

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;

hide not your face from me.

First reading

(Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18)

God put Abraham to the test. ‘Abraham, Abraham’ he called. ‘Here I am’ he replied. ‘Take your son,’ God said ‘your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.’ When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. ‘Abraham, Abraham’ he said. ‘I am here’ he replied. ‘Do not raise your hand against the boy’ the angel said. ‘Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.’ Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son. The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. ‘I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.’

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 115

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

I trusted, even when I said:

‘I am sorely afflicted,’

O precious in the eyes of the Lord

is the death of his faithful. R.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;

you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;

I will call on the Lord’s name. R.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil

before all his people,

in the courts of the house of the Lord,

in your midst, O Jerusalem. R.

Second reading

(1 Peter 8:31-34)

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God’s right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

From the bright cloud the Father’s voice was heard:

‘This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.’

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel

(Mark 9:2-10)

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: ‘Rabbi,’ he said ‘it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, ‘This is my Son, the

Beloved. Listen to him.’ Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one

what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they

discussed what ‘rising from the dead’ could mean.

Homily

(This is the time for listening instead of reading the Newsletter)

Profession of Faith

The Nicene ("Niceno-Constantinopolitan") Creed

I believe in one God,

the Father almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the Only Begotten Son of God,

born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God, begotten, not made,

consubstantial with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

At the words that follow, up to and including ‘and became man’, all bow.

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,

and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,

and rose again on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead

and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son

is adored and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Communion Antiphon

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;

listen to him.

Prayers after Mass

Prayer to St Joseph

Hail Joseph the just, wisdom is with you;

Blessed are you among men and blessed is Jesus,

The fruit of Mary, your faithful spouse.

Holy Joseph, worthy foster-father of Jesus Christ,

Pray for us sinners and

Obtain divine wisdom for us from God,

Now and at the hour of our death. AMEN.

Hail Mary.

Parish litany of Saints.

NEWSLETTER

Catholic Parish of St John Henry Newman

- HIGH WYCOMBE – Roman Catholic *Diocese of Northampton*

OLG: Our Lady of Grace, 29 Squirrel Lane, HP12 4RY

SW: St Wulstan’s, Hollis Road, HP13 7UN

TAKE THIS NEWSLETTER HOME. DON’T LEAVE IT IN CHURCH!



HOLY MASSES FOR THE WEEK

28th February 2021

2nd Sunday of LENT

Psalter: Week 2

9:00am (SW)

Holy Mass

11:30am (OLG)

Holy Mass

During the Week

Tuesday (SW) Feria

10:00am

Holy Mass

Friday (OLG) Feria

10:00am

Holy Mass

N.B.: No Rosary or Adoration before Mass. The church will be opened 15 mins before the start of Mass. Stewards will be at church just 20 mins before Mass starts.

Monday & Thursday Mass will be at 10am

via live streaming only.

The Prayer of Abraham

There is a voice that suddenly resonates in Abraham’s life. A voice that invites him to undertake a journey that he knows is absurd: a voice that spurs him to uproot himself from his homeland, from his family roots, in order to move toward a new, different future. And it is all based on a promise, in which he needs only to have trust. And to have trust in a promise is not easy. It takes **courage**. And Abraham had trust. The Bible is silent on the steps of the first patriarch. The logic of things leaves us to presume that he had worshipped other divinities; perhaps he was a wise man, accustomed to observing the heavens and the stars. The Lord, in fact, promised him that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars that speckle the sky. And **Abraham sets out**. He listens to the voice of God and trusts in His word. This is important: **he trusts the Word of God**. And with this departure of his, a new way of understanding the relationship with God arose. It is for this reason that the patriarch Abraham is present in the great Jewish, Christian and Islamic spiritual traditions as the perfect man of God, capable of being submissive to Him, even when His will proves arduous, if not completely incomprehensible. Abraham is thus the man of the Word. When God speaks, man becomes the receptor of that Word and his life the place in which it seeks to become flesh. This is a great novelty in man’s religious journey: the life of a believer begins to be understood as a **vocation**, thus as a calling, as the place where a promise is fulfilled; and he moves in the world not so much under the weight of an enigma, but with the power of that promise, which one day will be fulfilled. And Abraham **believed** God’s promise. He believed and he set out without knowing where he was going — thus says the Letter to the Hebrews (cf. 11:8). But he had trust. In reading the Book of Genesis, we discover that Abraham experienced prayer in constant faithfulness to that Word, which periodically appeared along his path. In short, we could say that in Abraham’s life faith becomes history. **Faith becomes history**. Indeed Abraham, with his life, with his example teaches us this path, this path in which faith becomes history. God is no longer seen only in cosmic phenomena, as a distant God, who can instill fear. The God of Abraham becomes “my God”, the God of my personal history, who guides my steps, who does not abandon me; the God of my days, companion in my adventures; the God Providence. I ask myself and I ask

