



*Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians &  
St Lawrence*

39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH  
**Diocese of Northampton**

Parish Priest: Fr David B Barrett

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Deacon: Rev Peter Griffin – 07850 499414

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Parish Website: [www.ourladyolney.co.uk](http://www.ourladyolney.co.uk)

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

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19 <sup>th</sup> December 2021 Psalter Week: 4	Fourth Sunday of Advent Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers		
First Reading	Micah 5:1-4 <i>Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.		
Second Reading	Hebrews 10:5-10 <i>Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Luke 1:39-44 <i>Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?</i>		
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> December+ O Root of Jesse	6.30pm	Vigil Mass (For the Parish)	
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> December+ O Root of Jesse	10.30am	Mass (Raymond Whysall RIP)	
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> December - O Key Feria	10.00am	Mass (Sr Mae's Intentions)	
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December - O Rising Sun Feria	10.00am	Mass (Margaret Jones Int)	
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December - O King Feria		No Parish Mass today	
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December - O Emmanuel Feria	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass (Jimmy Cremin RIP)	
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> December Feria	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass (Lawrence & family Int)	
The Season of Christmas			
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Vigil Mass	6.30pm	Catherine Patricia Byrne RIP	
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> December – Mass During the Night	9.30pm	Alexander Roberts RIP	
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> December – Mass at Dawn	8.00am	Patrick Reddin RIP	
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> December – Mass During the Day	10.30am	For the Parish	
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> December – THE HOLY FAMILY <i>The Feast of St Stephen is not observed</i>	10.30am	For the Parish	

**FACE MASKS MUST BE WORN IN CHURCH PLEASE (Unless you are exempt)**

# Christmas Mass Readings

## Vigil Mass (6.30pm)

- First Reading:** Isaiah 62:1-5
- Psalm:** *I will sing forever of your love, O Lord*
- Second Reading:** Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17. 22-25
- Gospel Alleluia:** *Alleluia, Alleluia! Tomorrow there will be an end to the sin of the world and the saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!*
- Gospel:** Matthew 1:1-25

## Mass During the Night (9.30pm)

- First Reading:** Isaiah 9:1-7
- Psalm:** *Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.*
- Second Reading:** St Paul to Titus 2:11-14
- Gospel Alleluia:** *Alleluia, Alleluia! I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!*
- Gospel:** Luke 2:1-14

## Mass at Dawn (8.00am)

- First Reading:** Isaiah 62:11-12
- Psalm:** *This day new light will shine upon the earth: the Lord is born for us.*
- Second Reading:** St Paul to Titus 3:4-7
- Gospel Alleluia:** *Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory to God in the highest heave, and peace to men who enjoy his favour. Alleluia!*
- Gospel:** Luke 2:15-20

## Mass During the Day (10.30am)

- First Reading:** Isaiah 52:7-10
- Psalm:** *All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*
- Second Reading:** Hebrews 1:1-6
- Gospel Alleluia:** *Alleluia, Alleluia! A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth. Alleluia!*
- Gospel:** John 1:1-18

## Sacrament of Confession



Confession will be available at Our Lady's as follows:

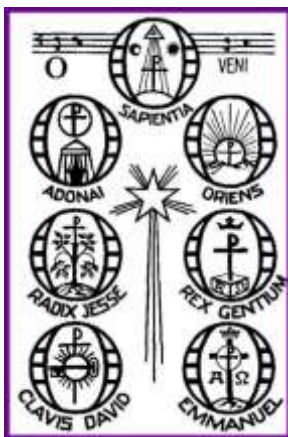
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>9.30-9.50 and after 10.00 Mass</b>
<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	<b>9.30-9.50 and after 10.00 Mass</b>
<b>Friday (Christmas Eve)</b>	<b>9.30-9.50 and after 10.00 Mass</b>



### LIVE STREAM CAMERA

A new 'Live Stream' camera has been fitted in the church. The stream is on 24/7, so you can virtually visit our church at any time – Day or Night - access is via the parish website. All Masses and other services will continue to be individually recorded each

day as well: links will continue to be sent out. Please do press the 'Subscribe' button (you don't have to pay anything) and the 'Like' button (if you like it!) as this will ensure that the channel becomes more visible for our parishioners



