

Third Sunday of Ordinary Time - 21 January 2024

Parish of St Anne, Wendover

In the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton
and sharing Church and Centre with Wendover Free Church

(Aylesbury Road, Wendover, HP22 6JG)

Parish Website: stanneswendover.uk

Priest: Canon Derek Turnham

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Safeguarding

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For more information please visit:

<https://northamptondiocese.org/sg-st-annes-wendover/>

Masses and Celebrations this week:

Day:	Time:	Celebration:	Mass Intention:
Sunday	9.00 am	Third Sunday of Ordinary Time	All Parishioners
Monday	No Mass	Weekday of Ordinary Time	No Mass
Tuesday	10.15 am	Weekday of Ordinary Time	Veronica Gallagher, RIP
Wednesday	9.30 am	St Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor	Michael Gallagher, RIP
Thursday	9.30 am	Conversion of St Paul the Apostle	Monsignor John Heslin, RIP
Friday	9.30 am	Ss Timothy and Titus, Bishops	Monsignor John Heslin, RIP
Saturday	9.30 am	Our Lady on Saturday	A Person who died Recently
Sunday	9.00 am	Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time	All Parishioners

Churches Together Morning Prayer: Monday to Friday via Zoom at 9.00 am. You can join at home or on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday share the Zoom prayer together in person in St Anne's Church before Mass. The link to use is: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/738629141?pwd=M09iMkVEMzdRVHAWNmdwdEMzZWxaUT09>

On Saturdays Mass will be followed by **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** for thirty minutes.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is celebrated during Adoration on Saturdays, after any Mass or at other times on request.

The **Rosary** is usually prayed immediately after the 10.15 am Mass on Tuesdays.

Today

Mass Book Pages Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

Page 7: The Order of Mass

Page 129 Readings and Proper Prayers

Page: 54 Preface for the Eucharistic Prayer II

Page: 28 Eucharistic Prayer 3

Today is the **Sunday** of the Word of God and the Church encourages us to commission and bless Our Ministers of the Word and our Children's Liturgy of the Word Catechists for the parish for the coming year.

Blessing of Readers and

Children's Liturgy of The Word Catechists

After the Opening prayer of the Mass the readers are invited to come forward :

Celebrant: The Word of God, proclaimed in sacred scripture, enlightens our minds and hearts.

When the Scriptures are read in the liturgical assembly, God speaks to us and calls us to respond in faith and love.

The ministry of reader, then, is important to the life of the Church, for the reader proclaims God's living word. We ask God to bless these readers and all of us who will soon listen to the Word of God.

Addressing the readers the celebrant asks these questions:

Are you resolved to prepare diligently to proclaim the Word of God to the people and to lead them in intercession? **Readers: I am**

Are you resolved to pattern your life on the Word of God that you proclaim and so serve to build up the Church? **Reader: I am**

Everlasting God, when he read in the synagogue at Nazareth, your Son proclaimed the good news of salvation for which he would give up his life.

Bless these readers.

As they proclaim your words of life, strengthen their faith that they may read with conviction and boldness and put into practice what they read. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Giving the lectionary to the reader who will now proclaim the word, the celebrant says:

May the word of God always be heard in this place, as it unfolds the mystery of Christ before you and achieves your salvation within the Church. **Amen**

The Ministers of the Word and Children's Liturgy of the Word Catechists return to their places and Mass continues with the First Reading.

Our **SVP Conference** will meet in the Christian Centre after Mass today.

This Week

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity continues this week until Thursday and after a positive start last Thursday Churches Together in Wendover are focusing our prayer for unity on our daily 9.00 am Morning Prayer gathering which you can join on zoom or in person in St Anne's Church. Each day the morning prayers will follow the theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity as prepared by Churches Together in England and Wales. The link for Morning Prayer by Zoom is at the head of this Newsheet.

Tuesday 6.00 pm The Prayer and Life Workshops continue in the Prayer Chapel in St Anne's.

