

## Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians and St Lawrence

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St Joseph's Convent – Sr Delia DHS - 01234 711267

SVP Contact: 07925 125206

6<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – Twenty-Third Sunday of the Year

Psalter Week 3

**First Reading:** Ezekiel 33: 7-9

Psalm: O that today you would listen to your voice! Harden not your hearts.

**Second Reading:** St Paul to the Romans 13:8-10

Gospel Alleluia: Alleluia, Alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth.

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Matthew 18:15-20

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 6.30pm Vigil Mass (Paula Langford RIP)

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 10.30am Mass (The People of the Parish)

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 10.00am Mass (Fr Bernard Hindle RIP)

Feria

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 10.00am Mass (Charles & Morag Keeney Int)

**NATIVITY OF THE BVM - Feast** 

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September No Mass

St Peter Claver, Priest – Op Memoria

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 10.00am Mass** (Tony Buckley Int – successful operation)

Feria

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 10.00am Mass (Fr Jenkinson RIP)

Feria

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 10.00am Mass (Linda Donald Int. – Sick)
The Most Holy Name of Mary – Op Memoria

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 6.30pm Vigil Mass (The People of the Parish)

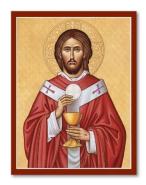
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 10.30am Mass (Francis John Morris Int)



**PUBLIC MASSES AND LITURGIES** – The obligation to attend Mass on a Sunday continues to be dispensed, by the Bishops of England and Wales, at this time, therefore we will continue to 'Live Stream' all Masses except on Wednesdays. Those of you that do attend the church for Mass are asked to carefully follow the guidance of the Stewards. The booking-in system for Mass, particularly at weekends, is still in place. If you haven't already done so, please contact Denise with your preferences. If you have any concerns, please contact Fr David or Deacon Peter

Government Guidelines require the wearing of a Face Mask in all places of worship.





My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

St Alphonsus Liguori



We continue to be very grateful to all of you who have been supporting the Food Bank – Catholics, Anglicans and others. The donation box remains outside the presbytery door and is checked frequently. The Food Bank continues to need donations of:

Long Life Milk – Long Life Juice – Tinned Rice Pudding – Tinned Custard – Tinned Meat – Tinned Vegetables – Tinned Tomatoes – Pasta Sauce - Spreads

**MASS OFFERINGS (STIPENDS)** – If you have any Mass intentions to be offered, please contact Fr David, Deacon Peter or Denise. Please do include the full name of the person for whom you want the Mass to be offered, whether they are alive or deceased. There are available dates during September and October.



**SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION** – If anyone would like to go to Confession, please contact Fr David by email or call round to the presbytery. Confessions will not be held in the confessional but in a safe place and with appropriate distancing, in compliance with the guidelines.



Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September - Nativity of the BVM

The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century. A September birth was chosen because the Eastern Church begins its Church year with September. The September 8 date helped determine the date for the feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8. Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth; however, Saint Augustine connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth the nature inherited from our first parents is changed." The opening prayer at Mass speaks of the birth of Mary's Son as the dawn of our salvation, and asks for an increase of peace.

St Anna - Pray for us - St Joachim - Pray for us



Harvest Mass – Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September **Advance Notice** – we will be celebrating a Harvest Mass on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am.

Weather permitting, we are hoping to hold this in the garden at Our Lady's.

**NEXT SUNDAY – 13<sup>th</sup> September –** there will be a retiring second collection for the Holy Places in Palestine. The collection baskets will be available from the Saturday Vigil Mass until the following Friday morning.

**ANNUAL RIDE & STRIDE** - this is organised by the Bucks Historic Churches Trust and takes place next Saturday – 12<sup>th</sup> September. Riders and Walkers are sponsored for every church they visit on that day. The sponsorship monies are divided equally between the participants home church and the Trust. Rather than having people on duty all day a register will be placed near the porch for visitors to sign between 11.00 and 17.00. Riders/walkers will be expected to bring their own bios and are aware that if they go into any church, they will need to wear a mask.

**FR JOHN** wishes to be remembered to you all and sends you his love and prayers. He has just returned home from a brief spell of respite in 'Nazareth House', Northampton whilst Cicely went into hospital for a knee operation. Happily, both are doing well with Fr John being particularly pleased to be home to some 'proper food'.

## From Deacon Peter's Cupboard

## Reflection on the Twenty-third Sunday

In this week's second reading St Paul has described the process of salvation, won for us by Christ's loving obedience to his Father. Now he gives his instructions how we should live as Christians; he merely slips into the basic command of Judaism: love your neighbour as yourself. Each of these negative commandments he mentions contains a clutch of positive values. If I really love and bond with my spouse, it will never come to adultery. 'You shall not kill' implies also the respect for the property and wellbeing of others. The only debt that I owe to anyone is love. It is easy to kid ourselves that we are practising love when in fact it is self-interest, self-justification. It is easy enough to be loving to our friends (most of the time!), but that is not what Paul means. In his earlier letter to the Corinthians, he gave us that searching test for true love, 'Love is always patient, never jealous, not boastful or conceited, never rude, never seeks its own advantage', and so on. I don't know about you but I can't look many of those qualities in the face without some degree of embarrassment.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, St Joseph, St Lawrence and St Rita pray for us all.

With our love and prayers,

Fr David and Deacon Peter

