



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

16TH MAY 2021

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

(Sunday after the Ascension of Our Lord)	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
SEVENTH 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. Julia Irving Denial, RIP (B'day intention)
Wednesday of Easter	NO MASS
Thursday of Easter (St Bernardine 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 of Easter	9.30am Mass – Int. private intention
	10.30am to 11.30am CONFESSIONS (In the Sacristy)
	6.00pm Vigil Mass of Pentecost Sunday – Int. private intention
(Whit Sunday [Pentecost])	8.00am – MASS in Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin))
PENTECOST 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!

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

In the first reading, Luke is shifting the focus from Jesus to the disciples. Followers in other traditions simply carry out the vision of their teacher, but here the disciples are important in their own right. We know their ideas and writings, even their weaknesses, failures, and arguments.

More remarkable still, Luke places the story of the Church in Acts on the same level of importance as the story of Jesus in the Gospel. There is a strong sense of destiny that flows through our passage: Peter twice uses the strong phrase “had to be” (*dei*: 16,21), the same word Jesus used in speaking about his coming suffering (See Mark 8:31). Events that were not of their own making or choosing were happening all around them. A sense of the Lord’s hidden, guiding hand pervades the atmosphere of Acts 1.

More was at work than a sense of destiny; the Apostles fulfilled unique roles in the salvation story. Their symbolic number, “twelve,” recalls the twelve tribes of Israel. Despite the emphasis on choosing a replacement for Judas, Matthias disappears from Scripture after his election; so when the Apostle James was killed (Acts 12:2), no one replaced him. The Twelve performed a symbolic role that was unrepeatable.

Jesus’ prayer in John shows how he continues to pray for the Church even now. Here the symbolic number is “one”: “that they may be one, just as we are one.” Jesus prays that the community may not be subverted by treachery like that of Judas or by the hatred of the world. The oneness of the disciples is the basis of their mission in the world. Laying the passages from Acts and John side-by-side on a spiritual plane, one surmises that although the disciples draw straws, it is really Jesus’ prayer for the Church’s protection and unity that guides its destiny.

Connections to the Church Teaching and Tradition

Just as Jesus prays in the passage from John 17 that “they may be one just as we are one,” in Eucharistic Prayer I, with the communion of saints, we ask that “we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.” In the apostolic exhortation *Sacramentum caritatis*, Pope Benedict XVI explains that “every eucharistic celebration sacramentally accomplishes the sacramental gathering of the people of God. For us the eucharistic banquet is a real foretaste of the final banquet foretold by the prophets (cf. Isaiah 25:6-9) and described in the New Testament as ‘the marriage-feast of the Lamb’ (Apocalypse 19:7-9). To be celebrated in the joy of the communion of saints” (31).

In the First Letter of John, we hear how the Father who so loved the world sent his Son to us as Saviour of the World. That love is manifested at each Eucharist. Pope Benedict XVI explains in *Sacramentum caritatis*, the exhortation on the sacrament of charity: “The Holy Eucharist is the gift that Jesus Christ makes of himself, thus revealing to us God’s infinite love for every man and woman” (1).

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.

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 ichale@earthling.net if you would like to join the online group.

Monday 17th May, 7.30pm. Diocesan Summer Webinar: Divine Renovation week 5, *Sacraments as opportunity*
A fresh look at how our sacramental programme can reach people differently, with Fr Simon Penhalagan, director of Mission Northampton
<https://readalong.divine.renovation.eventbrite.co.uk>.

Saturday 22nd May and 12th June, 10.30-12noon Workshop *Entertaining Angels: becoming a truly welcoming church.* As our churches reopen, how can we make people feel really welcome? These workshops are packed with simple ideas for transforming our parishes. For more information and to book: <https://pastoralministryoffice.org/event/entertaining-angels/>

On **Thursday 20th May 2021**, the NYMO team will be back **In the Studio** for our online event for young people! With the usual mix of fun, worship, silliness and prayer, this night is not to be missed! With our usual segments like Grill the Priest and NYMO’s online Quiz we will also have inspiring talks and moving times of prayer! The evening will premiere on our YouTube channel from 8pm-9pm is open to all aged 11-18. So come along and chat with others in the comments, be inspired by our guests and explore what Pentecost is with us. To watch along simply make sure you are on our YouTube channel ‘**luxnymo**’ at 8pm on Thursday 20th May - we can’t wait to see you there!

PARISH NEWS: This week we will be welcoming Fr Roy Karakkattu, MSFS, who will move into Our Lady’s Presbytery take over as priest in charge of Our Lady’s, Chesham Bois, and St Aidan’s in Little Chalfont, living at Our Lady’s. 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.

On Tuesday, I will move to St Bernardine’s Church in Buckingham after six and half years in this parish. It has been my privilege to have celebrated the Sacraments of the Church with you and been companions on our journey of faith together during this time. I am grateful to God for the friendship, love and support I have received during this time at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. May God continue to sustain and bless you all, Fr Andy Ollard