Saturday 27 January 2.00 - 4.30pm A Meeting will be held at St Clare's, Aylesbury which will pick up the key themes from the Synod listening in 2022, and what came out of the delegate sessions last summer, and look at what it would mean to put them into practice. The aim of the afternoon is to begin to plan to take this conversation across the pastoral area to engage as many people in praying, dreaming and planning for the future, culminating in a formal proposal for development to Bishop David later in the year. This meeting is very important because it will begin to discuss **the future of St Anne's Parish** in the context of our Pastoral Area (Deanery) of St John Fisher. The Pastoral Area we are a part of includes the three Aylesbury Churches together with the periphery churches in Long Crendon, Haddenham, Princes Risborough and Wendover. There are now so many Catholics living in Aylesbury that all three churches have people stood outside at every Sunday Mass with no room to fit everyone in so something radical and very costly will soon have to be done. Where will Wendover fit into this as one of the churches on the periphery of this area of growth? We all need to take responsibility for what happens next so we need lots of St Anne's people to step up and take part in the conversations that will begin next Saturday – please let Father Derek know if you will be able to go along and share in this.

Next Sunday – Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 9.00 am Our First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Preparation sessions continue in St Anne's Hall after Mass.

General Notices

We have received a Thank you Letter from Caritas Diocese of Northampton for our participation in the Love Christmas Appeal. You may recall that we contributed some of the Giving Tree Gifts to this appeal as well as to the Aylesbury Women's Refuge.

Looking Ahead

Sunday 4 February 9.00 am As all members of the parish will know by now that the Bishop is carrying out a Visitation of our Deanery during the early part of the year and that he will visit St Anne's Parish over the weekend of Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 February.

Programme for Bishop David's visit:

Saturday 3 February

6.00 pm Meeting with Father Derek and a look around the parish buildings.

7.00 pm All parishioners 'At Home' meeting with Bishop David in the Christian Centre.

Sunday 4 February

9.00 am Sunday Mass with Bishop David in St Anne's Church.

10.00 am Refreshments in the Christian Centre and another opportunity for parishioners to meet the Bishop.

10.30 am Bishop David will briefly meet the SVP Conference members.

10.45 am Bishop David will attend Wendover Free Church morning Service.

11.45 am Refreshments in the Christian Centre and an opportunity for members of the Free Church to meet Bishop David.

1.00 pm Father Derek and Margaret will take Bishop David out for lunch.

2.30 pm Bishop David will meet the Chaplains and some recruits at RAF Halton.

A visit to a parish by the Bishop is a very important moment in its history and for its future development so everyone is asked to read the above programme very carefully.

Please note especially the **'At Home' at 7.00 pm on Saturday 3 February and the Sunday Mass on Sunday 4 February**. The 'At Home' will be a gentle and informal evening with simple refreshments in the Christian Centre when members of the parish can meet the Bishop, ask him questions and join in a general discussion with him on any topics that are important to the parish. This is a unique and very important opportunity so **all parishioners are asked to come and take part**. We will need to organise simple refreshments so Father Derek would be delighted to receive offers from anyone who would like to help with this. **At the Mass it is very important that the Bishop experiences our parish at its Sunday best** so please make a note in your diary that Sunday 4 February is not a good time to visit family and friends or go to your other favourite parish for Mass. Please come to Mass at St Anne's that Sunday!

Wednesday 14 February – Ash Wednesday

9.30 am Mass 7.00 pm Mass

Lent - Lent was discussed during a meeting with Rev Sally Moring, the Vicar, Rev Remco of the Free Church and Father Derek and Sally has undertaken to produce a **'Lent Menu'** as in previous years of the activities in all of the Wendover congregations. The Menu will include details of activities shared with the other churches including a Lent Course and the activities specifically offered in each church. Father Derek suggests that the specific activities for St Anne's should include:

Tuesday Mornings after Mass: The Rosary

Friday Mornings after Mass: Stations of the Cross

Saturday Mornings after Mass: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

In the last Newsheet Father Derek was suggesting that we



If you are new to the parish or have not already done so please complete our parish census

To do so please type: www.caspar.church/me?ID=56094 into a search engine

or use the QR code on the left side of this note.

