

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

Website: <https://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/>

Email: parish.stedwardkettering@northamptondiocese.org

Church Hall/ Upper Room Bookings: Contact Ewa on Thurs or Fri morning via parish.stedwardkettering@northamptondiocese.org or 01536 512497

Parish Priest: Fr. Gregory Marchwiński

Assistant Priest: Fr. Elvis Jose

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

14th January 2024

MASS TIMES AT ST. EDWARD'S, KETTERING

- Tuesday - 10.00 am
- Wednesday - 10.00 am
- Thursday - 7.00 pm (*This evening Mass is with music on screen*)
- Friday - 7.00 pm
- Saturday Vigil Mass - 6.30 pm ***After Mass - confession on request***
- Sunday Early Mass - 8.30 am
- Sunday Family Mass - 10.30 am

MASS TIMES AT BURTON LATIMER

The **1st** and **3rd** Sunday of every month - **9.00 am**

MASS TIMES AT DESBOROUGH

The **2nd** and **4th** Sunday of every month - **9.00 am**

MASS TIMES AT ROTHWELL

The **1st** and **3rd** Sunday of every month - **12.15 pm**

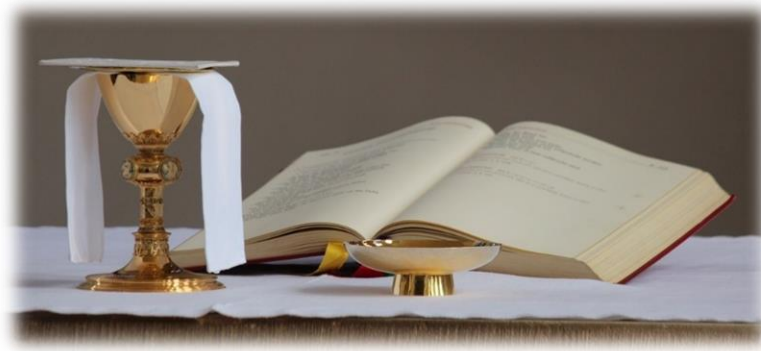
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For the 5th Sunday of the month, please check the newsletter

*Jesus looked hard at him and said,
"You are Simon, son of John;
you are to be called Cephas"
- meaning Rock.*



THIS WEEK'S INTENTIONS



Saturday **06.30 pm** - Anne Randell intention / - for all of the volunteers in the parish

Sunday **08.30 am** - Maureen Sweeney RIP / - Fr Tadeusz RIP and his homeland

09.00 am - / **Desborough** / - Alan Atkins and Bill Hodgett RIP /

- Daniel Garrido RIP

10.30 am - Justin Ike, for God's guidance and protection /

- Bernadette MacDonald RIP / - Lilia Jumeras, Lazaro Jumeras RIP

Monday **Private Mass** - Fr Henry Stanley

Tuesday **09.30 am** - **Exposition and Adoration**

10.00 am - John Rothwell RIP / - Tommy McCarney RIP

Wednesday **10.00 am** - For the Holy Souls

Thursday **07.00 pm** - For the Holy Souls

Friday **06.30 pm** - **Adoration and Benediction**

07.00 pm - Thottam family thanksgiving intention

Saturday **06.30 pm** - Sister Elizabeth Morris RIP /

- Ettie Rothwell and family following the death of John

Sunday **08.30 am** - For the Parish

09.00 am - / **Burton Latimer** / - Tony Hall RIP / - Anthony Forwell RIP

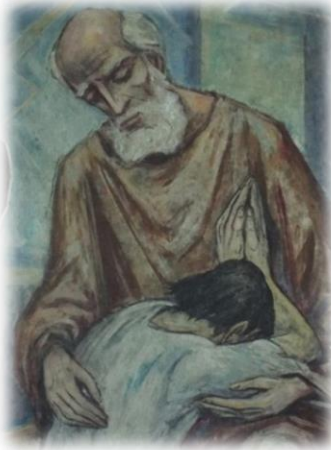
10.30 am - Patrick and Teresa Cummins RIP

12.15 pm - / **Rothwell** / - For the Parish

To request a Mass Intention please contact the parish office.

To respect people's wishes, there has usually been only one Mass Intention per Mass (This Intention might encompass even several people, but it will have been requested by one individual). There are occasional instances though, when there need to be two separate Intentions at a Mass. When this arises, I would be grateful for your understanding.

