



Diocesan Shrine & Parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St. Anselm

Sacred Heart Parish, Pyramid Close, Weston Favell, Northampton NN3 8DP

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Priest in Charge : Father Jerry Manomey

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MASSES THIS WEEK

St Anselm	Sunday	18 December	8:00am	For the parish
Our Lady	Sunday	18 December	9:15am	Maureen Taitt
Our Lady	Monday	19 December	6:00pm	Julie Vandrine RIP
Our Lady	Wednesday	21 December	6:00pm	For the sick
St Anselm	Saturday	24 December	9:30pm	Debra O'Hanlon RIP; Mary and Les Standing RIP Lea Varella RIP
Our Lady	Sunday	25 December	9:15am	Bishop Francis Thomas (Foundation Mass)

OTHER EVENTS THIS WEEK

Our Lady	Tuesday	20 December	1:00pm	Parish Prayer Time
St Anselm	Tuesday	20 December	7:00pm	Prayer Group and Exposition
Our Lady	Thursday	22 December	1:00pm	Holy Hour with Chaplet and Novena
St Anselm	Saturday	24 December	2:00pm	Confessions and Exposition
St Anselm	Saturday	24 December	9:00pm	Carol Service

Prayer Advocates' Intention to pray for all expectant mothers.

Last week's collections. Our Lady: £221.05 St. Anselm: £149.00 in addition to £102 from standing orders. Thank you!

Fr Jerry's Advent Reflections. FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT.

As the period of Advent gradually draws to a close we are reminded today that Emmanuel, God is with us to share in our lives and save us and we need to trust in him. Matthew relates the manner of Jesus' birth. He stresses the divine conception of Jesus through the agency of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, being a man of honour, decides to divorce Mary informally for he knows that he is not responsible for the pregnancy. The irony is that being a man of honour, Joseph had to insist on following the dictates of the Law, that is, Mary should be stoned for playing the adulteress (c.f Duet. 22:20-21).

Joseph, however, tempers justice with compassion. He decides to divorce her quietly. The angel of the Lord then explains to Joseph in a dream why Mary is not an adulteress. The name 'Jesus' to be given to the child means "saviour" or "God saves". He is the one to save his people from their sins. This to fulfil the promise of the Lord through his prophet Isaiah: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, meaning, God is with us". The meaning of the name which will appear at the end of the book implies the ever presence of God with his people.

God wants to share intimately in human history and in our human condition. He therefore chooses to be the Emmanuel, God with us. With faith in him let us allow the Lord to enter into our human condition, for he is always with us.

Confessions: Fr Jerry will be at St Anselm's on Saturday 24 December between 2-3pm to hear confessions. There will also be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the same time.

Prayer during Mass. Fr Jerry would like to us all to pray the prayer to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour at the end of the Prayers of the Faithful, in place of the Hail Mary.

Family Christmas Mass: There will be a family Christmas Mass at Sacred Heart at 5:30pm on Christmas Eve. Children are invited to come to this Mass dressed as any character in the Nativity story.

Donations to Food Banks. The SVP would like to thank everyone for the volume of Food Bank donations received over the last few weeks. We split the many items received between the two Food Banks in Northampton and we have had a very nice response and an expression of surprise that so much had been collected by two relatively small churches. Your generosity will make a big difference.

Blue Envelopes. We did announce it at both Masses last week but in case some missed it, the Christmas Offering white envelope for Fr Jerry as Priest in Charge is dated the 18 December this year and the normal blue one is dated 25 December. Any offerings received in the white envelopes in any Masses will be given to Fr Jerry and any cash received (not in envelopes) in the collections from Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will also go to him.

Thank you! CAFOD would like to thank all those who supported our work by giving, acting and praying. Your actions are bringing compassion, hope and transforming lives around the world. You have been wonderful and such an inspiration. Looking forward to working with you all in 2017. Have a blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

Christmas Mass Times: Please note the Christmas Mass times for all three churches will be as follows:

Christmas Eve:	Sacred Heart:	5:30pm Family Mass
	St Anselm:	9:30pm, preceded by carols at 9pm
	Sacred Heart:	11:00pm
Christmas Day:	Our Lady's:	9:15am
	Sacred Heart:	10:30am