

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

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



6th March 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MOTHERING SUNDAY

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

LAETARE SUNDAY

TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 6TH MARCH (VIGIL)	6.00pm (Sat.)	Mass – Int. People of the parish
	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
	10.00am	Mass
Monday Ss Perpetua & Felicity	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday St John of God	9.30am	Mass – Int. For recovery and health of 'Peter'
Wednesday St Frances of Rome	NO MASS	
Thursday Feria	6.00pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction
	7.00pm	Mass
Friday Feria	9.00am	Mass
	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday Feria	9.30am	Mass
<i>.NO CONFESSIONS at Our Lady's this morning – Fr Andy is at St Cloumba's Church, Chesham</i>		
SUNDAY 14TH MARCH – FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	6.00pm (Sat.)	Mass – Int. People of the parish
PASSION SUNDAY	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	10.00am	Mass

ABOUT LITURGY

Sin affects the whole Body: As each of us grows in our awareness of being members of the Body of Christ, we also grow in our understanding that there is no such thing as a "private" sin. The prodigal son returned to his merciful father and declared that he had "sinned against heaven and against" his father. Each time we choose the death-dealing blow of sin, we have "sinned against heaven and against" all other members of the Body. In the Body we are one in Christ. When one member is built up, the whole Body is built up. When one member sins, the whole Body is weakened. There can be many motivations for repentance besides "dying from hunger" and the dire necessity faced with by the prodigal son. One strong motivation might be our genuine Christian love for one another; if we sin, we weaken the Body. At the same time, when we repent and seek reconciliation, we make the Body stronger. Repentance and a worthy reception of the sacrament of penance help us pass from death to Life. This is about the time in Lent when many parishes offer Lenten communal penance liturgies. Part of our preparation for this wonderful opportunity to repent and be forgiven ought to be a serious consideration of how our sin affects those with whom we live, work, and spend our leisure time. It is too easy simply to go to confession and list one's sins, being assured of God's forgiveness through the sacramental ministry of the ordained priest. Perhaps recognising how we hurt others and reaching out to seek their forgiveness, too, might be the best deterrent for sin and the most fruitful motivation to repent.

Lectionary for Mass

First Reading: The meaning of the "reproach of Egypt" is something of an enigma to scholars, The later verses in Joshua evoke the story of the Exodus, with the crossing of water, circumcising of those who were not circumcised, and the celebrating of Passover (which has been suspended since they departed Sinai).

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 34: The faithfulness of the psalmist through trials and upsets is striking; seeking the Lord is never done in vain. His God is the one of deliverance, and that inspires not only deep belief in the heart but a willingness to speak about, exult, and glorify of God.

Second Reading: Here Paul borrows from the Judaism of his day (which was referred to those who converted as "a new creation") and declares the details of the new covenant in Christ. Central to it is reconciliation with each other and with the world, and most importantly reconciliation with God.

Gospel: The parable of the Prodigal Son (or perhaps better put, the "profligate Father") appears only in the Gospel according to Luke. The wasteful son's hold and disrespectful request – 1/3 of the father's property before he is deceased – is shocking for its content and for the father's response. Even when we abuse our freedom, wander far from the ways of God, we can be restored and forgiven. This is truly a dramatic illustration of God's mercy.



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Just before the season of Lent began, we enrolled our candidates for preparing First Holy Communion later this spring: **Charlotte G., Imogen R., and William V.** We celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation, for the first time, last month. As a parish community we promised to support and encourage these children with our prayers, example and personal witness. *Please keep these children and their families, in your prayers.*

Congratulations to **Chloe Saunders and Ian Bines**, who married in **Our Lady's Church last Friday.** *Please keep them, their families and friends in your prayers.*

FATHER PATRICK BAILEY

As you probably know, Fr Bailey, parish priest of St Columba in Chesham had a serious fall on Tuesday 1st March. He is hospital recovering from a broken arm and fractured hip. He is in good spirits and appreciates all our prayers for this recovery. It is likely to be a long process. In the meantime, Father Andy is helping with Sunday evening Mass at St Columba and with pastoral and sacramental needs of the parish. The Sunday morning Mass at St Columba is being covered by various priests, until a long term solution can be found.

Happy Mothering Sunday to All Mothers!

Going into Hospital?

If you are going to be in hospital for an overnight stay and would like to have a visit from a priest, it is important that you tell the ward staff that you are a Roman Catholic and you would like the Hospital Chaplain to arrange for a visit by a Catholic priest.

Wycombe Hospital Please contact St Augustine's Church 01494 523969. Mgr Paul Donovan normally takes Communion on a Saturday afternoon.

Amersham Hospital Please contact Our Lady's Church 01494 727469. Fr Andy will then arrange for Communion to be taken to you.

If you are expecting a stay in hospital do let Fr Andy know.

Jimmy Mitchell has arrived in our diocese from the USA and is travelling around and enthusing people with his talks and music. **Jimmy is leading a day for Young Adults at the Bridgettine Convent in Iver Heath on Saturday 19th March 2016** starting at 11am till 5pm. The cost of the day is £5.00. Lunch will be included. We hope this day will be a great opportunity for young adults 18-35ish to gather and be formed in their faith and share experiences together. For more information see poster or contact Fiona on Fiona@nymo.org or Neil Roseman on 07725 234700.

The **March 2016** edition of the Diocesan Newspaper, **The Vine**, is available – **Free of charge** – Please take a copy home!

Money Matters

Last week's Offertory Collection - £277.17
CAFOD FAST DAY – £30.00 (Total = £420.13)

THIS SUNDAY – SECOND COLLECTION
Easter Flowers for Our Lady's Church

Many thanks for your generosity.

Gift Aid Declarations Forms and Offertory Envelopes are available. Please ask Fr Andy.

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.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Great Missenden are having a display of interactive Stations of the Cross in Damlen Hall at on the weekend of March 19th/20th. There will be informative activities for the children too. Please see the leaflets in porch for further details.

Please bring your filled **Missio / APF Red Box** to church for the contents to be counted and banked. Please ensure all boxes are brought in to the sacristy **by Palm Sunday 20th March 2016**

Vocations Weekend at Northampton Cathedral 8th – 10th April 2016

Is the Lord calling you to the Priesthood? For more information on Vocations to the Priesthood in the Diocese of Northampton please call the Diocesan Vocation Directors: Fr Mark Floody on 01604 714556 or Fr Andrew Richardson on 01628 695764 or contact your Parish Priest.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHESHAM – SERIES OF TALKS FOR LENT 2016

8pm on Wednesdays at **Broadway Baptist Church, Chesham:**
9th March – **Lord Leslie Griffiths, Methodist Superintendent Minister**
16th March – **Anne Atkins, broadcaster, novelist and journalist**