you: do we have this experience with God? “My God”, the God who accompanies me, the God of my personal history, the God who guides my steps, who does not abandon me, the God of my days? Do we have this experience? Let us think about this a bit. Abraham’s experience is also attested to in one of the most original texts of the history of spirituality: the *Memorial of Blaise Pascal*. It begins like this: “God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob, not of the philosophers and intellectuals. Certitude, certitude; feeling, joy, peace. God of Jesus Christ”. This memorial, written on a small parchment and found after his death, sewn inside the philosopher’s clothing, expresses not an intellectual reflection that a wise man like him can conceive of God, but the living, experienced sense of His presence. Pascal even noted the precise instant in which he felt that reality, having finally encountered it: the evening of 23 November 1654. It is not the abstract God or the cosmic God, no. He is the God of a person, of a calling, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, of Jacob, the God who is certainty, who is feeling, who is joy.

“Abraham’s prayer is expressed first by deeds: a man of silence, he constructs an altar to the Lord at each stage of his journey”

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2570). Abraham does not build a temple, but scatters the path of stones that recall God’s passage. A surprising God, as when He pays a visit in the form of three guests, whom Abraham and Sarah welcomed with care, and the three announce the birth of their son Isaac (cf. Gen 18:1-15). Abraham was 100 years old and his wife was more or less 90. And they believed, they trusted God. And Sarah, his wife, conceived. At that age! This is the God of Abraham, our God who accompanies us. That Abraham becomes familiar with God, even able to argue with Him, but ever faithful. He speaks with God and argues. Up to the supreme test, when God asks him to sacrifice his very son Isaac, the son of his elder years, his sole heir. Here Abraham lives faith as a tragedy, as a groping walk in the night, under a sky that, this time, is starless. And many times this also happens to us, to walk in the dark but with faith. God himself will halt Abraham’s hand, already prepared to strike, because He saw his willingness truly complete (cf. Gen 22:1-19).

Brothers and sisters, let us learn from Abraham; let us learn how to pray with faith: to listen to the Lord, to walk, to dialogue, up to arguing. Let us not be afraid to argue with God! I will even say something that may seem like heresy. Many times I have heard people say to me: “You know, this happened to me and I became very angry with God” — “You had the courage to be angry at God?” — “Yes, I got angry” — “But this is a form of prayer”. Because only a son or daughter is capable of being angry at their dad and then encounter him again. Let us learn from Abraham to pray with faith, to dialogue and to argue, but always willing to accept the Word of God and to put it into practice. With God, let us learn to speak like a child with his dad: to listen to him, to reply, to argue. But transparent like a child with his dad. This is how Abraham teaches us to pray.

