

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

1st Sunday of Lent

18th February 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

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan...



*He was with the wild beasts,
and the angels looked after him.*

+ + +

THIS WEEK'S INTENTIONS



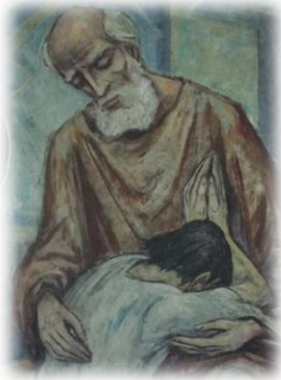
- Saturday** **06.30 pm** - Ruby Dellet RIP
- Sunday** **08.30 am** - Stephen Doug Bridgeman RIP
09.00 am - / **Burton Latimer** / - For the Parish
10.30 am - Jules De Mello RIP /
 - Justin Ike for God's guidance and exam success
12.15 pm - / **Rothwell** / - For the Parish
- Monday** **Private Mass** - John Francis Day
- Tuesday** **10.00 am** - For the Holy Souls
- Wednesday** **+ 09.20 am - Stations of the Cross +**
10.00 am - For the Holy Souls
- Thursday** **07.00 pm** - Melanie Burn RIP / - Jean Ayrton RIP
- Friday** **+ 11.00 am - Stations of the Cross at Rothwell +**
+ 06.15 pm - Stations of the Cross +
07.00 pm - For the Holy Souls
- Saturday** **06.30 pm** - Nuala Hammond RIP / - Kurt Gerndt RIP
- Sunday** **08.30 am** - Nellie Saunders and Elizabeth Blackman RIP / -
 Thanksgiving for a new job and for son Logan becoming a Catholic
09.00 am - / **Desborough** / - For the Parish
10.30 am - Paolo Messori and Maria Messori RIP

There will be a 2nd Collection for CAFOD Family Fast Day on the 24th/25th Feb.

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

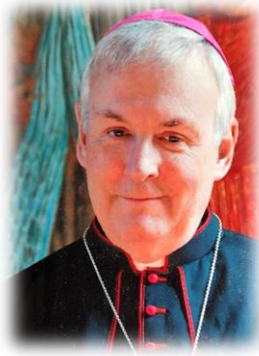
PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED



- + **Mary Rooney** - her funeral will be held at St Edward's on Friday,
23rd February at 10.30 am
- + **Patricia Dunmore** - her Requiem Mass will be held at St Edward's on Tuesday,
27th February at 11 am

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

LETTER FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 2024



To my dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

This year, we hear a very short account of Jesus' time in the wilderness. In fact, unlike the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, Mark does not give us any detail of the temptations Jesus faced during this time in the desert. Maybe there is something very helpful to us in this. We do not have the power to change stones into bread. We would be very foolish to try throwing ourselves off high places, in the hope we would be caught by angels. And then, isn't every sin a bowing down to worship our enemy? We are simply told that our Lord was 'tempted by Satan'.

I love these encouraging words from the Letter to the Hebrews, 'For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.' (Heb 4.15- 16)

We are not disciples of a Lord who stands apart from our weakness and temptations. But Jesus has overcome these temptations. And this means a powerful grace for ourselves. It means we can drink deeply from the mercy he has won for us on the throne of his glorious Cross.

What we hear in today's Gospel is very much part of our heavenly Father's loving plan of salvation. Because of the Fall, humanity fell from the life of grace. We lost our relationship of intimacy with God. And let's be honest here, we struggle to get along with each other most of the time. And so God found a way to bring us back home.

The Holy Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness. This sounds a bit more than just a suggestion or a hint. Jesus is compelled to go out into the desert with the loving obedience of a Heart that is totally focused on the Father's will. And this becomes our vision for the Season of Lent. This is a time of great blessing. What a gift is offered us over the coming days.

Jesus was with the wild beasts. It is relatively safe to be a Christian in our part of the world. Sadly, this is not so for every disciple of the Lord. And it wasn't for those first Christians who read this Gospel. They were being persecuted and martyred for their faith by the Roman authorities. They were keeping company with wild beasts in the circuses of the Empire.

But then we hear something else. We hear what happens when Jesus' forty days in the wilderness were over. Jesus began his Galilean ministry. He proclaimed the good news of the Kingdom. The work of bringing home the lost and suffering begins. And this work still continues today. And this mission is our task today.

I truly hope and pray, we all have a blessed and grace-filled Lent this year.

Sincerely,

Bishop David Oakley

Bishop of Northampton

FOCUSSING OUR HEARTS



Almsgiving, prayer, and fasting represented practices of popular piety during the time of Jesus. They were especially popular among the Pharisees. We have seen that Jesus did not criticise the practices but He did comment on their motivation. The way people prayed, fasted and gave alms marked the difference between the follower of Jesus and the Pharisee. Did one perform these practices boastfully to look good in the community and increase reputation? Or did one pray, fast, and give alms quietly with the sole intention of pleasing God? We might ponder this question during Lent; what resolutions have we made for Lent and why have we chosen these resolutions? Do they serve self-more than others and how?

If our answer gravitates more towards ourselves than others, it is time to reassess our motivation. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are only a means to an end. We practice them to open ourselves up to God and the needs of others. So, during Lent, we should focus on relationship, not on reputation. Lent is a time for self-reflection and for action. Lent is not a time to merely "give up something". It is a season to **do** something - for **others** and for **God**. It is a time to focus the heart. Over the next week, we might resolve to focus on others less fortunate and on God. This will help make this Lent a time for our spiritual growth.

So, in Matthew 6 this week, Jesus teaches His disciples the Our Father, not objecting to the number of prayers but the way they were used. Gentiles prayed in vain repetitions, thinking they could control deities by the precise use of their names and the concise number of their invocations. They wanted control but not for contemplative purposes like with the Rosary.

Also notice how Jesus linked prayer with forgiveness. The entire exercise of Christianity hinged on the belief that God would come to judge the world and show the followers of the Christ mercy, but that mercy was contingent on the mercy Christians showed to others. In essence, the Our

Father and the faith of the petitioner depended upon the virtue of forgiveness.
Who do we need to forgive this week?

Later in Matthew's gospel (5: 20-26), Jesus comments on the Commandment which introduces us to concepts that define proper relationships with other people. For example, He applied the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" to the everyday judgments and insults that people make and the anger that they can harbour for one another. To modern Westerners, the insult "Raca" (meaning "empty-headed") and "fool" might not seem especially derogatory, but the gospel indicates that in the time of Jesus they had that possibility. "Fool" meant "godless" (Psalm 14:1). The Greek word "Raca" (from the Aramaic term *reqa*) could refer to renegades and was used to call someone mentally inferior and worthless as a person. It was an offensive name used to show utter contempt for another person. Jesus warned that the use of such a word to describe someone was tantamount to destroying that person and was deserving of the severest punishment of the law.

Matthew's gospel used extreme language to make the point that insults are judgments and can be given to maximise shame. The one who was the object of the insult became the victim. How could one repair the damage of the insult? Jesus used the image of the debtor prison to make His point. Act quickly to minimise the damage, otherwise the damage will fester and grow. In the end, the shame might return to the one giving the insult.

People do make judgments against others, often behind their backs. And sometimes insults can be given under the guise of "teasing", particularly in social gatherings where, at worst, the teaser might obtain some self-satisfaction (usually hoping for third party approval) at the expense of the teased. The results can be hurtful, even damaging and sometimes we might never know how the other person may be feeling as a result of our injudicious words!

Let us reflect... How do we tease others or make judgments about them? How have we followed the advice of Jesus and apologised quickly when damage is done?

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



+ Every **Wednesday at 9.20 am** before Mass at 10 am

+ Every **Friday at 6.15 pm** before Mass at 7 pm

< **Good Friday - Stations of the Cross at 7 pm** >

Stations of the Cross at **Desborough** and **Rothwell** led by parishioners

Friday, 23rd February at 11 am - Rothwell

Friday, 1st March at 5 pm - Desborough

Friday, 8th March at 11 am - Rothwell

Friday, 15th March at 5 pm - Desborough

Friday, 22nd March at 11 am - Rothwell

+ + +

Feast Day of St Nicholas Owen



Friday, 22nd March

- Stations of the Cross in **Burton Latimer** at **9.20 am**

followed by Holy Mass at **10 am** and refreshment afterwards.

+ + +

Good Friday, 29th March



29th March at 11 am - The Stations of the Cross in Burton Latimer

29th March at 11 am - The Stations of the Cross in Rothwell

29th March at 5 pm - The Stations of the Cross in Desborough

STUDENT CROSS



Every year St Edward's hosts a pilgrimage of students, who make their way to Walsingham to be there on Good Friday. Once again, this year they will be sleeping over in the parish hall on **Friday 22nd March**. Usually, the Union of Catholic Mothers coordinate their stay, providing them with an evening meal and a continental breakfast on Saturday before they make their way after morning Mass.

This year, I would like to ask our parishioners from all our communities to offer food for the students. If you are willing to prepare a hot dish for Friday evening, I would be grateful. If you could provide something towards the continental breakfast, that would also be appreciated. You are invited to come and chat to the students and stay for the evening meal, and then come again for morning Mass and breakfast.