One benefit of signing up is that the parish Newsheet will be sent each week to your email address or mobile phone.

have Stations of the Cross on Thursdays but he has since learned that St Mary's Church will be offering their Lent Course 'Come and See' on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings so we will have Stations of the Cross on Friday so that no one is prevented from sharing in the Lent Course.

The **Rosary** on Tuesday mornings is already a feature of parish life but perhaps Lent would be a good time for people who do not normally share in it to make a special effort.

Adoration on Saturday mornings is also a feature of parish life already but during Lent it will be extended to the full hour from 10.00 am to 11.00 am and perhaps Lent would be a time when more parishioners would appreciate this little island of peace in the busy weekend. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will of course be available during Adoration.

Thursday 22 February 6.30 pm Reconciliation Service for First Holy Communion Children and all parishioners.

Friday 23 February - Lent Family Fast Day for CAFOD

The Easter Triduum

Father Derek would like to offer the following programme for the Easter Triduum in our parish and is inviting your comments and suggestions:

Holy Thursday 7.00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by the Watch of the Passion until 10.00 pm.

Good Friday 3.00 pm The Celebration of the Lord's Passion Good Friday will also include activities in the Church and Centre during the morning and the joint Walk of Witness and Service in St Mary's in the middle of the day – details are yet to be finalised.

Holy Saturday 8.00 pm The Easter Vigil. This year because Easter is so early sunset is at 7.33 pm Holy Saturday so we could have the Vigil a little earlier at 7.30 pm. What do you think?

Last Sunday

Mass Attendance:

Adults: **67**, Children: **18**, Total: **85**.

Our collections last Sunday were as follows:

Collection basket: **£59.80**

Digital collections: **£45.00**

Standing Orders: **£301.52**

(The figure for the standing orders is the weekly average of all standing order payments throughout the year).

Total parish collections last Sunday **£406.32**

Please Pray for:

Our Sick and Housebound especially: Pat Cafferata, Helen Knights, Nora McNamara, Doreen Smith, Anne Dykes, Mary Sketch, Doreen Smith.

All who have died recently: Patricia Keavens.

From the Diocese and Beyond

Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 February 2024 or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Light up Lent 29th Feb – 7th March *Light Up Lent* is our diocesan Week of Accompanied Prayer, a retreat in everyday life. Begin or deepen your prayer life, get to know the Scriptures better, and above all, grow in faith and in love for the Lord who loves you. With one-to-one support each day for a week, via Zoom, from an experienced prayer guide. Find out more here and at our introductory webinar on 1st February

<https://pastoralministryoffice.org/event/lightuplent/>

Inspiring Women. The latest webinar organised by the National Board of Catholic Women is on Saturday 16th March, you are invited to join a webinar organised by the Women in the Church Committee from 11 AM – 12.45pm. Avril Baigent and Helen Burgess, from our Diocese, will be sharing on the theme of 'Women and Synodality'.

Safeguarding January Key Message. Our key message for January this year is: 'The Diocese of Northampton have adopted the National policies of CBCEW' Key webpages: <https://catholicssafeguarding.org.uk/resources/national-safeguarding-policy/> - <https://northamptondiocese.org/policies/>

The importance of relying on the Holy Spirit to make us holy. The guest speaker for the next in the series of Adore conferences is Charles Whitehead. Charles is a parishioner of St Joseph's Catholic Church in Gerrards Cross (in our diocese) and worked closely with Pope St. John Paul II for many years as President of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Council. He also founded the popular Celebrate Family Conferences. The Mini-retreat is on **27th January** 10.00 am - 1.00pm on Zoom. Full details and advance registration at bit.ly/ADOREJAN2024

Mass Offerings

Since he arrived in the parish Father Derek has noticed that the custom of requesting Mass Intentions for special occasions like anniversaries or a particular request for prayer seems to have all but died out in Wendover. You will have noticed that on the front of the Newssheet Mass intentions are set out in the final column against each of the Mass times and you may have wondered where all the intentions have come from. Every now and again a Wendover parishioner has requested a Mass to be offered for a particular intention and on a particular date but the vast majority of the intentions Father Derek has offered up to now had been requested before he left his last parish and he brought them with him. These Mass Intentions are now almost completely fulfilled prompting Father Derek to encourage St Anne's Parishioners to rediscover this special way of praying for others.