Pope Francis, General Audience, Apostolic Palace, 3rd June 2020



Parish Office: St Wulstan's, Hollis Road, High Wycombe, HP137UN

Tel: 01494 438300

Parish email: newmanparish@hotmail.com

Parish Website: www.stjhnparish.org

Parish Secretary: Mrs Ann Masat

Newsletter email: newmanparishnewsletter@hotmail.com

Parish Priest: Rev. Benedetto D'Autilia

Presbytery: 66 Rowan Ave, High Wycombe, HP13 6JB
(for emergencies) Tel: **01494 531523**

Deacon: Rev. Mr Paul Priestley Tel: 07591 462894

deaconpaulpriestley@northamptondiocese.org

Safeguarding Reps: John Wiggins & Judith Forster

Housebound Visit Coordinator: Catri Plummer Tel: 01494 639686

Reminder - Please, use the two telephone numbers in **bold** to reach Fr Benedetto: the Office number and the Presbytery number. Please leave a message on the answerphone and you will be called back ASAP.

The **weekly newsletter** is generally available at all Masses.

However, if copies run out or you aren't able to come to Mass you can still

keep informed by going to the front page of the parish website

<http://www.stjhnparish.org/> where a link will take you straight to the

latest newsletter.

PLEASE, IF YOU CAN, ATTEND MASS DURING THE WEEK INSTEAD OF SUNDAY

Masses via live streaming

Sunday 9.00am, **Mon/Tue/Thu** 10.00am

YouTube Channel: Parish of SJHN High Wycombe

Link: <https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCRQXTp-PWlr4Czyw-rGbiqw/videos>

If you SUBSCRIBE to the YouTube Channel it will be easier for you to find the channel in the future. You can also find a direct link on our Parish Website.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As You are already there, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Do not forget! WE ARE STILL SOCIAL DISTANCING 2metres

Before entering the church, face covering MUST be worn over both mouth and nose. Households who are not 'linked' must maintain social distancing (2 metres) during Mass.

Capacity per church

•St Wulstan's:

44 Faithful = 36 single seats &
x2 households (up to 4 members each)
2 Stewards & 2 Clergy = **48 Total**

• Our Lady's:

56 Faithful = 15 single seats &
x4 households (up to 4 members)
x3 households (up to 3 members)
x8 household (up to 2 members)
2 Stewards & 2 Clergy = **60 Total**

Anniversaries of death: Margret Johnson, Elzbieta Smereka, James McHugh, James Ceughlin, Sophia Lafferty, Tony Centauro, Pat King, Stanley Brown, Alex Vogel, Angela Newham, Margaret McGillick, Mary Rolfe, Joseph DeCruz, John Scanlan, Paul Wood, Nora Sparks, James Fury, Jim Price, John Priestley, Annie Davidson. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen*

CONFESSIONS By appointment presently.

Guidance for Parishioners attending Mass

Available on our website or church noticeboard.

Requiescant in Pacem RIP

Teresa Pylnikow – Requiem Mass on 1st March at Our Lady's
Patrick O'Shaughnessy – Funeral Service on 8th March at Our Lady's
Annalise Miller – 23rd March at St Wulstan's
Eithne Neal at Our Lady's

Churches are open for Public Worship 3rd NATIONAL LOCKDOWN

The UK Government has permitted Communal Worship to continue during this new Lockdown as long as social distancing is strictly maintained and that there is no socialising in church before or afterwards (It includes the car park). We hope to keep our churches open for the celebration of Mass but this will depend on the availability of stewards and on advice from our Diocesan Curia.

We will update our website with the latest information as it is received. **Please DO NOT visit the Parish Office unless it has been prearranged.**

TRACK & TRACE – NHS

Please note that it is highly encouraged to adhere to the 'Track and Trace' strategy, where details need to be provided **each time** you come to church either by including your **name and contact number** in the book provided or by clicking on the **NHS app QR code**. This is so we know who is at each Mass and you can be contacted if someone attending **that** Mass is later found to be infected with Covid-19.

Additionally, and to keep everyone as safe as possible, please wait for the stewards to show you to a seat before Mass and for them to guide you to the exit after Mass. This is to maintain social distancing, so if you could remain seated at the end of Mass until asked to leave, that would be very helpful. Thank you for your co-operation.

Lockdown 3 – Supporting Parishioners

Many people are feeling that this lockdown is more of a challenge than the others.
Is that YOU?

Would you welcome a chat with another parishioner?