CONFESSIONS AT ST EDWARD'S



Confessions at St Edward's are on Saturdays after Vigil Mass which is at 6.30 pm.

You can always request confession before or after any weekday Mass.

“The first step we must take to build the Kingdom of God on earth is to rediscover and appreciate the importance of the sacrament of confession, which will allow us to appreciate the sacrament of the Eucharist. *We cannot appreciate the Eucharist while removing the sacrament of Confession from our spiritual life*”. - Fr Gregory

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED



- + **Mary Essex** - Her funeral will be held at the Crematorium on Tuesday,
16th January at 12.30 pm.
- + **Crocifissa Nania** - Her funeral will be held at St Edward's Church on Friday,
19th January at 10.00 am.

In our prayers, let us remember our deceased parishioners, family members and friends. Let us especially remember those who have recently passed away.

AN INTERVIEW WITH SEMINARIAN RENVER



As you may remember, a few years ago, during lockdown, we were hosting Seminarian Jithu, who lived with me in the parish house. Now Jithu is a very happy priest, he ministers in the Bletchley parish as an assistant priest. Then a while later we were hosting seminarian Anthony, who after consideration decided to leave the seminary as he wanted to become a teacher. This time I was asked by Fr Pius, our Diocesan Vocation Director to help another student to get to know the reality of Parish life and Pastoral Ministry. Many of us remember Fr Pius as he worked in St Edward's Parish, and he had no doubts that our parish community can be very beneficial for a seminarian who is beginning his discernment process. We feel very honoured to have the opportunity to accompany him on his journey. His name is **Renver**, and he is currently in his first year of study. I think that our parishioners would be interested to know about what a vocation to the priesthood entails and about formation in the seminary. Therefore, taking this opportunity, I would like to ask **Renver** similar questions I previously prepared for Jithu and Anthony

Fr Gregory: Renver, could you say something about your family, siblings, how old you are and when did you decide to enter the Seminary? Was this decision difficult for you, and what or who helped you to make it? Could you say something about your dad and his desire to become a permanent deacon? Who first made the decision to become a priest and deacon, you or your dad?

Renver: I am 24 years old, and I am from Luton. My family is originally from the island of Mindanao, a southern island of the Philippines. We migrated to the UK in 2005 when I was just five years old. Both my parents are nurses by profession.

I started putting my application for the seminary together at around November of 2022, however, my personal discernment really started after my experience at World Youth Day in Poland during the summer of 2016. This decision has been a difficult decision to make for me, considering the sacrifices I have had to make and will have to make, however, so far it has been a decision that has given me peace in mind and soul and fulfilment that I have not felt elsewhere.

Throughout my vocation discernment journey so far, I have had the privilege of several support groups that have advised me and given me courage to make such a radical life change. I am very grateful for the support I have received from my parents, first and foremost, as well as from my spiritual director, vocations director, and the parish community at St. Martin de Porres Parish in Luton. Without their faith and love, I would not have been imparted with the beautiful faith we all share and the relationship with our Lord Jesus.

My dad has had the desire to be a deacon for some time now. I remember I was thirteen years old when he revealed his desire to the family. We were all happy and supportive towards his discernment as we had seen it to be inevitable because at that point he was and still is a very active lay member of the parish.

Fr Gregory: Do you remember the reaction of your parents when they found out their son wanted to become a priest? Do you remember your reaction when you found out your dad wanted to become a deacon?

Renver: At first my parents they were apprehensive for me. Being only 22 when I first told them of my desire to go into seminary, they wanted me to experience more of life and eventually experience what it is like to have a family. Being Filipino parents, they also want to have grandchildren. However, as my convictions got stronger, they started to see the blessings and the graces that would come to me from God: The

unique relationship I will have with God, the ability to hold him in my hands; the gifts I will bring to the parish communities of the Diocese; and the fulfilment in my life to do what I have always wanted to do, to serve God and his people. My mother and father have come to understand this desire and are both very supportive.

Fr Gregory: Could you explain very briefly what is the idea of sending Seminarians to different Parishes during their formation and how this benefits you?

Renver: The Idea of sending Seminarians to different parishes is to put into a practical and tangible context the things I have learnt in seminary and to visually see the ways I am growing in the four areas of priestly formation (which are human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral). My time here will indicate to me if I am able to live a balanced life. Am I able to give God my entire self through a life of prayer and devotion? It will also give me the opportunity to 'smell like the sheep' of the flock of God, that is: to experience the reality of everyday life (the challenges and the graces) which come with serving under parish communities in England and specifically the Northampton Diocese.

