

2 The Grove, Kettering NN15 7QQ. Telephone 01536 512497

Website: [www.stedwardskettering.org.uk](http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk)

Email: [parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk](mailto:parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk)

Parish Priest: Fr. Gregory Marchwiński

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Seventeenth Sunday Of The Year

26<sup>th</sup> July, 2020

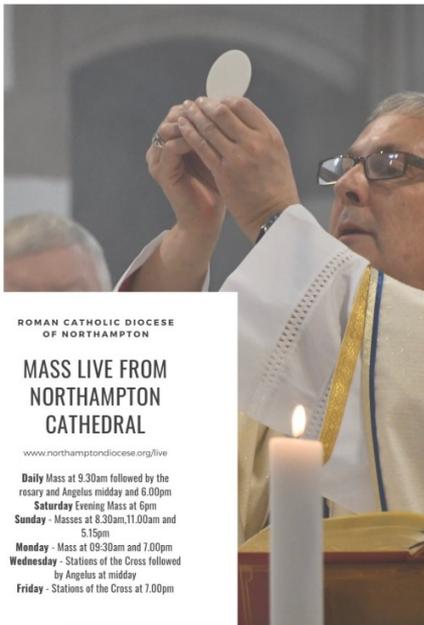
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**Stewards and Cleaners Needed**

**See - Eventual Opening of St. Edward's Church for Mass**

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## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION



Please join us in saying a **Spiritual Communion** at:

<http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/when-mcannot-be-celebrated-publicly-making-a-spiritual-communion/>

Or visit live streaming broadcasts of Mass from Northampton Cathedral at

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

Alternative Masses, adoration, prayer, etc. can be found at:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/>

Sunday or Daily Readings:

<http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/spirituality/sunday-and-daily-readings/>

Keep an eye on the Vatican News channel for live streaming of events.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

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## **THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday** - Thanksgiving to the Secret Heart, Andrew - Birthday

**Sunday** - Fr John Britto, 46th birthday; Reg and Jessie Western RIP

**Monday** - Mary Bridget Illouz Cannon RIP

**Tuesday** - Mary Bridget Illouz Cannon RIP

**Wednesday** - For our readers, ministers of the Eucharist, altar servers and two Catholic Schools in Kettering

**Thursday** - For our catechists, leaders of the children's liturgy, members of the Legion of Mary and UCM

**Friday** - For the members of our parish choir, organists and flower group

**Saturday** - For the teams of Soup Kitchen and SVP and for all the volunteers of our parish

**Sunday** - For our painters, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, cleaners and many others who put their effort into making our church beautiful

To request a Mass Intention please send an email to:

[parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk](mailto:parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk)

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## **PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED**

In our prayers, let us remember our deceased parishioners, family members and friends.

Let us especially remember those who have recently passed away:

**Baby Andrea Kaminskaite** - Her funeral will take place at Kettering Crematorium, Tuesday July 28 at 9.00am

**Bernard Henry Oak** - His committal will take place at Burton Latimer Cemetery, Wednesday July 29 at 2.00pm

**Patrick Joseph McCann**

**Paul Francis Anthony Sharpling** - His funeral will take place at Edgar Newman Chapel, Kettering Crematorium, Tuesday August 4 at 1.00 pm

**May they rest in peace**

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## **SICK CALLS AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME**

In accordance with official advice and to minimise the chance of Fr. Gregory passing on infection he cannot undertake to visit the sick or housebound except in case of serious need.

However please do not hesitate to call on him to visit those in imminent danger of death.

Please telephone 01536 512497 with any such requests. Fr. Gregory will of course be happy to pray for anybody who is sick but not close to death, if requested.

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## **26<sup>th</sup> JULY STS. ANNE AND JOACHIM – THE FEAST OF GRANDPARENTS**



St. Anne and St. Joachim, Detail of Stained Glass window in St. Joseph's Church, Central City, Kentucky. Photograph [Nheyob](#)

When it doesn't fall on a Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup> is celebrated as the feast of Sts. Anne and Joachim, the parents of Our Lady and, of course, the maternal grandparents of Our Lord. In the scriptures Matthew and Luke trace Jesus' ancestry to demonstrate that He is the fulfilment of great promises to the chosen people – He is the longed for

Messiah. However, nothing is definitely known of Mary's family, even the names of her parents come from a legendary source written more than a century after Jesus died.