If so then please either email **judith.forster1@icloud.com** with your name and telephone number

Or

phone Judith **07720976575** with your details and we will put you in touch with another parishioner so you can have a chat.

Do you need help during these difficult times?

The High Wycombe SVP (Society of St Vincent de Paul)

- **24hr phone line (07891 693 735)**, we will arrange for an experienced member of the parish SVP to call you back.

- An **email address coronasvphighwycombe@gmail.com** which will be monitored from 09:00 to 21:00. You will receive a response as soon as possible (and within the hour if you submit a request for support).

DONATIONS

You can **Gift Aid** all your donations by phone and online. Otherwise, for a Gift Aid form just ask Fr Benedetto to hand you one.

ONLINE DONATION on the Diocesan Website:

<https://northamptondiocese.org/donate/>

Scroll down to find the 'Donate' button and follow the instructions on the Catholic Diocese of Northampton Virgin money giving page. Please ensure the parish name and area, e.g. *SJHN, High Wycombe*, that the donation is intended for is indicated in the notes section of the donate page. Please include your full name too.

STANDING ORDER via donor's own bank:

You can also set up a standing order for donations to the parish using either your online bank account or in branch. The information required to make the donation is as follows.

Bank: NatWest Sort Code: 60-06-11 Account Number: 46898093

Account Name: Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust

Payment Ref: SJHN, High Wycombe

TELEPHONE – 'Giving Tuesday'

To donate simply call **01604 712065** with your debit or credit card details.

Thank you for your generosity!

Last Week's COLLECTION

Collection including standing orders **£962.67**

Catholic Youth Service **£131.97**

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEK

CAFOD – Lent Fast Day

VITAEOPUS – EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

For Parishioners who may be job hunting or going self-employed due to the pandemic, Sacred Heart Parish Luton has set up a free online career coaching programme www.vitaeopus.co.uk providing a wealth of information, tools, practical advice and activities to help anyone wanting to find new employment opportunities, especially if they are not receiving any outplacement or other back to work support. Please pass on the web link to anyone who might find it useful.

PARISH

Links for STATIONS OF THE CROSS

VIDEOS: <https://www.catholic.org/prayers/station.php>

<https://bustedhalo.com/video/virtual-stations-of-the-cross>

Meditations by St John H. Newman:

<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/stations-of-the-cross-9132>

Parish Bingo

THANK YOU to our Social Committee for organising this beautiful event and to all who have taken part to it the week before last.

Virtual Parish Coffee Mornings

These will take place on alternate Wednesdays from 11-12 noon.

The dates until Easter are: **March 3rd** **March 17th** **March 31st**

The Zoom link is the same as the one we used this week.

If you want to attend but do not have the Zoom link then email:

jhnzoom2021@gmail.com and the link will be sent to you.

It would be great to see you there for a cuppa and a chat.

Repository at St Wulstan's

Mother's Day, St. Patrick's Day and Easter Cards available from the Repository in the narthex after Mass on Tuesdays and Sundays.

Real Easter Eggs

No longer available in supermarkets or from Gill this year.

Orders: www.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk For questions about delivery or placing orders email info@meaningfulchocolate.co.uk Tel: 01948831 043

The Meaningful Chocolate Company Ltd. 584 Knutsford Road, Warrington, WA4 1JE.

St Wulstan's Choir

Following its virtual Carol Service (still available via the link <https://tinyurl.com/StWCarols2020>), St Wulstan's Choir has put together two further Carols: the "Coventry Carol" (which includes a verse to celebrate the Holy Innocents <https://youtu.be/Uuiv-1BKwNM>) and "In Dulci Jubilo" (<https://youtu.be/pNNSHSz6cWs>) which unites us all in the wish to be included in the divine celebration of Christmas. We hope you will want to view and listen to them.

Companions in Christ

Meeting on **Zoom** on Tuesdays evenings. **7.30pm** doors open, **7.45pm** start, **9pm** finish. Keep in touch, read Scripture, share our faith, listen to God and pray together now that we cannot mingle after Mass. This is a new opportunity for the Catholics of the area to come together every week if they want to. Please email Sarah Priestley mrs_s_priestley@hotmail.com or Catri Plummer c.plummer@ntlworld.com for the Zoom details.