Fr Gregory: What does 'propaedeutic year' mean in the seminary formation? What does a typical seminarian's day look like at the Royal English Collage in Valladolid? How many Seminarians live there? How many of them are from our Diocese? Is there any particular programme for the day? What is your favourite prayer? Can a seminary student have any hobbies and interests besides theology and spiritual life? Do you have time for this?

Renver: In the Royal English College of Valladolid, there are currently 23 seminarians from various countries such as England, Republic of Ireland, Sweden, Canada, Norway, and Australia (6 of which come from England). This year I am the only seminarian representing the Diocese of Northampton.

The 'Propaedeutic year' of Seminary is an introductory period of seminary. It gives seminarians a chance to explore and develop the fundamental foundations of spiritual life through garnering the habit of praying e.g. 'Liturgy of the Hours', daily Mass, daily silent meditation, and scriptural reading. The propaedeutic year is also essential for preparing seminarians in their human and pastoral formation through the periods of self-giving charitable works we experience at our various placements e.g. with schools, nursing homes and parishes. Throughout the year we supplement our knowledge on church doctrine through the study of the 'Catechism of the Catholic

Church' and 'Church history'. Personally, I love spending personal time with the Lord in quiet meditation and reflecting on the Gospels before classes during our communal 'Lectio Divina'.

Apart from our scheduled daily activities listed above we also get time to unwind and appreciate the beauty of the scenery and the culture of the country of 'Spain'. Valladolid being set in the centre of Spain, we have had plenty of fond trips to the major cities and towns of Spain e.g. Madrid, Segovia, Avila, Leon, and Burgos just to name a few. Food and Wine culture is also taken very seriously in Spain and so the government has made it possible to keep the cost of living manageable for all to enjoy the produce of the land. In my spare-time I like to go sightseeing, going on walks, food trips and wine-tasting with my seminarian brothers. We also regularly have communal activities such as quiz nights, boardgame nights, film nights, bowling, and friendly football matches against other seminaries. Being Filipino, my favourite things to do with my brothers are the afternoon guitar jamming 'Praise and Worship' sessions and pick-up basketball games.

Fr Gregory: What does formation at the College look like and who are your lecturers? Do you have any favourite Catholic writer or favourite book? Who is your favourite saint and why is that?

Renver: There are four areas of formation: Human, Spiritual, Intellectual and Pastoral. We have four main formators (Rector, Vice-rector, Spiritual director, and formation staff) dedicated to all aspects of formation apart from the human aspect, where we have an external specialist formator who is clinically trained to guide us through our mental wellbeing and personal development.

My favourite Catholic writer is Dr. Brent Pitre who has written a series on the Jewish roots to the Catholic Faith. And my favourite Saint is St. Pope John Paul II whom had such an intense love for Jesus that he was able to see Christ in everyone and he was also instrumental in bringing about the devotion of the 'Divine Mercy' to the wider Church.

Fr Gregory: What is your favourite place for a holiday, and why is that?

Renver: I like travelling to Spain as it is a land rich Catholic culture and history which has influenced even the country of my birth.

Fr Gregory: Do you like travelling to the Philippines? How would you describe the catholic faith in your home country?

Renver: I love travelling home to visit relatives and loved ones. The Church in the Philippines has influenced National culture and history ever since the arrival of the Spanish on the year 1521 AD. Religious feasts and solemnities are taken very seriously and most people are obliged to take days off. Celebrations and processions on the streets last for hours and maybe even days. It is a family-oriented Church so much so that divorce has yet to be made legal. It is considered the most Catholic Country in Asia with at least 86% of the population as 'Catholic'.

Fr Gregory: What would you like to do when you become a priest? Do you have any plans or dreams about pastoral work in our diocese?

Renver: My hope is that I may become a 'Holy Priest'; A good son and servant of God; and a good Father and servant to God's People. I would like to use my vocation to build the Church of the family, encouraging and guiding parents how to impart their faith to their families who are considered the living church and the foundation of 'society'. I would also like to encourage Youth ministry programmes as this was instrumental in reintroducing me into my faith.

Fr Gregory: What do you think will be the biggest challenge for you in your pastoral work if you become a priest? Is there anything you are afraid of? What excites you the most when you think about the future and the priesthood?