Nick Rabiipour on the website Get Fed – Feed your Faith at <https://www.getfed.com/st-joachim-st-anne-5854/> recounts the ancient poignant story of Sts. Anne and Joachim which dates to the early centuries of the Church. Like Abraham and Sarah, elderly and childless, they were scorned by their neighbours (family being of such importance in the Jewish culture). Years of longing and grief drove St. Joachim into the desert to pray whilst St. Anne, dressed in mourning, wept at home.

Trusting in God, St. Anne put on her bridal clothes and went to the garden to pray. Both she and her husband had visions of angels telling them that they would have a child who would be known throughout the world and rushed to meet each other at Jerusalem's Golden Gate rejoicing in the great news which they had been given. Sts. Anne and Joachim are now powerful intercessors for all married couples, for couples having difficulty conceiving, for expectant mothers and for all older people.

Matteo Ciofi on SL Media at <https://saltandlighttv.org/blogfeed/getpost.php?id=83774> adds the details that St. Joachim was a shepherd from Jerusalem before Mary's birth after which they moved to Nazareth where Mary was educated in the law of the Lord, her name meaning "loved by God." He describes the late arrival of St. Joachim in the liturgical calendar with his own feast day and the eventual uniting of the couple in their joint feast day of July 26<sup>th</sup> and notes that St. Anne is also the patron of the many duties related to being a mother. (This is probably the patronage which most of us associate with her).

So, if most of what we know about Sts. Anne and Joachim is legendary, why does the Church honour their memory? The writer at Franciscan Media at <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saints-joachim-and-anne/> points out that their holiness and heroism can be inferred from what we know of the family atmosphere around Mary in the scriptures. She is the "...fulfilment of many generations of prayerful persons, herself steeped in the religious traditions of her people. The strong character of Mary in making decisions, her continuous practice of prayer, her devotion to the laws of her faith, her steadiness at moments of crisis, and her devotion to her relatives—all indicate a close-knit, loving family that looked forward to the next generation even while retaining the best of the past."

The writer concludes that regardless of what we know for definite about these saints, they represent all those quiet generations who prepared an atmosphere for the Messiah by faithfully practising their faith and performing their duties. This is a great ideal for us to emulate. Whatever our state in life – married or single, with or without family - we may often feel burdened, unnoticed and weighed down by the day-to-day unrelenting monotony of our daily tasks, the difficulties of chronic ill health or age, or the challenges and sadness of family life. We may cry to the Lord for help and

wonder if He hears our prayers. We may feel that it is all too much and we may be desperately struggling to trust in the Lord.

All of us can turn to saints like Anne and Joachim to pray for us when we don't have the words or strength ourselves and they will never let us down. Through their intercession we can return to the quiet, faithful practice of our faith and everyday duties and ourselves help prepare for the second coming of Jesus by being a link in that great chain of unknown individuals through the ages. Until we meet the Lord we will never know just how much our simple prayer life and work has been building the Kingdom and that He sees it all and truly appreciates it.

The writer at Franciscan Media emphasises that July 26<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of Grandparents because it is they who have the responsibility to establish the tone for generations to come. "They must make the traditions live and offer them as a promise to little children. But the feast has a message for the younger generation as well. It reminds the young that older people's greater perspective, depth of experience, and appreciation of life's profound rhythms are all part of a wisdom not to be taken lightly or ignored."

Grandparents, be comfortable in your genuine wisdom though it may seem out of step with modern life. Be the cornerstone for the family especially in praying for them. Be the quiet, steady rock when life assails them from all angles. You may often not need to say very much but you are truly needed to pray for your family and to do your best to make your love present to them.

**Sts. Anne & Joachim inspire, comfort, strengthen & support all grandparents through your prayers.**

### **NOVENA PRAYER TO SAINTS ANNE & JOACHIM**

Good parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, grandparents of our Saviour, Jesus Christ,

When life seems barren, help us to trust in God's mercy.

When we are confused, help us to find the way to God.

When we are lost in the desert, lead us to those whom God has called us to love.

When our marriage seems lifeless, show us the eternal youth of the Lord.

When we are selfish, teach us to cling only to that which lasts.

When we are afraid, help us to trust in God.

