



Catholic Cluster of Blessed Peter Wright

Comprising the two parishes of:

Most Holy Name of Jesus, Oundle & **St Paul the Apostle**, Thrapston
with the Mass centre at the chapel of **St Thomas More, Raunds**

Office: 2 St Paul's Gardens, Thrapston, NN14 4FE - 01832 617 050 www.eastnorthantscatholic.uk - parish.eastnorthants@northamptondiocese.org



Sunday 22nd February 2026

First Sunday of Lent

Liturgical Colour: **Violet**

5:00pm(Sat) **(STM)** Vigil Holy Mass (*Mary & Don Lack RIP*)

9:15am **(MHNJ)** Holy Mass (*Pro populo*)

11:00am **(SPA)** Holy Mass (*Tony O'Driscoll RIP*)

Rest of the Week

Monday (STM) Commemoration of St Polycarp

10:00am Holy Mass (*Percy Borg RIP*) followed by Confessions

Tuesday (SPA) *Feria*

10:00am Holy Mass (*Kay Collett well-being*)

Thursday Commemoration of Blessed Robert Drury

(MHNJ)

9:30am Holy Mass presided by Fr Mark Vickers

(SPA)

5:00pm Holy Hour with Confessions

5.45pm Vespers

6:00pm Holy Mass (*John & Catherine Moran RIP*)

Friday (MHNJ) Commemoration of St Gregory of Narek

10:00am Holy Mass followed by Confessions

(*Tadhg Scanlon well-being*)

2:00pm Funeral of Micheline Hyams

MHNJ: Most Holy Name of Jesus church, OUNDLE

SPA: St Paul the Apostle church, THRAPSTON

STM: St Thomas More chapel, RAUNDS

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Percy Borg**.
Keep his family and friends in your prayers as they go through this difficult time.

Rite of Election 2026

This Sunday at the 11am Mass, our candidate (Christian Pinder) for the reception into full communion with the Church will be presented to the whole community. Later in the day (3.00pm), they will attend the Rite of Election at the Cathedral in Northampton.

Next Second Collection

1st March – CAFOD Family Fast Day

Parish Giving

Regular standing order donations may be made directly to your Parish or by standing order:

St Paul the Apostle | Thrapston

St Thomas More | Raunds

Nat West

Account : RCDN St Pauls Parish Thrapston

Sort Code : 60-06-11

Account No: 65068874

The Most Holy Name of Jesus | Oundle

Nat West

Account Name: RCDN Most Holy Name of Jesus

Sort Code: 60-06-11

Account No: 46714626

Please complete a "Gift-Aid" declaration and your Parish receives tax refund cash on your behalf. Please ask for a form by email.



St Vincent de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

Call: Joe Gasan on 07565 395 955

Email: svp140512@gmail.com

Visit: www.svp.org.uk

If you would like to help make a real difference to the local community, please consider giving a **donation to the SVP** either by:

BACS:

National Westminster
SVP Kettering and Thrapston
Sort Code: 60 60 04
Account No: 46084053

Or by:

Placing cash into an envelope marked SVP and putting it into the first collection at Mass.

MEETING TIMES THIS WEEK

PARISHIONERS PRAYER GROUP

Every Wednesday via Zoom at 7pm

RAUNDS PRAYER GROUP

Every Friday at St Thomas More chapel

2.00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy chaplet 2.00pm

3.00pm Stations of the Cross



To sign-up to CASPAR, our Cluster Database, please use the QR Codes below or simply type in the address into your web browser.

Thrapston & Raunds



www.caspar.church/m
e?ID=56088

Oundle



www.caspar.church/m
e?ID=56072

Trouble with CASPAR?

