



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	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	Fr Damien Walne - Vigil Mass (Carol Service at 10.30pm)
Our Lady	Monday	25 December	9.15am	Bishop Francis Thomas - Christmas morning Mass
Our Lady	Wednesday	27 December	6.00pm	No Mass today
Our Lady	Saturday	30 December	10.00am	For all souls & Exposition
St Anselm	Sunday	31 December	8.00am	For the parish
Our Lady	Sunday	31 December	9.15am	Alfons Solujan RIP

OTHER EVENTS THIS WEEK

Our Lady	Tuesday	26 December	1.00pm	Parish Prayer Time and Exposition
St Anselm	Tuesday	26 December	7.00pm	Prayer Group and Exposition
Our Lady	Wednesday	27 December	2.00pm	Prayer at the Shrine. Experience the peace and power of silent prayer.
Our Lady	Thursday	28 December	1.00pm	Holy Hour with Chaplet and Novena

Prayer Advocates' Intention to pray in thanksgiving for the Graces brought by the Christ Child.

Next Week's Liturgy of the Word. Jonah 3:1-5.10, Psalm 24:4-9. R.v4, Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20.

Previous two week's collections. Our Lady: £478.60 St. Anselm: £414.23 in addition to £170 from standing orders. Thank you for your continued generosity!

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT. Theme: Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.

The last Sunday of Advent journey to Christmas is dedicated to Mary. The meaning of Mary's name is "excellence". Her name underscores what God intends to do in the life of this teenage girl. It is true that Mary never applied to become the Mother of the Son of God. Definitely, she had her own plans in life but God had a greater plan for her. The greeting of Angel Gabriel to Mary was: "Rejoice so highly favoured". This greeting prompted fear and inadequacy to Mary, which led to the question "how can this be since I am a virgin?" Gabriel supplies the answer by stressing the unique identity of the Son she will conceive and the working of the Holy Trinity.

The Lord was with Mary in the form of the Holy Spirit coming down upon her. The Lord was Mary in the power of the Most High covering her with its shadow. The Lord was with her in the form of the child in her womb. The gospel of Luke connects the annunciation of Jesus with the conception of John to stress how God works mysteriously among humanity.

Consequently, Mary said, "Yes" despite the all the unforeseen difficulties that will come her way in the future. In return, God gave Mary more joy and peace and hope and love than any carols of a choir.

Mary has become a model for all believers because she responded wholeheartedly to God's plan by saying; "I am the handmaid of God". In this Christmas, is God asking me to do anything that makes me feel quite not prepared? May the Joy of Mary inspire you.

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 are £16 each. If anyone would like a ticket, please contact Karen or Pauline direct Lorraine in the parish office.

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

Streetchurch. Our two churches are responsible have been asked to stand in and provide lunch at Streetchurch on New Year's Eve **Sunday 31 December 2017** and we would welcome soup, sandwiches, cakes and fruit to be brought to the two Masses that morning. We will not put a list at the back of the church this time but would really appreciate if parishioners could help us provide enough food and bring it to the 8am or 9.15am Masses and we will collect from the porch. With it being New Year's Eve and following Christmas we appreciate we are asking a lot of you!

Cathedral Campaign. There is a poster on the board at the back of the churches giving an update on the progress of the Cathedral campaign.

Please note that the office will be closed on the bank holidays over the Christmas and New Year.

Fr Jerry would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.