When we are ashamed, remind us that we are God's children.

When we sin, lead us to do God's will.

You who know God's will for husband and wife, help us to live chastely.

You who know God's will for the family, keep all families close to you.

You who suffered without children, intercede for all childless couples.

You who trusted in God's will, help us to respect God's gift of fertility.

You who gave birth to the Blessed Mother, inspire couples to be co-creators with God.

You who taught the Mother of God, teach us to nurture children in holy instruction.

You whose hearts trusted in God, hear our prayers for . . . (state your request).

Pray with us for the ministry of Catholic family life.

Pray with us for the ministry of Natural Family Planning.

Pray with us for all who give their time, talent, and treasure to this good work.

Hail Mary . . . Our Father . . . Glory be . . .

God of our fathers, you gave Saints Anne and Joachim the privilege of being the parents of Mary, the mother of your incarnate Son. May their prayers help us to attain the salvation you have promised to your people.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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## **WE ARE RAISING FUNDS TO MAKE OUR CHURCH MORE BEAUTIFUL!**

As you know we have been using the lockdown period to improve the interior of St Edward's and make it clean and fresh again. Firstly, we hope that we have improved the church heating so that we can feel comfortably warm at Mass. Time will tell if we get a cold winter! Repairs will also be made to the windows which leak in cold air. Secondly, the carpets on the Sanctuary are being replaced and new easily cleaned flooring laid in the balcony to replace threadbare carpets. At a later stage, I hope to renew the kneelers, some of which are in a poor state. Thirdly all the black deposits are being cleaned off the walls (you can see photos of some parishioners at work on cleaning the badly soiled Stations of the Cross). Currently there is scaffolding up in church in order to completely repaint the ceiling and walls. We will eventually have a more beautiful church to be proud of, in which to place the most important item of all - yes, we are buying a brand new tabernacle to take pride of place and house our precious Blessed Sacrament. I hope you like it, here is a picture of our new tabernacle resplendently adorned with angels.



My enthusiasm to refurbish our House of God was thwarted by the lockdown which has also caused an untimely but serious shortfall in our income from Mass collections, in common with other parishes. Please do not feel obliged (as I know some of you may be struggling financially in the current circumstances) but maybe some of those who are able to, might consider making a donation, however small, to us via The Catholic Diocese of Northampton Virgin Money Giving page and be a part of making our church more comfortable and beautiful! You can donate by card or PayPal.

Just click on this blue link >>> [Online Donation](#)

**VERY IMPORTANT >>** If you use this option we ask that you **please indicate in the notes section our parish name and area**. Just type in "For St. Edward's, Kettering". Please note that there is also the facility to Gift Aid any donation and so increase its value (if you are a taxpayer) without any further cost to you. Or instead, simply drop in a cheque to the presbytery (payable to St Edwards Church Kettering) or by post to 2, The Grove, NN15 7QQ. This option will be Gift Aided only if given in your offertory giving envelope as a taxpayer. Thank you so much.



## EVENTUAL OPENING OF ST. EDWARD'S CHURCH FOR MASS

### UPDATE – 11th. July: Calling Stewards and Cleaners!

We have enough parishioners who have volunteered as **stewards** for us to be able to form only a limited rota which enables us to open as soon as the work in church is completed. Then the building has to be deep cleaned, coronavirus measures installed and then the stewards trained in what the government, Bishop's Conference and our diocese requires to ensure everyone's safety. We would still welcome more eligible volunteers to be stewards. Please consider helping us! For details of eligibility and duties involved, please see: <http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/re-opening-st-edwards-church-private-prayer/>

Only those churches which are able to put adequate safety measures in place, submit risk assessments, be successfully inspected and have sufficient volunteers to be trained as Stewards may open. Many churches are not opening. Each Mass “shift” would take up around two hours of your time, including preparatory and after-cleaning. Please encourage suitable persons to apply to be stewards by emailing the presbytery on [parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk](mailto:parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk)

Looking forward to the eventual reopening of St Edward's after its beautiful refurbishment we also need to form a rota for **cleaning** to keep it looking its best and we are seeking more volunteers to share this task. Can you spare some time for this ministry which is so essential especially during the current difficulties? Again, please email your contact details to [parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk](mailto:parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk) if you can help. I would like to sincerely thank all the cleaners who have dedicated so many hours of their time over the years to the hard work of keeping our church clean. They are the unsung heroes whose quiet labours we have all greatly benefited from and it is very much appreciated. Those members of our cleaning teams who wish to continue, please also let me know.