If you have troubles viewing or receiving our Newsletter via CASPAR, please contact the support team via:

Email Us at:

support@caspar.church

Phone Us on 01440 730399

Parish Priest: **Fr Jonathan Creer** email: frjonathan.creer@northamptondiocese.org

Parish Secretary: **Meg Shepherd (Thurs 11.00am-1pm)** email: parish.eastnorthants@northamptondiocese.org

Presbytery TEL. 01832 617 050

Newsletter items to be emailed to Meg by **Wednesday**

DIOCESAN NEWS: <https://northamptondiocese.org/news/>

CLUSTER NOTICES

What Was Discussed At The Last PPC Meeting – 9th February 2026

Finances

Our three Sunday Masses are the worst attended Masses across the diocese.

Other places are closing churches because of low attendance – are we justified in keeping all three of our buildings? The building reports suggest that we need to spend £400,000 on all buildings combined over the next 5 years. Both of our parishes are currently running at a loss. Oundle can currently do work as they have enough money in reserve. Thrapston and Raunds cannot. What should we do?

- Just undertake priority repairs and do nothing else. Rely on the diocese to pay for us. However, the diocese may not have the money that we need, nor have they said that they will do this.
- Every single person in our parishes should give an **extra £5.00 per week** (for families of 4 that would be £20.00 extra per week). However, we understand that not everyone can do this nor are they happy to do this as some feel money is not being used effectively as St Paul's Parish is running two buildings when one would be sufficient for the numbers attending mass (Most Holy Name of Jesus has 1 building, 100 parishioners whilst St Paul's with St Thomas More has 2 buildings, 110 parishioners).
- Close a building down (St Thomas More) to help reduce expenditure. This is not a solution that will fix all of our problems - fundraising/people increasing the amount they give would still need to take place as well.
- Fundraise (e.g., jumble sales). However, it was questioned about how much this would raise.
- Look at ways in which we can cut costs such as whether battery operated sanctuary candles are more feasible than real candles.

Contingency Planning

We need to be better prepared for a time when we may not have a priest including people taking on more roles in the parish such as there being two church wardens per building so that the priest does not have to do anything. Halls could be hired instead of having churches and a visiting priest could say Mass once in a while.

Ways to Engage People in the Faith

Mission needs to start with the people in the pews.

Fr Jonathan suggested that he is happy to run sessions during lent after the

Thursday Mass at Thrapston such as on the Apostles' Creed.

Parishioners could do a Lenten challenge such as: look at the readings of the day, do morning and evening prayers, invite a friend to church, do a decade of the rosary or download Universalis.

Children's Liturgy

Reintroduce children's liturgy at St Paul's. A meeting is to be arranged with potential children's liturgists after the February half-term holidays. Children's liturgy could also take place at St Thomas More - we need liturgists to come forward to run it.

Lenten Practices

The Zoom prayer group has come up with some suggestions for practices for Lent which are a bit different. These include:

- Giving up moaning and grumbling.
- Think, every day in Lent, of something for which you are really grateful (not that you think you *ought* to be grateful) and write it down. At the end of Lent you will have a treasury of gratitude to use when you feel dull and grey.
- A good deed a day/week. Helping someone, phone call, even as simple as a heartfelt compliment to someone.
- Rosary a day, focusing on the Sorrowful Mysteries.
Does anyone else have any unusual ideas? Please pass them on!

Lent Reflections

Monday 23rd February and Tuesday 17th March 10am - 12pm at MHNJ with a break for refreshments and socialising. The sessions are stand-alone so it's possible to attend either or both. The title is **The Joy of Lent** and we will work through some imaginative contemplation, with some silence and some...

... opportunity for sharing and discussion (apologies to those who are working - there were no free Saturdays in Lent). All welcome. *Elizabeth Poole*

DIOCESAN NOTICES

Pope Leo XIV – Message for Lent 2026

In his Message for Lent 2026, Pope Leo XIV presents Lent as a renewed time of conversion centred on listening and fasting. He calls the Church to deeper attentiveness to the Word of God and to the cry of the poor, reminding us that true listening forms compassionate and discerning hearts.

