



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	Saturday	24 December	9:30pm	Debra O'Hanlon RIP; Mary and Les Standing RIP; Lea Varela RIP
Our Lady	Sunday	25 December	9:15am	Bishop Francis Thomas (Foundation Mass)
Our Lady	Monday	26 December	10:00am	John Christopher Delaney RIP
Our Lady	Wednesday	28 December	6:00pm	For the sick
Our Lady	Saturday	31 December	10:00am	Fr Dennis Roberts(Foundation Mass) followed by Exposition
St Anselm	Sunday	1 January	8:00am	For the parish
Our Lady	Sunday	1 January	9:15am	Heather Webb (Foundation Mass)

OTHER EVENTS THIS WEEK

St Anselm	Saturday	24 December	9:00pm	Carol Service
Our Lady	Tuesday	27 December	1:00pm	Parish Prayer Time
St Anselm	Tuesday	27 December	7:00pm	Prayer Group and Exposition
Our Lady	Thursday	29 December	1:00pm	Holy Hour with Chaplet and Novena

Feastdays: Monday - St Stephen, Wednesday - Holy Innocents.

Prayer Advocates' Intention to pray for peace in the world.

Next Week's Liturgy of the Word. Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm Ps 71:1-2.7-8.10-13.R.cf.v11, Ephesians 3:2-3.5-6, Matthew 2:1-12.

25TH DECEMBER, CHRISTMAS SUNDAY

The Feast of Christmas, 'the mass of Christ' is not one of the Church's earliest festivals. The birth of our Lord used to be celebrated on January 6th in union with the visit of the Magi. The feast of the Nativity of the Lord became distinct in the Eastern Church during the 3rd century, and at Rome about the year 300. It is very likely that the selection of the date, December 25th was due to an effort to supplant the great Roman solar feast 'natalis solis invicti' (the birthday of the unconquerable sun-god) by the celebration of the earthly birth of 'the Light of the world'. "Who indeed is as unconquerable as our Lord", wrote St John Chrysostom in the 4th century, "He is the Sun of Justice".

A prominent symbolism of the Christmas liturgy is light. The human birth of Christ, the Light of world, chases away the darkness of sin and division. Christ the Light, shines on humanity and the whole world. The birth of Jesus marks the beginning of a new era in God's relationship with humanity. Jesus Christ is God's greatest good news and the greatest joy to humanity. We are to be the bearers of the good news and the joy of Christmas to our troubled world. May Jesus Christ, the Eternal Word of God truly dwell in us and among us.

From Fr Jerry: I would like to wish you all a joyous and peaceful Christmas. I pray for hope, peace and unity to everyone and who has come to appreciate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ during this Christmas season.

Thank you! A very big thank you to all those who have volunteered their time and efforts this year to help keep our parish running. There are so many people who help out on a regular basis; Sacristan, altar servers, those who clean the churches, flower arrangers, those who count the collection, catechists who help children to prepare for sacraments and families to prepare for baptism, those who deal with parish finances, readers, Eucharistic ministers, those who lead prayer groups and adoration, musicians, those who do the welcoming ministry, deacons, ordinariate priests and our parish chairperson. Without you all, our parish would be a quieter, lonelier place but with your help, it is a family. Thank you.

Monday Mass: Please note that Mass on Monday 26 December will be at 10am.

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.