Renver: With the current climate within the church and the decline of church attendance and vocations to the priesthood, physical and spiritual demands on me will be very high. I hope for God to give me that grace to be strong and resilient not to lose the virtues of faith, hope and charity in the face of such challenges. This both excites and worries me as this may entail a missionary style of priesthood, moving around place to place, reminding us of the Early Church of the apostles found in the 'Acts of the Apostles'.

Fr Gregory: Do you have any ideas on how to encourage young people to practise the Catholic faith, the sacraments and to build relationships with God? How could you encourage young men to follow you and join the Seminary? How can you promote Seminary?

Renver: I encourage the young people of the Church to ask questions. Start with the Why: Why am I here? Why do I exist? Why am I a Christian? These questions should point to the 'Who': who is God? Who am I? By trying to find the truth, they will find God. I encourage the young people to come up with these questions of faith and life and discuss it with their families, their friends and to the priests. In their pursuit for truth may they build a relationship with the truth, who is Christ Jesus, through prayer and the sacraments, as well as through the guidance of the church. May they come to find the truth and see his love; compassion; and mercy for them and that God is working his goodness into their lives today and not just in the lives of 'holy' men and women in a far-away place 2000 years ago.

For young men looking for the truth as I did, do not be afraid to ask God what he wants from you. If you ever find your heart being restless; without peace and fulfilment, St. Augustine tells us to rest in God and in him you will find your purpose. He will allow you to work the wonders that he made you for, and maybe for some of you, that might mean becoming a priest.

Fr Gregory: What would you like to ask our parishioners for? Is there anything you need during your formation and preparation for the priesthood?

Renver: I would just like to ask our parishioners to keep all seminarians in their prayers as there are many challenges and obstacles that are keeping us from becoming priests and from serving you. Pray for more 'Holy Men' to listen and respond to the call of Christ to become priests like him. And finally, I encourage all households to take-up a culture of praying as a family in their homes and not just at Mass, as the home is where the Church begins.

A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord, You told us "The harvest indeed is great but the labourers are few. Pray, therefore, the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into His harvest." We ask You to strengthen us as we follow the vocation to which You have called us. We pray particularly for those called to serve as priests in the Diocese of Northampton. We pray for those called to serve as sisters, brothers and deacons. Father, we pray for those whom You have called, those You are calling now especially Renver, and those You will call in the future. May they be open and responsive to the call of serving your people. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

SEMINARIANS ON THEIR PLACEMENTS IN OUR PARISH



2020 - Fr Gregory and Jithu James (now Fr Jithu)

+ + +



2022 - Fr Ebin, Anthony and Fr Gregory and Saba

A NEW CARD READER - ACTIVATED



Parishioners regularly ask me about the possibility of donating to the Parish via credit/debit cards. The reason for this is that we carry much less cash on us, and it would be more convenient for some parishioners to support the Parish in this way. To give people this opportunity, we have installed a Donation Station with a card reader at St Edward's Church. This is initially on a 3 months trial, to see how helpful and successful it will be. This device will cost the Parish £15 per month to rent. As always, I thank you for your generosity and please feel free to speak to me if you have questions or concerns regarding the security and use of this reader. **We have a sim card for the 'DONA' station, so it has been activated and you will find it next to the statue of the Sacred Heart.**

CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

18th - 25th January 2024



There will be a prayer meeting held at **St Bernadette's, Rothwell**
on Thursday **18th January at 11am.**
Everyone is welcome to join and pray for unity amongst all Christian Churches.

Prayer for Christian Unity

Lord Jesus Christ, at your Last Supper you prayed to the Father that all should be one. Send your Holy Spirit upon all who bear your name and seek to serve you. Strengthen our faith in you, and lead us to love one another in humility. May we who have been reborn in one baptism be united in one faith under one Shepherd. Amen.

COFFEE MORNINGS



The next **Wednesday Coffee Morning** will be run by **The Desborough Community** after 10.00 am Mass on **7th February**.

COFFEE MORNINGS 2024

On **6th March** - **The Rothwell Community**

On **3rd April** - **Legion of Mary**

On **1st May** - **SVP**

THE PARISH YOUTH GROUP



If you would like your son or daughter to take part in youth group activities, please email the parish office and request a registration form. The next meeting will be on **Friday, 2nd February**.

