

# PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

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The Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust. Registered Charity No. 234091



27<sup>th</sup> December 2015

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,  
MARY AND JOSEPH

SUNDAY WITHIN THE  
OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

## TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

<b>SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER (VIGIL)</b>	6.00pm (Sat.)	Mass – Int. People of the parish
	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
	10.00am	Mass
Monday HOLY INNOCENTS	9.30am	Mass- Int. Thanksgiving Mass
Tuesday ST THOMS BECKET	9.30am	Mass
Wednesday Sixth Day of Christmas Octave	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Thursday Seventh Day of Christmas Octave	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Friday <b>MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</b>	9.00am	Mass
Saturday <i>Ss Basil the Great &amp; Gregory Nazianzen</i>	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confession
<b>SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY – EPIPHANY</b>	6.00pm (Sat.)	Mass – Int. People of the parish
<b>MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS</b>	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	10.00am	Mass



Applications for preparation for **First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion** at Our Lady's Church have now closed. We will begin early in the New Year once we receive the resource materials.

## WORLD YOUTH DAY 2016

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Krakow for World Youth Day Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016 and we welcome those in the diocese aged 16 – 30 years old (16 by the date of travel). For a booking form or further information please contact Fiona at [fiona@nymo.org](mailto:fiona@nymo.org) or call 01582 720627 or see [www.nymo.org](http://www.nymo.org)

## ABOUT LITURGY

**Strengthening family life:** Immediately following our celebration of Christmas, the church provides us with a number of related celebrations helpful for strengthening family life: 26<sup>th</sup> December, the Feast of St. Stephen, the first Martyr; 27<sup>th</sup> December, the Feast of St. John the Evangelist; 28<sup>th</sup> December, the Feast of the Holy Innocents (since these are weekday celebrations many may not be aware of them). All three of these feasts remind us that following Christ has its demands, even to the point of giving one's life in order to remain faithful to Christian discipleship. Naturally, family life has its demands but none of these exceed our strength if we remember That God has given us the gift of the divine Son who dwells within each of us because of our baptism.

The church also celebrates this feast of the Holy Family. Although the gospel passages about the Holy Family are scanty, we know that life wasn't easy for Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. They model for us a family life not beyond our reach, but one that is very real and built on caring for and loving each other, built upon openness to God's will, built on reliance of God for guidance and assurance.

## LANDINGS

The *Landings* programme gives Catholic who have been away from the Church a chance to explore their faith and to consider their future with the Church. A few parishioners welcome potential returners to lay-led meetings that are gentle, entirely confidential, and enriching for who take part.

A *Landings* workshop at St. Theresa's Church, Beaconsfield is planned for early in the New Year (date to be fixed) to enable all who may be interested to find out more, both those thinking of renewing connections with parish life and those who might like to act as welcomers in their own parishes. New recruits are always welcome but you won't be asked for a definite commitment.

For more information contact Maggie Millrain or Ian Johnson on 01752 482 496 or via [maggiemillrain@icloud.com](mailto:maggiemillrain@icloud.com). The following website is well worth a visit ... [www.landings.org.uk](http://www.landings.org.uk)

## Lectionary for Mass

**First Reading:** Today's First Reading is perhaps best understood by reading the first chapter of 1 Samuel in its entirety. Prior to the birth of her child, Hannah was a woman of deep suffering and shame. She had promised the Lord that she would dedicate her child to him ("nazirite," see Numbers 6:1-21) if he answered her prayer. We have the beautiful and tender scene of his dedication to the Lord in the second part of the reading. Samuel had an important role in the history of salvation: he was the prophet who anointed David to be king of Israel (1 Samuel 16).

**Responsorial Psalm 83:** The beauty of God's dwelling place and the joy of those who dwell there is the focus of today's Psalm 84. The psalm describes the Temple in Jerusalem. The Lord's dwelling place spoken in the First Reading was the shrine of the Lord at Shiloh.

**Second Reading:** John's words bring home to us the reality of the family of God to which we belong through the loving gift of our Heavenly Father. We have life from the Father and share in the divine life through his love. John says that world does not recognise us. Do we recognise this reality in ourselves? Note the importance given to keeping his commandments if we are to "remain," to this this reality. Jesus "remains," dwells with us, through the gift of his Spirit.

**Gospel:** Today's Gospel gives us a beautiful image of the Holy Family faithfully keeping the traditional practices of and observances of Judaism. Today it is the pilgrimage into Jerusalem at the time of Passover. The mention of Jesus twelve years old also calls to mind the customary Bar Mitzvah that we know today. We witness Jesus' deep interest in the Scriptures and his desire to know and understand them. Note how themes of his Passion are previewed in today's readings: the Passover, the three days, the business of the Father which he must be about.

Annual **LUX retreat** weekend in the Kings Park Centre in Northampton on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016**. For youth aged between **11-18 yrs**. Cost £90 includes bed, board and food. There are bursary places available. Booking forms may be downloaded from [www.nymo.org](http://www.nymo.org) website.

**Our Lady's Catholic Primary School** is now accepting **applications for admissions for September 2016**. There are supplementary application forms available in the Church porch. Applications will close on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

**Our Lady's Catholic school** are currently consulting on their admissions policy for 2017-2018. All the related documentation is on the website [www.ols.education/Admissions-Consulation](http://www.ols.education/Admissions-Consulation). Consultation will close on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016. Any comments may be forwarded to the school office email: [office@ols.education](mailto:office@ols.education)

## Money Matt

Last week's Offertory Collection - £223.69

*Many thanks for your generosity.*

Gift Aid Declarations Forms and Offertory Envelopes are now available.

## Are you new to the parish?

*If so, you are very welcome!*

*Do introduce yourself to Father Andy after Mass, and please complete a parish registration form.*



Tea, coffee and cold drinks are served in The Guild Room after both of our Sunday Masses.  
*All are welcome!*

**Infant Baptism and Marriage.** By appointment with Fr Andy after completing the necessary preparation. **The Church requires** notice of at least six months prior to the Sacrament of Matrimony being celebrated.

Thanks to all who work so hard throughout the year ensuring Our Lady's Church is a place of beauty, welcome and prayer: cleaning teams, flower arrangers, grounds-keepers, counters, tea and coffee providers, those who launder and prepare the Altar linens, welcomers, Servers, Readers, and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist.



My deep gratitude to you all for your kindness and generous Christmas greetings cards, gifts and Christmas Offering. I will offer a Mass for you all in gratitude for your generosity. May God continue to bless you during this holy and joyful Christmas season.

*Father Andy Ollard*