Fasting, he teaches, orders our desires and must be lived with humility and rooted in the Word, not as mere external discipline. Of particular pastoral relevance is his invitation to fast from words that wound, urging us to “disarm our language” and foster speech that builds communion. Lent, the Holy Father concludes, is a shared ecclesial journey in which renewed listening and fasting can transform our relationships and communities as we move towards Easter.

Read the message here:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2026/02/13/260213d.html>

Catechist Formation - Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis (Level 1)

Are you called to be a catechist? Do you want to grow in confidence and understanding as you accompany others on their faith journey?

This online training course draws from Scripture, Church documents, and lived experience. It is ideal for both new and experienced catechists.

Course Dates:

- 7 virtual sessions from **7.30–9.00pm**
 - **Starts Friday 27 February 2026**
 - **Subsequent sessions: 6, 13, 20, 27 March; 10, 17 April 2026**

Includes Zoom links, course materials, and refreshments. No fixed fee—donations welcomed.

[Visit our diocesan website for further information](#)

Walking in the Holy Spirit (Fanning into Flames)

The **Northampton Charismatic Diocesan Services of Communion (CDSC)** invite parishioners to take part in *Walking in the Holy Spirit (Fanning into Flames)* - a four-part monthly online series exploring how the Holy Spirit shapes, strengthens, and sends us out as disciples of Christ. Sessions run from **7.00–8.30pm on Tuesdays:**

17 March – Bonding – Speaker to be confirmed

16 June – Empowerment – Charles Whitehead

14 July – Mission – Maria Heath

All are welcome.

More information: <https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/walking-in-the-holy-spirit/>

The Synod and Women: Which way to the future?

26th February 6:30pm - 7:30pm Speaker: Phyllis Zagano

Join us for an update on the Synod on Synodality's considerations on women in the life of the church, in conversation with Dr Phyllis Zagano,

To register and find out more, please visit: <https://www.nbcw.co.uk>

Vacancies – Property Area Co-ordinators

We are currently recruiting three Property Area Coordinators. The role ensures that buildings are safe, legally compliant, well maintained, and fit for mission and ministry, while providing support to parishes, clergy, and diocesan stakeholders. This is a full-time, 12-month fixed-term contract, with the possibility of extension or becoming permanent. As each role covers a different part of the Diocese, three area-specific Job

Descriptions are available, and candidates should review the one relevant to their preferred location. The closing date for applications is **Friday 7 March 2026** - <https://northamptondiocese.org/jobs>

All candidates should complete a Diocesan application form and email it to: hr.admin@northamptondiocese.org

Safeguarding Key Message

Our key message this year is: **'The Diocese of Northampton have adopted the National policies of CBCEW'**

Key webpages:

<https://catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/resources/nationalsafeguarding-policy/>

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

To make any enquiries please contact safeguarding office on **01604723514** or safeguarding@northamptondiocese.org

PARISH SAFEGUARDING CONTACT

Safeguarding officer – Sharon Knox sharon_knox@hotmail.com

Lent Resources

Bringing together a wide range of Lenten resources to support both groups and individuals on their journey through this sacred season, our Lent resources page on the diocesan website is now live.

Whether you are looking for prayer materials, reflections, or practical ideas for fasting and almsgiving, these resources are designed to help deepen faith and encourage spiritual renewal throughout Lent. All materials are offered to support parishes, families and individuals across the diocese as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter.

<https://northamptondiocese.org/lent-resources/>

Safeguarding Training

We are pleased to invite those involved in parish ministries to an in-person safeguarding training day on Saturday 14 March, 10.00am–1.00pm, at the St Thomas Centre, 1 Semilong Road, Semilong, Northampton, NN2 6AG.

Led by the diocesan safeguarding team of the Diocese of Northampton, this session offers a clear, practical and engaging introduction to safeguarding. Previous participants have described it as inspiring and the best safeguarding training they have attended.

There will be an opportunity to socialise after the session; please bring a packed lunch if you would like to stay.

