



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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MASSES THIS WEEK

St Anselm	Sunday	2 April	8.00pm	For the parish
Our Lady	Sunday	2 April	9.15am	Mary Longhurst (Foundation Mass)
Our Lady	Monday	3 April	7.00pm	All souls
Our Lady	Wednesday	5 April		There will not be Mass today
Our Lady	Saturday	8 April	10.00am	Murphy and McNicholas families; Father Bernard RIP Followed by Exposition
St Anselm	Sunday	9 April	8:00am	Palm Sunday; Margaret Wilson RIP
Our Lady	Sunday	9 April	9.15am	Palm Sunday; Mollie Elizabeth Padbury (Foundation Mass)

OTHER EVENTS THIS WEEK

Our Lady	Tuesday	4 April	1.00pm	Parish Prayer Time and Stations of the Cross
St Anselm	Tuesday	4 April	7.00pm	Prayer Group and Exposition and Stations of the Cross
Our Lady	Thursday	6 April	1.00pm	Holy Hour with Chaplet and Novena

Prayer Advocates' Intention to pray for our parish.

Next Week's Liturgy of the Word. Isaiah 50:4-7, Psalm 21:8-9.17-20.23-24.R.v2, Philippians 2:6-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66.

Last week's collections. Our Lady: £491.41 St. Anselm: £224.00 in addition to £102 from standing orders. Thank you for your continued generosity!

From the desk of Fr Jerry. FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

As Christians and creatures of God, we have our own expectations from Almighty God. Without God's assistance, we seem to be dead and have no real and meaningful life. When Martha met Jesus, she voiced the common expectation. The one whom you love, Lazarus is dead. Indeed Jesus is well known for his miracles, He should have been able to heal him: "he opened the eyes of the blind man, could He not have prevented this man's death?" Martha then expresses her belief in the future resurrection of the dead.

Jesus promises her the gift of resurrection, which begins here, and now for those who believe in him. Jesus' show of distress is a reaction to the mourners who probably failed to understand the significance of the whole event. He further rebukes Martha for her unbelief. The prayer of Jesus underscores his relationship with the Father. Finally, Jesus then calls Lazarus to life. The drama of Jesus raising Lazarus to life is a fulfilment of his earlier words. He is the giver of life and for those who believe in him, eternal life begins here on this earth.

Although Christ loves Lazarus and his sisters when he received the message of his sickness, he stays on for two more days. The purpose is clear. Jesus has authority over life and death and the raising of Lazarus will point to Jesus as the giver of life to all those who believe in him.

Lent and Easter dates: The following are dates and activities of Lent and Easter which require active, conscious and full participation:

Stations of the Cross	Every week during Lent	Fridays 7.00pm at Sacred Heart Tuesdays 1.00pm at Our Lady's Fridays 6.00pm Our Lady's Tuesdays 7.00pm at St Anselm's	Commemoration of the Lord's Passion
Palm Sunday	9 April	Normal Sunday Mass times	Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
Maundy Thursday	13 April	7.30pm at Sacred Heart 7.00pm at Our Lady's with Watching before the Altar of Repose (Adoration) after Mass	Thursday of the Lord's Supper. Renewal of commitments of Eucharistic Ministers
Good Friday	14 April	9.30am at St Anselm's	Ecumenical Walk of Witness followed by service at the Baptist Chapel
		3.00pm at Sacred Heart 3.00pm at Our Lady's	Friday of the Passion of the Lord
Holy Saturday	15 April	8.00pm at Sacred Heart	Blessing of Fire and Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday	16 April	Normal Sunday Mass times	Mass and Renewal of Baptismal vows.

Update on Tree Removal. Thank you all for your patience whilst the work has been ongoing. The church will be accessible all week except on Friday between 8am and 5.30pm when the grounds will be closed for health and safety reasons. Stations of the Cross can continue at 6pm on Friday.

