



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

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

Parish Admin Assistant : Lorraine Foster

Tel: 01604 402301 Email : sacredheartchurch@btconnect.com

Office Hours : Monday to Friday 9.15 -12.15

www.sacredheartnorthampton.org.uk

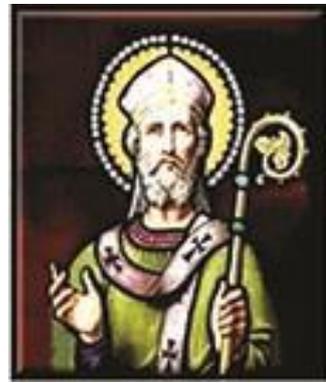
www.ourladyandstanselm.org

Priest in Charge : Father Jerry Manomey

Email: priest@sacredheartnorthampton.org.uk

Deacon : Peter Hurrell

Tel: 01604 811432 Email: topcroft@ebarton.co.uk



MASSES THIS WEEK

St Anselm	Sunday	27 November	8:00am	For the parish
Our Lady	Sunday	27 November	9:15am	Bob O'Donoghue (Foundation Mass)
Our Lady	Monday	28 November	6:00pm	There will be no Mass today
Our Lady	Wednesday	30 November	6:00pm	There will be no Mass today
Our Lady	Saturday	3 December	10:00am	Priest's Intentions, followed by Exposition
St Anselm	Sunday	4 December	8:00am	Barbara Mary White (Foundation Mass)
Our Lady	Sunday	4 December	9:15am	Brian Woods RIP (20 year anniversary)

OTHER EVENTS THIS WEEK

Our Lady	Tuesday	29 November	1:00pm	Parish Prayer Time
St Anselm	Tuesday	29 November	7:00pm	Prayer Group and Exposition
Our Lady	Thursday	1 December	1:00pm	Holy Hour with Chaplet and Novena

Prayer Advocates' Intention to pray for the besieged people of Aleppo and those bringing humanitarian aid.

Next Week's Liturgy of the Word. Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 71:1-2.7-8.12-13.17.R.cf.v7, St Paul to the Romans 15:4-9, Matthew 3:1-12.

Last week's collections. Our Lady: £246.90 St. Anselm: £214.80 in addition to £102 from standing orders. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Last Week's Second Collection. £147.95 for Catholic Youth Services.

Fr Jerry's Advent Reflections. 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT. Theme: To Wait in Hope.

The Season of Advent is a four-week preparation towards the coming of Christ. Advent simply means "to come". The preparation during advent is twofold; preparing for the second coming of Christ from today till December 16 and preparing for the birth of Christ as Saviour from December 17 to 24. The reason why violet chasuble is worn during Advent is that, in addition to the character of preparation, Advent also has a penitential character which has almost died out.

Jesus in the Gospel cautions his disciples that the time of his second coming is unknown just as the Flood took people by surprise during the time of Noah. The men and women of Noah's day drew the wrong conclusion from their ignorance of the time of the Flood and were careless in things pertaining to God. Jesus continues that his second coming will be a time of selection. Some will be taken, others will be left behind. Since the time of his coming is unknown, Jesus admonishes his disciples to stay awake and to be prepared and ready when he comes again.

Let us pray for the strength to wait in Hope.

Diocesan Patronal Festival Mass in honour of Mary Immaculate. There will be a special Mass at the Cathedral to celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception at 7pm on Thursday 8 December. All are welcome.

Advent Retreat. Saturday 10th December 10am – 1pm at Sacred Heart. Fr Edmund Niezer, who kindly helped out when Fr Jerry was away, will lead the retreat. The day will begin with Mass and will include a talk and the opportunity for confession. All are welcome. There will be tea and coffee in the hall afterwards.

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.

Mass Intentions. If you have requested a Mass and would like to bring the gifts up during that Mass, please let the Sacristan know in good time before Mass begins.

St Gregory's Catholic Primary School. The school is seeking staff for January 2017. Please see their website www.stgregoryscatholicprimaryschool.org.uk for their current vacancies or contact them on 01604 403511.

Catholic Schools Advent Carol Service. On Tuesday 6 December at 6:30pm, our Catholic Schools will be celebrating Advent with a Carol Service at the Cathedral. Please do come and help us as we are 'waiting in Hope.'

Festival of Carols & Lessons. Wednesday 14 December at 12pm & 6:30pm in the Auditorium at Thomas Becket Catholic School. Limited availability so please secure your ticket by contacting Mrs Harrison on 01604 493211 or email office@thomasbecket.org.uk. Light refreshments will be served following each celebration.

A day of creativity and reflection at Turvey Monastery. Saturday 17 December 9.30am to 5pm. Take a retreat away from the festive celebration rush. Using guided meditation and poetry for the morning to inspire our inner creativity, you may then choose to draw, paint, write, sew or just relax embraced by the peace of Turvey Monastery. Experience as an artist is not necessary. Some art materials supplied. Lovely lunch, tea and coffee included, cost is £35 and full payment goes to support the Monastery. For more information or to book contact Johan Barber on 07900 864674 or barberjohan@gmail.com.