Places are limited, so please sign up using the link below to secure your place:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/northamptondiocese/2056353>

'Born for This' – Symphony Hall – Wednesday 25 March, 7.00pm

CJM Music and young people from six Catholic secondary schools in the Archdiocese of Birmingham are collaborating for a special performance. You are invited to experience the power and passion of *Born For This* in a special 30th anniversary event. This dramatic and musical retelling of the Stations of the Cross has moved audiences in churches nationwide, including the iconic Westminster Cathedral.

Now, a vibrant cast, including young people from across Birmingham and Solihull, will bring the story to life with fresh energy and heartfelt devotion. Featuring stirring music performed live by Jo Boyce with band and chamber orchestra, and uplifted by a 300-strong choir of young voices, this unforgettable production promises an inspiring journey of faith, hope and beauty.

Tickets can be purchased directly from Symphony Hall using the following link:

<https://bmusic.co.uk/events/born-for-this>

Come and See – Discernment Day for Men

Date: Saturday 28th March, 2026

Programme: A day including prayer, reflection, input on priestly vocation, and an open Q&A

Who is it for? Men who are exploring, questioning, or discerning a call to the priesthood

Where? Our Lady of Christian and St Lawrence, Olney

This day offers a relaxed and supportive opportunity to reflect on God's call, to learn more about priestly life, and to ask honest questions in a prayerful setting.

To register your interest or for more information, please contact: Fr Pius

✉ vocationsdirector@northamptondiocese.org

☎ 01753 523147

Mission Conference 2026

Mission Northampton warmly invites everyone across the diocese with a heart for sharing the Gospel to the Annual Mission Conference on **Saturday 14 March 2026, from 10.30 am to 4 pm in Leighton Buzzard**. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together, be inspired, and learn more about mission work within our diocese. The conference is free to attend, though small donations towards the work of Mission Northampton are very welcome. Refreshments will be provided, but please bring a packed lunch. More information: [Mission Conference 2026](#)

OTHER NOTICES

Oundle Lent Lunches

Oundle Lent Lunches are here again! **Every Thursday in Lent (19th February - 2nd April incl.)**, 12 noon to 1.30 pm in Oundle Methodist Church: homemade soup, bread and cheese (gluten-free bread available). No fixed charge - donations to Christian Aid. All welcome. The day our church is hosting is **26th March** but don't forget that it is happening every Thursday in Lent and it is a great social occasion when members of all the churches get together, and there is always a great choice of homemade soup.

It's Opera time again!

St Paul's organist Vincent Davy will be conducting Offenbach's comic operetta 'Orpheus in the Underworld' with **Thrapston Plaza Opera, 19th, 20th & 21st February** in the Thrapston Plaza. Choir member Kathy Franklin is also singing in the chorus. This amusing take on Greek mythology, which includes the famous Can-Can dance, is fully staged with orchestral accompaniment - our 15th annual production is not to be missed.

Tickets: £20 adult, £5 child/student available online at: ticketsource.co.uk

(search event - Thrapston Orpheus)

Looking forward to seeing you there!

V P Davy - Music Director

Love & Beauty in St John's Spiritual Canticle

20–22 February 2026

2026 marks 100 years since St John of the Cross was declared a Doctor of the Church. To celebrate this anniversary, Fr Matthew Blake, OCD will lead a reflective weekend exploring the themes of love and beauty in the saint's most celebrated poetry.

From 20–22 February, participants will be invited to delve into the spiritual richness of *The Spiritual Canticle* and deepen their appreciation of St John's timeless insights into God's love.

[Further information and booking details can be found via the Christian Heritage Centre.](#)

'God in Number 10'

Fr. Mark Vickers is a Westminster priest who spends part of his time in Oundle. He is speaking at Oundle School on his book on the faith of the twentieth-century Prime Ministers: seances in Downing Street, mystical revelations, and genuine Christian devotion. **7.45 pm on Thursday, 26 February** in the Great Hall complex in New Street. All welcome.