**THE 'O ANTIPHONS'** refer to the seven antiphons that are recited or chanted preceding the Magnificat during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the '**Octave before Christmas**' – 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

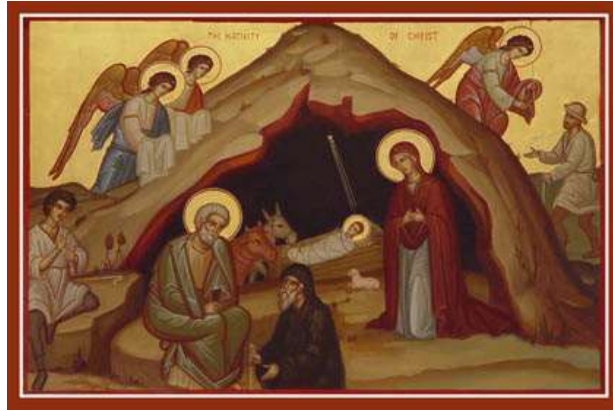
The importance of the 'O Antiphons' is twofold: Each one highlights a title for the Messiah: *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom); *O Adonai* (O Lord); *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse); *O Clavis David* (O Key of David); *O Oriens* (O Rising Sun); *O Rex Gentium* (O King of Nations); and *O Emmanuel* (O God with Us) – each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah. If you would like to follow the Liturgy of Hours you can find this on <https://universalis.com/>

**CAFOD**  
Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development

CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During this Christmas Season when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: <https://cafod.org.uk/>



As is customary, Christmas is the time for giving something to Father David to show our appreciation for everything he has done for our parish, particularly during these difficult times. It can be done in several ways; planned giving envelopes; standing order with a reference of Fr David; plain envelope clearly marked '**Fr David Christmas Offering**'. If by cheque please make payable to **Our Lady Help of Christians**.



*Fr David, Fr Brian, Fr John, Fr Malcolm, Deacon Peter,*

*Denise & the Sisters*

*wish you and your loved ones a very Blessed & Holy Christmas*

*together with a Blessed & Peaceful New Year*

From Fr David's desk....

From the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Century Letter to Diognetus

No man has ever seen God or known him, but God has revealed himself to us through faith, by which alone it is possible to see him. God, the Lord and maker of all things, who created the world and set it in order, not only loved man but was also patient with him. So he has always been, and is, and will be: kind, good, free from anger, truthful; indeed, he and he alone is good.

He devised a plan, a great and wonderful plan, and shared it only with his Son. As long as he preserved this secrecy and kept his own wise counsel he seemed to be neglecting us, to have no concern for us. But when through his beloved Son he revealed and made public what he had prepared from the very beginning, he gave us all at once gifts such as we could never have dreamt of, even sight and knowledge of himself.

When God had made all his plans in consultation with his Son, he waited until a later time, allowing us to follow our own whim, to be swept along by unruly passions, to be led astray by pleasure and desire. Not that he was pleased by our sins: he only tolerated them. Not that he approved of that time of sin: he was planning this era of holiness. When we had been shown to be undeserving of life, his goodness was to make us worthy of it. When we had made it clear that we could not enter God's kingdom by our own power, we were to be enabled to do so by the power of God.

When our wickedness had reached its culmination, it became clear that retribution was at hand in the shape of suffering and death. The time came then for God to make known his kindness and power (how immeasurable is God's generosity and love!). He did not show hatred for us or reject us or take vengeance; instead, he was patient with us, bore with us, and in compassion took our sins upon himself; he gave his own Son as the price of our redemption, the holy one to redeem the wicked, the sinless one to redeem sinners, the just one to redeem the unjust, the incorruptible one to redeem the corruptible, the immortal one to redeem mortals. For what else could have covered our sins but his sinlessness? Where else could we, wicked and sinful as we were, have found the means of holiness except in the Son of God alone?

How wonderful a transformation, how mysterious a design, how inconceivable a blessing! The wickedness of the many is covered up in the holy One, and the holiness of One sanctifies many sinners.

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

With our love and prayers,

Fr David and Deacon Peter