CAFOD



CAFOD School Volunteers needed.

Do you enjoy working with children and young people? Could you help to inspire and empower children and young people in your local Catholic schools by delivering an assembly or a workshop? You will be supported by CAFOD with training and all resources will be provided and expenses paid. Do consider the role of CAFOD school volunteer. For more information contact Debbie Purfield dpurfield@cafod.org.uk or call 07786 114 390

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION



If you would like your child to be baptised, please contact Fr Gregory. Parents who would like their children to be baptised are invited to attend Baptismal Preparation on the first Monday of the month at **7 pm** at St Edward's Church. The next meeting will be on Monday, **5th February 2024**.

A PLACE OF CALM



Dear Parents of our youngest children, we realise how difficult it is for you when your children get 'lively' or 'upset'. Therefore, we invite you to take them upstairs to the organ loft, which is above the sacristy. It is a safe place with a triple sound-proof window overlooking the altar. There is a speaker up there, so you will be able to take an active part in the Mass and your children will become calm and comfortable. Please take care on the stone steps.

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING



If you are planning to get married abroad or at St Edward's Church, you must give us at least six months' notice. This is to ensure that all the preparation that couples are required to do, and the pre-marriage courses are completed along with the necessary paperwork. You are always welcome to approach me after any Mass, so that you can begin making wedding plans.

ST EDWARD'S PARISH FACEBOOK GROUP



The Parish of St. Edward, RC Church, Kettering.

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

St. Nicholas Owen Catholic Church - Burton Latimer.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/809856073037388/>

PARISH CALL AND CARE



The Parish is continuing with its "Parish Call and Care scheme" to support isolated and elderly parishioners. 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.stedwardkettering@northamptondiocese.org with your name and phone number (and if you are recommending anybody else to receive such calls, their name and phone number) parish.stedwardkettering@northamptondiocese.org with your name and phone number (and if you are recommending anybody else to receive such calls, their name and phone number)

USEFUL LINKS



National Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247

Refuge website <https://www.refuge.org.uk/>

Kettering Foodbank 1 Horse Market, Unit 1B, Kettering, NN16 0DG (side entrance at the top of Market Street) Tel. 07709 741353 <https://www.ketteringfoodbank.org/>

A list of free food outlets in Kettering (updated March, 2022):

<http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Kettering-Food-Outlets-Virus-Update-no32.pdf>

Mary's Meals <https://youtu.be/llqBIXrVJzw> / **Right to Life** <https://righttolife.org.uk>

Redundancy Coaching <http://www.vitaeopus.co.uk> provides free online information and advice about Job Hunting, Self-Employment and Active Retirement for Parishioners adversely affected workwise by the pandemic. Please pass the link on to anyone who may find it useful.

Safe Spaces We welcome contact from anyone hurt by abuse, whether that be through your experience within the Church or elsewhere. **Safe Spaces** is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with either the Church of England or the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

safeguarding@northamptondiocese.org

Please have a look at this page from the Northampton Diocese website:

[Northampton Diocese Resources](#) which gives further information and contact details.

Safe Spaces is an independent and confidential support service for adults who have been abused by someone in the Church. Please see parish noticeboards for further details.

WEEKLY/MONTHLY DONATIONS



If there are any Parishioners who would like to join the weekly box system / gift aid scheme, then please do let us know by completing a form, available from the porch table and putting it on the collection plate or through the Presbytery letterbox. To those who already donate through the Gift Aid Scheme, please be reminded that if your tax situation has changed or you have moved house, then please let us know.

There are several other ways of donating as follows;

- **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.
- **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** - 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). You can make a one-off donation 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.

Thank you for any help you can give.

YOUR LEGACY

Your Legacy - Invest in the future of your parish and our Diocese. Gifts in your Will are a memorable and lasting way you can continue to support the Church's ministry and mission and help meet the needs of future generations. Please consider gifts to the Church and Catholic charities next time you update your Will. For more information, pick up a bookmark; contact your parish office, alternatively, go to www.northamptondiocese.org/your-legacy or contact Brian Emmanuel on 01604 600337 or brian.emmanuel@northamptondiocese.org

DIOCESAN E-NEWSLETTER

Our diocesan e-news is now published fortnightly.

Keep up to date with news and opportunities from across our diocese by signing up to receive updates straight into your inbox. Simply visit <https://northamptondiocese.org/#signup>