Food Bank: The SVP will have enough funds to provide hampers this year and ask if we could support the local Food Banks instead, which provide vital food and supplies for those in need. Supplies will be collected today and next Sunday, 4th December. Here is a list of items, any of which would be gratefully received:

Food Items:

Milk (UHT), Tea Bags, Coffee, Breakfast Cereal, Tinned Spaghetti, Meat (Tinned), Vegetables (Tinned), Tuna / Fish (Tinned), Fruit (Tinned), Rice Pudding, Soup (Tinned), Cup-A-Soups, Rice (500g), Pasta Sauce, Beans, Biscuits.

Baby Essentials:

Disposable Nappies, any size, Baby Wipes, Baby Food, Baby Milk (powdered or in cartons), Sterilising Tablets, Breast Pads, Baby Oil / Cream, Nappy Rash Cream.

Toiletries:

Deodorant (mens and womens), Shampoo, Conditioner, Shower Gel, Soap, Moisturiser, Sanitary Wear.

Home Care:

Washing-Up Liquid, Laundry Detergent, (liquid, powder or tabs), Antibacterial Spray, Disinfectant, Toilet Cleaner, Bleach, Cleaning Cloths /Sponges, Washing-Up Brush, Dustpan and Brush.

Please bring items to church on the first two Sundays of Advent (November 27th or December 4th).

Christmas is a time when a lot of families struggle and the Food Banks' work becomes even more vital. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Ring Pulls. Many of you have been collecting ring pulls from food and drink cans for the Philippines Community Fund. These are used by family groups living on and around the rubbish dump shanty towns of Manila. They recycle them into bags, purses and items of jewellery, and the money raised from their sale helps children off the rubbish dumps and into school. We are told each ring pull is worth 3p to them, so the 222Kg that we have already sent them will have helped to raise about £22,976, for which the charity send their most sincere thanks and hope you will continue your marvellous work! There is even more need for ring pulls now as the charity, now called the Purple Community Fund, has expanded its recycling work to six different countries, including ours - so please encourage your friends to collect and bring them, either to the church, or to 45, Meadow Lane, in Little Houghton. For more information please visit: www.p-c-f.org

DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON



PASTORAL LETTER FOR ADVENT 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the four short weeks of Advent, we are asked to look forward and to look back. We are asked to look forward to the second coming of Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. And we are asked to look back to his first coming, when he was born in the stable at Bethlehem.

In the Advent readings, we hear calls to "Stay awake!" to "Repent!" and to "Prepare a way for the Lord", and to "Be patient until the Lord's coming". Only in the last week of Advent do we look back to "the maiden with child, who will give birth to a Son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means 'God is with us'".

Of course, for those of us with families, this time of the year is filled with excitement and the demands that go with bringing family and friends together at Christmas. Is there any room for God when there is so much to do? I say that, not to make anyone feel guilty, but to recognise the real pressures, especially when some of the family are not Christians, and have other expectations of this time of the year. Even our schools are in a whirl of activity before the end of term.

So, I hope that, at this Mass of the first Sunday of Advent, there are moments for you to be open to God's loving presence with you now. Our God is the God of tenderness and compassion, the God of mercy, who has touched us in the Year of Mercy just finished, and who continues to embrace us in his merciful love.

The busyness of this time of the year, our looking forward and our looking back, must not distract us from Jesus being with us now. How many of us are open to his presence in our neighbours and in the people around us at Mass? How many of us have heard him speak to us in the readings of the Mass? How many of us will be open to his presence when the bread and the wine are consecrated and we receive his Body and Blood in Holy Communion? He is present, too, in the priest as he celebrates the Mass.

When we leave Mass, do we see Christ in those who are very different from us, the stranger and the refugee? Do we see Christ in the immigrant groups who contribute so much to our communities? Are we alert to the possibility that people living near us may be trafficked and enslaved? The psalmist writes: "It is the Lord who protects the stranger." Perhaps that must be done by you and by me. Above all, we must guard against harbouring any prejudice in our hearts.

So, stay awake to the presence of Jesus with you in these weeks of Advent, in keeping calm, in helping one another and in making space especially when there is too much to do.

Prepare a way for the Lord for yourself in prayer and in the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance. Prepare a way for the Lord for others by your patience and your kindness. Then you will see Christ in others and they will see Christ in you.

I am really privileged travelling around the Diocese and seeing the goodness in you and the way in which Jesus works in you. I am really privileged in gaining some idea of the impact of the Year of Mercy on our lives, especially on the lives of those of us who think that we are the world's worst! The Lord is with you.

The gift that each of us can prepare for this Christmas is a gift based on God's mercy, the gift of peace in our souls and the gift of the hope of that peace for others. It is the gift of Christ himself, who has come, who will come again, and is with us now.

With the uncertainties and the fears that can surround us, our security and our happiness is not in everything being bigger and better this Christmas, but in our coming to know Jesus as we prepare for his coming again, and as we prepare to celebrate his birth.

May the almighty and merciful God sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's coming and enrich you with his blessing. Amen.

With my prayers in this season of Advent,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads '+ Peter'. The plus sign is a simple cross, and the name 'Peter' is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Bishop of Northampton