DIOCESE

Called & Gifted

The Called and Gifted Discernment Process of Sherry Weddell and the Catherine of Siena Institute is now available to parishes and communities ONLINE. See <https://www.calledandgifted.org.uk/> Called and Gifted is designed to help clergy and laity discern the charisms God has given them for mission and service. It begins with a teaching workshop in which participants complete a Spiritual Gifts Inventory, then a one-to-one

interview process, and a follow-up, in which participants learn how to develop and use the charisms identified. More details are given on the website, including an easy-to-use booking process.

Pathways of Prayer

Consider joining online the diocesan course on prayer? Enrol on the website: <https://formationpathways.co.uk/>

You can also watch a introductory video that features our Bishop on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTWAABdGzYRI&feature=youtu.be>

Would you like to learn more about your faith?

Consider joining online to follow the **Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies** or **Diocesan Certificate in Religious Studies**? Both courses offer the same eight modules in Scripture and Catholic Theology with the CCRS leading to a nationally recognised qualification. Those who follow the CCRS/DCRS say they gain a great deal from the course, deepening their knowledge and understanding of their faith. To find out more about the course, contact Steve O'Brien E-mail: obrien@nores.org.uk or for an application form contact Ann Collon E-mail: admin@nores.org.uk or visit our website: www.nores.org.uk/ / Adult Education

OTHER

CAFOD Appeal for Lent

Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Please give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support. You can donate on-line at cafod.org.uk/give or by using the CAFOD envelope. You can also easily donate by text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10. Texts cost £10 plus standard message rate. If you'd like to give but don't want to receive marketing information, text LENTNOINFO to 70460. Deacon Paul is also walking alongside Abdella this Lent by walking 10,000 steps every day for 40 days. You can sponsor him at <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/cafod-walk-for-water-20212021>

CAFOD Walk for water

This Lent, CAFOD has invited us to join in the Big Walk for Water. Deacon Paul will be walking 10,000 steps every day of Lent to raise money so that CAFOD can reach more vulnerable families around the world with clean water and other vital support. Deacon Paul's target is £1000 and you can sponsor him by going to <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/cafod-walk-for-water-20212021> So far £265 has been raised, with much thanks.

10,000 steps for 40 days is quite a challenge, however CAFOD is also encouraging as many members of the Catholic community to walk 10,000 steps (5 miles, or less) on **Saturday 20th February** starting at 2pm. Details of how you can set up a sponsorship 'Just Giving' page for this event can be found by going to the cafod.org.uk website and towards the bottom of the first page click on the link in the 'join the big walk for water' section. Please e-mail the parish office if you are setting up a 'Just Giving' page so that we can publicise your page in the newsletter.

ROSARY Group in Wycombe

All Welcome! Every Wednesday evening 7.45pm - 9pm via Zoom. The evening includes group prayer, readings, praise and worship and praying the Rosary. Please feel free to join in on a flexible basis. For joining details, contact Deacon Brin on 07931 607249 or email: brin.dunsire@gmail.com

ALPHA Course

There will be an Alpha course taking place online via Zoom meetings, on **Monday evenings at 7:45** sign-in for an 8pm start, beginning on **Monday 1st March**. The Alpha course is a series of informal evenings, designed as an introduction to the basics of the Christian faith in a way which allows for questions, discussions and a free exchange of views, in a welcoming and easy-going atmosphere. Anyone interested, please contact **Deacon Brin** by phone or text to 07931 607249 or on brin.dunsire@gmail.com, for the Zoom codes or any other queries.

Online Faith Resources

FAMILY <https://opusdei.org/en/tag/working-on-trust/>

<https://opusdei.org/en/section/christian-life-other-resources/>

FOR MARRIED COUPLES <https://smartloving.org/breakthrough/>

THE YOUTH OPTION <https://lifeteen.com/>

CHILDREN'S <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturg>