



# 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	17 December	8:00pm	For the parish
Our Lady	Sunday	17 December	9:15am	Ray & Pat Bridgman (Foundation Mass)
Our Lady	Monday	18 December	7:00pm	All souls
Our Lady	Wednesday	20 December	6:00pm	For the sick
Our Lady	Saturday	23 December	10:00am	For the parish & Exposition
St Anselm	Sunday	24 December	8:00am	Debra O'Hanlon RIP
Our Lady	Sunday	24 December	9:15am	For the parish
St Anselm	Sunday	24 December	9.30pm	Vigil Mass (Carol Service at 9pm)
Our Lady	Sunday	24 December	11.00pm	Vigil Mass (Carol Service at 10.30pm)
Our Lady	Monday	25 December	9.15am	Bishop Francis Thomas - Christmas morning Mass

## OTHER EVENTS THIS WEEK

Our Lady	Tuesday	19 December	1:00pm	Parish Prayer Time and Exposition
St Anselm	Tuesday	19 December	7:00pm	Prayer Group and Exposition
Our Lady	Wednesday	20 December	2.00pm	Prayer at the Shrine. Experience the peace and power of silent prayer.
Our Lady	Thursday	21 December	1:00pm	Holy Hour with Chaplet and Novena

**Prayer Advocates' Intention** to pray that we may bring joy to the world in this Holy season.

## Liturgy of the Word:

**24<sup>th</sup> December (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent):** Samuel 7:1-5.8-12.14.16, Ps 88.2-5.27.29.R.cf.v2, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38.

**Vigil Mass:** Isaiah 9:1-7, Ps 95:1-3, 11-13. R. Lk 2:11, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14.

**Midnight Mass:** Isaiah 62:11-12, Ps 96:1.6.11-12, Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:15-20.

**Christmas Day Mass:** Isaiah 52:7-10, Ps 97:1-6.R.v3 Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-18.

**Please pray for our sick and elderly.** Gillian Brockway, Bernard Weston, Mary Percival, Felicidade Hatcher, Pat Landergan, Betty Picknell, Sonia Borucki and Ian Smith.

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT. Theme: A Joyful voice cries in the Wilderness.

The season of Advent presents us the personality of John the Baptist. The Gospel of John perceives this man as the forerunner of Jesus Christ. John the Baptist joyfully comes to proclaim the fulfilment of God's plan and prepare us for the coming of Christ.

He does not draw attention to himself in any way and does not project himself to be the Priests and the Levites. He makes three specific denials. He says he is not the Messiah; neither is he Elijah nor the Prophet. He denied being the Messiah because the Messiah was among them but they did not know. He denied being Elijah because he has not come to arrange all disputes. Secondly, he has come to anoint the Messiah to his kingly office. He was not the Prophet. This is because he does not see himself as the greatest of all the prophets, Prophet par excellence.

If John the Baptist is none of those popular figures then who is he? What is he doing? The first question is answered from Isaiah 40:3; He is nothing but a VOICE inviting men to prepare the way for the King. John the Baptist clearly sees Jesus as his superior, "... I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals ..." His final act of utter humility is when he proclaims; "He must increase, I must decrease" (John 3:30).

Christians are supposed to be persons to be associated with joy. Unfortunately, people outside the church do not associate Christians with joy. They are more likely to associate Christians with long faces, with carrying the cross and with suffering. Also, our secular world associate happiness with pleasure and accumulation of material things, rather our genuine happiness flows from the knowledge that life has both meaning and purpose. Like John the Baptist, we should know who we are? And what we are in this world to do? We can be assured of happiness at all times when we remind ourselves that For God loves us so much that he sent his only Son to us on a Christmas day. St. Augustine understood this when he wrote; "we are made for you, Lord, and our hearts will not rest until they rest in you." There is a joyful voice in us that will spring up in the sight of all nations.

Our prayer today is, my soul glories the Lord, my spirit rejoices in my God, my saviour.

**Parish Meal.** We have booked the Oriental Paradise restaurant again this year for Thursday 25 January 2018 arriving at 7.30pm to eat at 8pm. We hope that as many parishioners as possible can make it. Tickets at £16 each will be available from the Parish Team after each Mass in December.

**Prayer and Praise night to crossover to New Year.** Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December from 10pm - 12midnight at Sacred Heart Church. Everyone is welcome to thank, praise and worship God as we crossover into the New Year.

**Penitential Liturgy:** At St Gregory's on Tuesday 19th December at 7pm and at the Cathedral on Monday 18th December at 7pm.

**Confession.** Fr Jerry will hear confession at Sacred Heart at 5.30pm on Saturday 23 December.

**Christmas Offering.** Please note that the offertory collection at all three Christmas services on Sunday evening and Monday morning will be your personal offering to Fr Jerry who gives part of his Christmas offering to the Ordinariate. The collections taken during the normal Advent Sunday morning Masses will go to the parish in the usual way.

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

**Sacred Heart:**

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December:** No evening Vigil Mass  
**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December:** 10.30am Mass (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent)  
5.30pm - Family Vigil Mass for Christmas  
**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December:** 10.30am - Christmas morning Mass

**St Anselm:**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December:** 8.00am Mass (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent)  
9.00pm Carol Service  
9.30pm Vigil Mass  
**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December:** No Christmas morning Mass

**Our Lady of Perpetual Succour:**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December:** 9.15am Mass (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent)  
10.30pm Carol Service  
11.00pm Vigil Mass  
**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December:** 9.15am Christmas morning Mass

**Please be aware of the obligation to attend Sunday mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent AND a separate obligation to attend a Christmas Mass.**