'poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.' As the objects of God's love, men and women become subjects of charity, they are called to make themselves instruments of grace, so as to pour forth God's charity and to weave networks of charity" (5).

#### 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.northamptondioocese.org/news](http://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](http://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](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.

#### 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.

**Mary in Scripture** There are 10 beautiful reflections on Mary in Scripture prepared by the Glasgow Jesuits at <https://www.onlineprayer.net/>. They will be available for several months to use whenever you wish. If you'd like to join a small group praying them together on Zoom at 7.40 for 7.45 - 8.15 each weekday morning, we'll start after Pentecost, from the wonderful new feast 'Mary, Mother of the Church', Monday 24 May, for the next 2 weeks finishing on 4 June. Contact Joanna Hale at [jchale@earthling.net](mailto:jchale@earthling.net) if you would like to join the online group.

Parishioners from across the 10 Parishes in our Pastoral Area have been meeting via Zoom to discuss the **Divine Renovation talks** after these have completed. If you would like to join us, please email [deaconpaulpriestley@northamptondioocese.org](mailto:deaconpaulpriestley@northamptondioocese.org) for Meeting ID and Password. The link to the **four Divine Renovation talks given so far may be viewed** on the Pastoral Ministry Office: [https://pastoralministryoffice.org/summer\\_webinars/](https://pastoralministryoffice.org/summer_webinars/)

As coronavirus brings devastation across India, **CAFOD** is working with experienced local Church agency, Caritas India, to provide vital support to poor and marginalised communities. **Donations to CAFOD's Coronavirus Appeal** will help Caritas India distribute PPE kits to frontline health workers, promote COVID & vaccine awareness campaigns, and set up safely run isolation & quarantine centres. You can donate online here: [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give). Please keep praying for the people of India and all those affected by the pandemic.

**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.