Confessions. Fr Jerry will be available for the sacrament of Reconciliation and confessions at St. Anselm at 11am on Saturday 14 April.

Cemetery Spring Tidy Up. The Parish Team would appreciate your help for the cemetery tidy up on Friday 7 April from 1pm. The gardening is extremely light work and you only need bring a pair of shears and a trowel. We have moved the date to a Friday in an effort to encourage the help of more parishioners. If 30 people turned out we could tidy up all the graves in two hours. Please show us your support. The cemetery is behind St Andrew's C of E Church in Great Billing.

St Alseml's – Tea/Coffee following Mass. We will be unable to meet after Mass on Palm Sunday. Please note that this will now take place on 30th April.

Holy Week with Billing Covenanted Churches Together. As with previous years, there will be the opportunity for shared worship during Holy Week. Monday 10 April at the Methodist Chapel, Tuesday 11 April for Station of the Cross, here at Our Lady's, and Wednesday 12 at St Andrews Church. All services will be at 7.30pm.

Vocations Weekend. The Diocese of Northampton will be holding a vocations weekend for men who would like to explore a vocation to the Priesthood. The weekend will be held here at the Cathedral from the 7-9 April. Accommodation will be provided. For more details please contact Fr Mark at the Cathedral on 01604 714556. Please remember our students and those attending the weekend in your prayers.

Lenten Thoughts. "Let us be generous with our time in going to meet The Lord in Adoration. May all Adoration never cease" (Pope John Paul II).

Every week, and especially during Lent, there are many opportunities to spend time with our Lord:

Every Tuesday: 1pm-2pm at Our Lady's. There will be Stations of the Cross and prayers to the Holy Spirit for our world and our families.

Every Thursday: 1pm-2pm at Our Lady's. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Divine Mercy and a Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour.

Every Saturday: 10am-1pm at Our Lady's. There will be Holy Mass and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

A precious time to "be silent, be still, alone, empty, before your God. Let your God love you."

NYMO Summer Camp. 6-10 August. Minimum donation of £185. Awesome outdoor activities such as archery, bike riding, climbing, raft building and much more alongside Mass, Reconciliation, Adoration, teachings and a full day at Alton Towers. The Camp will be staying at Alton Castle and transport to and from the castle is included in the cost. Please contact Fr Jerry or Lorraine in the parish office if you are interested in attending. For more information, visit <http://www.nymo.org>

Covering of Crosses and other images in Lent.

It was a remnant of an ancient practice of public penance in which the penitents were ritually expelled from the church at the beginning of Lent. After the ritual of public penance fell into disuse, the entire congregation symbolically entered the order of penitents by receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday. In the modern era, it was no longer possible to expel them from the church. Rather, the altar or "Holy of Holies" was shielded from view until they were reconciled to God at Easter.

The Holy Mother Church has kept this tradition and ritual till the present time. In Northampton diocese, this practice of covering of crosses and other images in the church takes place in all churches on the 5th Sunday of Lent. Some of the reasons for these practices are worth considering.

Psychologically, the custom of veiling crosses and images helps us to concentrate on the great essentials of Christ's work of Redemption. These moments of covering define a break from the old as we prepare for the new life in Easter.

Historically, this practice or custom started in Germany from the ninth century, of extending a large cloth before the altar from the beginning of Lent. Although this is true, its significance is gradually losing its meaning. This cloth, called the "Hungertuch" (hunger cloth), hid the altar entirely from the faithful during Lent and was not removed until during the reading of the Passion on Holy Wednesday at the words "the veil of the temple was rent in two."

Educationally, it was a practical way that illiterate lay faithful needed to know that it was Lent. It was a way to catechize the illiterate lay faithful through signs and images in the early days. This form of education encourages an active, conscious and full participation in the liturgy.

In sum, the covering of crosses and other images in the season of Lent engage our senses, which draw us into the mysteries of Christ's passion, death and resurrection.