Only a very limited number of people (approx 32) can be permitted into church when we eventually open due to social distancing rules. Although the media have concentrated their headlines on the new “one metre plus” rule (thereby giving the impression that this applies to every situation) it is clear from latest government documents that we must still keep two metres away from each other if we can. This is only reduced to one metre in certain prescribed environments where the risk can be mitigated by taking other precautions such as separation screens. It's important that we do not increase the risk of virus transmission in “close proximity” environments such as ours.

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. The Archbishops therefore ask every Catholic to think carefully about how and when they will return to Mass. Given that there is no Sunday obligation, they ask that when churches re-open, we consider attending Mass on a weekday instead to ease the pressure on numbers for Sundays. Availability of more Masses all depends of course on sufficient numbers of stewards volunteering. The Archbishops have asked churches to continue to live stream Masses so that those who stay at home can still receive spiritual communion as part of the continued dispensation. Resources, live stream details and more information can be found in their [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) section. Alternatively visit <https://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/> for live streams.

Bishop David has expressed his wish that priests do not rush into opening churches without adequate prior and approved procedures being put into place. In our case this can only be done after the works in church are completed and we have sufficient volunteers. Therefore, no definite opening date can be promised as yet. Indeed, Bishop David is extremely concerned about the health of all and has advised priests that any public act of worship may need to be deferred for some time to come, advocating a “soft reinstatement” programme to begin with.

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**ST EDWARD'S PARISH - THE PARISH COMMUNITY**  
**FACEBOOK GROUP**

**The Parish of St. Edward, RC Church, Kettering.** Find the facebook group at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2762598427183322/>

## PARISH CALL AND CARE

The Parish is continuing with its "Parish Call and Care scheme" to support isolated and elderly parishioners, many of whom are facing months without significant social contact. If you are someone who would like to receive calls, from a fellow parishioner, or know of someone who you feel would appreciate such a call, please contact Fr Gregory in the first instance on 01536 512497 or email [parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk](mailto:parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk) with your name and phone number (and if you are recommending anybody else to receive such calls, their name and phone number).

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## WEEKLY DONATIONS - **Separate Financial Details from the Appeal for the New Tabernacle**

Some parishioners have asked how they can maintain their donations which would normally be given via the collection plate. It is true that church income will significantly reduce as a result of the current ban on public liturgies while we are all being asked to stay at home and avoid unnecessary travel. While I will endeavour to keep parish outgoings as low as possible, please could I ask those parishioners who can afford it at this time, and do not currently give by Standing Order, to consider donating online.

There are several ways of donating during this crisis so that you do not need to leave home:

- **Online** This can be done via the Diocesan website which can be found at <https://northamptondiocese.org/>. Scroll down to find the 'Donate' button and follow the instructions on the Catholic Diocese of Northampton Virgin money giving page. By indicating in the notes section of the donate page that the donation is for "St. Edward's Kettering" your donation will go into our parish account with the diocese, and will at the same time help our diocese as a whole. Please note that there is the facility to Gift Aid any donation to your parish if you are a taxpayer. Thank you for any help you can give.
- **Standing Order** via your own bank. Alternatively, you can set up a standing order for donations to your parish using your online bank account. The information required to make the donation is as follows. Bank; NatWest Sort Code; 60-06-11 Account Name; 46898093 Account Name; Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Payment Ref; St. Edward's, Kettering
- **Make a donation to your own parish over the phone** - The Diocesan Finance office has now introduced 'Giving Tuesday'. Each 'Tuesday' between 10.00am and 4.00pm, a member of the finance team will be available at

Bishop's House to take your calls to donate to your parish community over the telephone. To donate simply call 01604 712065 with your debit or credit card details. (If you get the answering machine just leave your name and number NOT bank details and you will be called back). When you get through you will be asked for your name & address, your parish, envelope number (if you have one) and gift aid status. You can make one-off catch-up donations or regular weekly or monthly payments, on any Tuesday until further notice.

- You can also support the Parish by **making a donation through the letterbox** of the presbytery at any time.