If you are willing to help, please contact Fr Gregory with your name and phone number and he will pass it on to the UCM.

THE PILGRIMS OF HOPE TOUR



Throughout 2024 we are asked to prepare for the **Jubilee year 2025**, by hosting a 'year of prayer'. As part of this year of prayer, Bishop David Oakley will be coming to a parish near you to reflect on what it means to be a pilgrim of hope. He will answer questions from those present and pray together as a community. You are invited to attend and invite those who wish to discover more of the beauty of our Catholic faith.

WHERE AND WHEN IS THE PILGRIM OF HOPE TOUR NEAR US?

Thursday 7th March at 7 pm
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart,
Wellingborough

THE SACRAMENTS OF HEALING
+ CONFESSION AND ANOINTING +
BEFORE EASTER



+ Saturday, 9th March Confession after 6.30 pm Mass

+ Saturday, 16th March Confession after 6.30 pm Mass

Tuesday, 19th March after Mass at 10 am - *We would like to offer confessions and the sacrament of anointing to those who are housebound. If you know anyone who would like a visit by a priest, please contact the parish and provide us with the relevant details, like name, address and telephone number of the person who would like the sacraments, before Friday 15th March, and we arrange a visit.*

+ Wednesday, 20th March, Confession 9 am - 10 am and after Mass

+ Thursday, 21st March, Confession 6 pm - 7 pm and after Mass



*During **Wednesday** and **Thursday Masses** we will give the opportunity to anyone who wishes to receive the Sacrament of Anointing to come forward after the Gospel Reading. You will be invited to approach as you do for Holy Communion. Please remember that this Sacrament is not only for those who are seriously or terminally ill. It is for anybody who feels the need to be strengthened by the Lord. When you come to the steps of the sanctuary, please hold out your hands which will be anointed. Your forehead will also be anointed.*

THE TRIDUUM AND EASTER 2024



Maundy Thursday - 7.00 pm - Mass

Good Friday - 3.00 pm - Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord,

7.00 pm - Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday - 8.00 pm - Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday

Masses at **8.30 am** and **10.30 am**

Burton Latimer - 9.00 am, Desborough - 9.00 am, Rothwell - 12.15 pm.

CONFIRMATION - REGISTRATION AND PREPARATION 2024



This will take place in the Parish Hall on **Monday 4th March at 6 pm**

Confirmation will be on Thursday 11th July 2023

CAN YOU PLAY THE PIANO?



Can you play the piano? If so, you might be the answer to our prayers! The choir are looking for a piano player. We would love someone to play for us every third Sunday of the month and to rehearse with us on the Tuesday before we sing on those Sundays. We also need someone to play for us on Maundy Thursday- 28th March. If you can play on this date and/ or more regularly please let Fr Gregory know as soon as possible. If you would like to sing with us, please come to rehearsals on Tuesday evening at 7:30 in the upper room above the church hall. You don't need to be able to read music- you just need to enjoy singing!

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, 1st March at 6.30 pm.**

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, **4th March 2024.**

COFFEE MORNINGS



The next **Wednesday Coffee Morning** will be run by **the Rothwell Community** after 10.00 am Mass on **6th March.**

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

On **1st May** - SVP

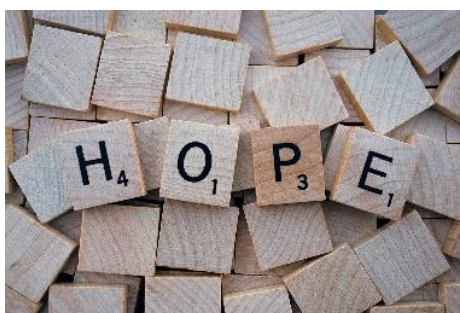
On **5th June** - UCM

CAFOD



CAFOD Family Fast Day appeal - This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give today using the envelope or online at cafod.org.uk and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families. Use the envelope in church or give online at cafod.org.uk

PILGRIMAGES



As we prepare for the Jubilee year in 2025 as 'Pilgrims of Hope' you are invited to join our diocese on pilgrimage. There are plenty to choose from including the Shrines of Northern France in October 2024, Lourdes in August 2024, Walsingham in June 2024 and Rome and Assisi in 2025. For more information on all of these pilgrimages and our diocesan walking pilgrimage, 'The Way of Our Lady of Guadalupe' visit <https://northamptondiocese.org/pilgrimage/>

LIGHT UP LENT

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 and sign up here <https://pastoralministryoffice.org/event/lightuplent/>

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.

DONATIONS BY CARD

You will find the **DONA STATION** next to the statue of the Sacred Heart.

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