Webinar: The Role of Beauty in Moral Formation

The Catholic Union invites you to a webinar on **Monday 20th April at 6.00pm** exploring the place of beauty in the moral formation of individuals and society. Chaired by journalist Catherine Pepinster, speakers include Fr Patrick van der Vorst, priest and founder of Christian Art, and Stefan Kaminski, Director of The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst. Booking is essential: Email info@catholicunion.org.uk to receive your Zoom link.

Prayer For the Canonisation of Blessed Peter Wright

Eternal Father, your priest and martyr, Blessed Peter Wright of the Society of Jesus, worked with zeal and dedication in your vineyard and gave his life freely because of his faith in you and in your Church. Through his intercession grant that this humble flock may reach where Jesus, our brave Shepherd, has gone. In blessed Peter's name, I come to you with my needs: *(pause and silently mention your request)*.

Lord, help me always to imitate the great faith, generous love, and burning zeal of Blessed Peter. Grant that Your Church may proclaim him as a saint serving at your Throne in Heaven and interceding for us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen



The Joy of Lent

Two stand-alone sessions of reflection and sharing on the joy of Lent. Come to either or both.

Monday 23rd February

Tuesday 17th March

10am to 12pm with a break for refreshments and socialising.

At the Most Holy Name of Jesus,
Oundle.

All are welcome.

For more information contact Elizabeth Poole

elizpoole53@gmail.com

WORK EXPERIENCE

CAFOD and SVP are working together to offer **residential** work experience for **20 young adults**.

Candidates must be in their **first** or **second** year at **university**.



21st- 26th June 2026



All accommodation costs, meals and travel to the Office throughout the week are covered.



CAFOD National Office, Romero House, Waterloo, SE1 7JB



For more information, please contact
• **KeziaH@svp.org.uk**



Closing date for applications: 6th April



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

CAFOD
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development



i am here

REFLECTIONS AND RECORDINGS FROM WITHIN A MONASTERY

A CONTEMPLATIVE FILM BY DANIEL ROTHSCHILD

Screening at the Monastery of Christ Our Saviour, Turvey
Saturday 28th February 2026



Start at 10am, lunch after Midday Office,
followed by the final part.
Ends approximately 3pm

£25 donation with lunch provided
(please inform Brother John of any special
dietary requirements)

Book at turveymonks@yahoo.co.uk

Creative Art Retreat Days 2026

Each day consists of a group of 10-12 like-minded people.

(No previous experience is necessary.)

There is unlimited tea and coffee on tap and a home cooked vegetarian lunch.

The day begins at 9-45 am, with a welcoming cuppa and ends around 4 pm.

Around 11.30 those who wish can join for a short Mass . Continue with work until 1.pm for lunch, followed by a short optional meditation, or a wander.

Then finish around 3.30 for tea and cake and a general "Happy chat ", about our work and the day .

Cost of the day is £50 and includes all the materials and refreshments.

Payment can be made by cheque to :

The Monastery of Christ our Saviour

Or by Direct Debit

Monastery of Christ Saviour. Sort: 60-16-45
Account No: 68198140

Reference "creativity retreat" Or Cash

**To request a bookingplease e mail Jane : on
cjanemonk@yahoo.co.uk**

Saturday. *March.14th.* The Heart's Impress.

Exploring basic printing.

Marie Ryan & Pauline Wood

Saturday. *May 2nd.* Going for a song.

Bird song and a certain type of Music.

Brother John

Saturday. *July 11th.* Mosaic Magic.

Be creative with glass.

Cathy Ebbels

Saturday. *September 12th.* Words Pictures.

Calligrams—Using words to create pictures.

Tina Rogers

Saturday. *October 10th.* Mindful Quilting.

Produce a table mat or cushion.

Glynis Harper

Saturday. *November 21st.* Book Folding.

Relax before Christmas and create a unique Christmas Angel.

Marie Heath