



**TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK**

|   |                             |   |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| Saturday 19 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Vigil) | 6.00pm                      | Mass – Int. People of the parish        |
| Sunday 12 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST            | 8.00am                      | Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine) |
| NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME                        | 10.00am                     | Mass – Int. Layla Rose, RIP             |
| Monday St Dominic   | <b>NO MASS</b>              |   |
| Tuesday ST BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS                         | <b>NO MASS</b>              |   |
| Wednesday ST LAWRENCE                                     | <b>NO MASS</b>              |   |
| Thursday St Clare   | <b>NO MASS</b>              |   |
| Friday St Jane Frances Chantal                            | <b>NO MASS</b>              |   |
| Saturday Ss Pontianus & Hippolytus                        | <b>NO MASS</b> this morning |   |
| THE ASSUMPTION OF BVM (Vigil)                             | 6.00pm                      | Mass – Int. People of the parish        |
| 13 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST                   | 8.00am                      | Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine) |
| THE ASSUMPTION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY                     | 10.00am                     | Mass                                    |

**Stewardship, faithfulness, and Liturgy:** Our reflections on the gospel for this Sunday raise some issues about stewardship. Our hearts can be distracted in many ways, and if our hearts are distracted then we may lose sight of our true Treasure, Jesus.

For the good management of a parish, of course there must be monetary and time donations. This is part of the “faithfulness” of good disciples. At the same time we must always caution ourselves that we don’t become so involved in *doing* that we neglect the way we encounter our Treasure in good celebration of liturgy. Our hearts must always be tuned into the praise and thanksgiving that is liturgy.

It is easy to be distracted during liturgy by the demands of *doing* ministry. Vigilance for our truest Treasure means that we always must bring ourselves back to full conscious, and active participation in the liturgy that makes demands on our energy (it takes more energy to make sure that our minds remain focused on the celebration) and calls us to vigilance (how God is transforming each of us into being richer members of the body of Christ). Ultimately the most important stewardship is not the money or time we donate, but surrendering ourselves to being transformed. Our ultimate stewardship is how faithful we are to *being* Jesus’ Disciples.

**First Reading:** The context for this passage from Wisdom is the tenth plague in Egypt, the killing of the firstborn as the Israelites celebrated their first Passover and the angle of death passed over the houses marked with the blood of the lamb. Trust in God’s covenant promises and accustom to God’s ways lead the Israelites to wait on the Lord with certain knowledge that God would act on their behalf, liberating them from Egyptian slavery. By routing their enemies, God remembered the people, heard their cries, and responded with love and compassion, thus glorifying them as God’s special people. Yearly “the divine institution” of Passover is celebrated to remember God’s covenant fidelity to the people and their constant need to trust in and be attuned to God’s ways.

**Responsorial Psalm 33:** The psalm praises the Lord for the special blessing bestowed on them as people brings assurance that “the eyes of the Lord are upon” the people “to deliver them from death.” Twice “kindness” or *hesed*, God’s age-old, enduring covenant love, is mentioned as the motivating factor for their “help and shield.” Like the Israelites, we too are called to wait upon the Lord, trusting in the Lord as their “help and shield.” Like the Israelites, we too are called to wait upon the Lord, trusting and hoping in that rich covenant love, and always assured that God is attentive to our needs, does hear, has compassion and ultimately liberates, saves and redeems.

**Second Reading:** In this passage from the Letter to the Hebrews, faith is defined as “the realisation of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.” Abraham and Sarah are presented as idea example of people who hoped and trusted in God, not knowing where it would lead, or how it would turn out. They trusted when asked to leave home for a new promised land. They trusted when told that their descendants would be countless, even though they were both old and had no children. They even trusted when God asked them to sacrifice Isaac, their only hope for future progeny. They trusted because they had faith in God beyond this time and place, assured that God knows better than we limited human beings, and that faith in God would eventually lead to eternal dwelling with God.

**Gospel:** Luke’s Jesus counsels us to trust and not be afraid for “the Father is pleased to give you the kingdom” However, we are warned to be ever ready and vigilant, for we do not know the time or day when the master will return to hold us accountable. A simple life style, unattached to the goods of this world ad striving always for heavenly treasure, is the best for heavenly treasure is, there is the best form of readiness, for “where your treasure is, there also will your hear be” Jesus relates two parables that stress the need for vigilance in waiting upon the master’s return. All are to be ready but disciples will be held to greater standards of accountability, since they have been entrusted with much. Any abuse will be punished while loving attention to and service of others will be greatly rewarded.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN**

**Liturgy of the Word with Children** is takes place regularly during the 10am Mass on Sundays. We invite our younger children (approx. aged 3 to 7) to attend their own Liturgy of the Word in the Guild Room. Children will leave the body of the Church after the Collect and return during the Preparation of the Gifts. For them, it is still very much part of Mass, where they will listen to God’s Word in a translation more appropriate to their understanding, and, as we all do during the liturgy of the Word, they will reflect on the Gospel, and spend some time in prayer. **Parents are encouraged to join their children.** We welcome more help from those who seek to be leaders and support in this ministry to the children of our parish.



**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

Next year, our neighbouring parishes of St Columba and St Aidan are planning preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Our parish will work closely with all the churches in our Pastoral Area with this preparation. If you have been thinking about celebrating this Sacrament, please talk to Fr Andy before the end of July 2016. The preparation is open to any person in the parish who will be in Year 8 or above in September 2016, or who has left school.

**THE LAMPEDUSA CROSS – sending messages of hope**

Thank you to all who took time after Mass last month to complete a message of hope. If you took a card away please return it with your message of hope for refugees. Forced out by war, poverty or persecution, millions of people live uncertain lives as migrants and refugees. But each of us, moved by faith and common humanity, can act in welcome, respect and love. Using cards provided, you are invited to write or draw a message of hope for refugees as a way of marking the Year of Mercy. For more information contact Monica Bratt or see noticeboard in porch.

**CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - CCRS**

The CCRS course has been running successfully for many years in our diocese, for catechists, teachers, anyone who is interested. Candidates can either attend and produce the essays for the certificate, or can attend for a reduced fee as an unregistered student which does not require completion of the essays. The course will run on Saturdays starting on 24 September 2016 with an induction day on 17 September from 10am until 2pm at St Louise Catholic Primary School in Aylesbury. See leaflets in porch or [www.nores.org.uk/adulteducation](http://www.nores.org.uk/adulteducation)

**Compass**, the new youth group, serving the parishes of Our Lady’s Chesham Bois, St Aidan’s Little Chalfont and St Columba’s Chesham, is launching on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016. A leadership team of seven people drawn from all three parishes is working hard to get ready for September. To help us prepare, we’d like to hear from anyone aged 8 to 18 and also we’d like to hear from parents of young people aged 8 to 18. Could you take 3 minutes to complete our survey by visiting our website: [www.compassyouth.club](http://www.compassyouth.club). Please do pray for us. Thank you!

**Money Matters**

Last Week’s Offertory Collection – £279.00

If you would like to begin contributing to our parish through the Gift Aid through numbered envelope or by Standing Order through your bank, please speak with Fr Andy.

**AUGUST 2016 edition of The Vine**

The Diocese of Northampton newspaper is now available. **It’s Free of charge!**

**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.