The following article borrowed from the Aleteia Website may help to explain things:

"One part of Catholic culture that is sometimes hard to understand and very often misunderstood is the custom

of offering Mass intentions. When a priest celebrates Mass each day, he offers each celebration of the Eucharist for a particular person, or intention. By doing so he applies special graces from God upon that person or intention.

Similar to how we are able to intercede for others by our personal prayers, **the Church is able to intercede for us through the celebration of the Mass.** However, since the Eucharist is the “source and summit of the Christian life” the Mass possess a power that our personal prayers do not.

The practice of offering Mass for particular intentions is an ancient one, **dating back to the early Church.**

Inscriptions discovered on tombs in Roman catacombs of the second century [give] evidence [for] this practice: for example, the epitaph on the tomb of Abercius (d. 180), Bishop of Hieropolis in Phrygia, begs for prayers for the repose of his soul. Tertullian (c. 200) attested to observing the anniversary of a spouse with prayers and sacrifices, i.e. the Mass.” This tradition is also seen in St. Augustine’s Confessions (c. 397), where Monica asks Augustine, **“One thing only I ask you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord.”**

Canon Law confirms this practice and states, “In accord with the approved practice of the Church, any priest celebrating or concelebrating is permitted to receive an offering to apply the Mass for a specific intention” (Can. 945 §1).

Furthermore, it continues by saying, “The Christian faithful **who give an offering** to apply the Mass for their intention contribute to the good of the Church and by that offering share its concern to support its ministers and works” (945 §2).

What this refers to is a longstanding practice in the Church of offering a specified amount of money to the Church for a particular intention offered by the priest.

The important part is to remember that you are not paying for the graces from God (which are of infinite value and can not be paid for), but for the material things that are involved with celebrating that particular Mass. With that in mind it makes much more sense and is not something that should cause scandal.

Pope Paul VI said, **“The Mass is the most perfect form of prayer!”** It has immense power and countless miracles and conversions have occurred throughout the centuries by offering Masses for a specific intention or person. Mass intentions are a great treasure of the Church and have a spiritual weight that is incalculable.”

In St Anne’s Church you can make a request for a Mass intention by using the little brown envelopes displayed on the shelf in the Narthex. There are also available some Mass Cards to give to people who have been bereaved to let them know you have requested a Mass for their loved one. There is no set offering recommended although throughout the UK £10.00 seems to be the most common amount. It goes without saying that no priest would refuse a request for a Mass Intention because a person was not able to afford to make an offering. Currently in the case of St Anne’s Parish the offering is paid directly into the parish account and not given to the priest so when you make a request for a Mass to be offered for a particular person or cause you are also contributing to the greatly needed financial resources of St Anne’s Church.

Immediate Action Please!

Bishop’s Visitation on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 February

This week we received a request from the Bishop’s Secretary to provide the Bishop with a list of six things to help him prepare for his visitation to our parish on the first weekend in February. The Bishop would like us to give him of list of three things we would like to celebrate about the life of St Anne’s parish and a list of three things that we feel are challenges we face together in St Anne’s parish. We are one of the first parishes to be visited by the Bishop this year which is why we do not have not much time to prepare to offer him our thoughts about three aspects of the parish to celebrate and three aspects of the parish that are challenges. Perhaps it would have been better in some ways if we had a couple of months to have a series of meetings to listen to each other and create well crafted and fully shared lists but it is what it is and we must make the best of the time we have.

Father Derek would like everyone to think carefully about a list of three items to celebrate and three challenges we have to face and then if possible talk together in your family or when ever you meet with other members of the parish in the first few days of this week and then send him your two lists of three items. Please send your list to him by email to frderek.turnham@northamptondiocese.org, or bring them to church when it is open for Mass during the week and hand them to him or deliver them to the church office by the entrance to the Christian Centre where there is a letter box or telephone him on 07753633713 and give him your list.

Next Sunday Father Derek will share with the whole congregation the responses he has received, anonymously of course, so we can all quickly agree and confirm what we are to send to the Bishop a few days before he arrives.