



Parish of Our Lay Help of Christians &  
St Lawrence

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Diocese of Northampton

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<b>16<sup>th</sup> January 2022</b> <b>Psalter Week 2</b>	<b>Second Sunday of the Year</b> <b>Peace Day</b>	
<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Isaiah 62:1-5</b> <i>The bridegroom rejoices in his bride.</i>	
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.</b>	
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>1 St Paul to the Corinthians 12:4-11</b> <i>One and the same Spirit, who distributes gifts to different people just as he chooses.</i>	
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	<b>Alleluia, Alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!</b>	
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>John 2:1-11</b> <i>This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee.</i>	
<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January +</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)</b>
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Frank &amp; Peggy Cockings RIP)</b>
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>St Anthony, Abbott - memoria</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass – (Hildebrand van Reyk RIP)</b>
<b>OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY</b> <b>18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022</b>		
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>Feria</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass (McManus Family Int)</b>
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>St Wulstan, Bishop – optional memoria</b>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>St Fabian, Pope &amp; Martyr – optional memoria</b> <b>St Sebastian, Martyr – optional memoria</b>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> <b>Mass – (Andrea McManus Int.)</b>
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January</b> <b>St Agnes, Martyr - memoria</b>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> <b>Mass – (Anthony Medlicott Int)</b>
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January</b> <b>St Vincent, Deacon &amp; Martyr – op. memoria</b>	<b>10.00am</b> <b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass (Clive Jones RIP)</b> <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b>
<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> <b>Sunday of the Word of God</b>		
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January +</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)</b>
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Ludwik Grabowiecki RIP)</b>

## Second Collection for White Flower Appeal (SPUC)

This weekend there will be the annual second collection for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (White Flower Appeal). Please leave any donations in the collection baskets in the narthex or place them in an envelope, clearly marked 'White Flower Appeal' and pop in through the presbytery letterbox or use the Digital Collection Plate. Thank you



**APF (MISSIO) RED BOXES** – Normally the boxes would be returned to the church but with the current ongoing situation could box holders please empty their donations into a large envelope or plastic bag ensuring that their name and address are recorded on the envelope. The money can be returned over the **next 3 weeks** and placed into the baskets at the back of the church. Thank you. Collecting boxes are available if you would like to have one.



**PEACE SUNDAY** follows the international World Day of Peace and is celebrated in the parishes of England and Wales on this Second Sunday of the Year. The theme is taken from the Holy Father's message for the 55<sup>th</sup> World Day of Peace:

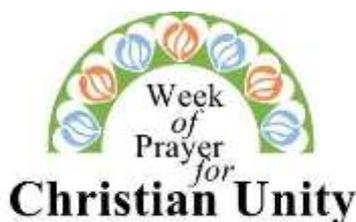
*Dialogue between Generations, Education, Work and Dialogue: Tools for Building Lasting Peace.*

Pax Christi, the international Catholic movement for peace, takes the lead in providing resources for Peace Sunday. Its National President, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon of Liverpool, says: *"This year has been one of unprecedented and continuing challenges. We are all conscious of the need to restore and rebuild our communities here and around the world, accepting that we need new ways of working and relating to each other. The Christian message of peace, through reconciliation, justice and non-violence, can offer hope and direction in these times."*

### Prayer for Peace Sunday

O God of peace, who are peace itself  
and whom a spirit of discord  
cannot grasp,  
nor a violent mind receive,  
grant that those who are one in heart  
may persevere in what is good  
and that those in conflict  
may forget evil and so be healed.

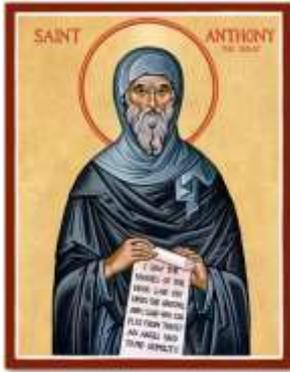
Amen



**OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** begins this coming Tuesday and runs until Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January. We are asked to pray for the unity of all our Christian brothers & sisters across the world – we think especially of the entire Christian Community here within our parish. Resources for this Octave can be found on: <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022/>

*May they all be one. Father, may they be one in us, as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.*

John 17:21



## St Anthony the Great

This outstanding father of all monks was born in Egypt about the year 250. After the death of his parents, he gave his worldly goods to the poor and went into the desert to live a life of penance. Many became his followers. He worked for the Church, supporting the confessors of the faith in their sufferings during the persecution of Diocletian, and St Athanasius in his struggles against the Arians. He died in the year 356.



## St Sebastian

According to his legend, Sebastian was born at Narbonne, Gaul. He became a soldier in the Roman army at Rome in about 283, and encouraged Marcellian and Marcus, under sentence of death, to remain firm in their faith. Sebastian made numerous converts: among them were the master of the rolls, Nicostratus, who was in charge of prisoners and his wife, Zoe, a deaf mute whom he cured. Sebastian was venerated at Milan as early as the time of St. Ambrose and was buried on the Appian Way. He is patron of archers, athletes, and soldiers, and is appealed to for protection against plagues.



## St Agnes

St Agnes (c. 292–c. 304) is believed to have been martyred in Rome at the age of 12 because she refused to marry the son of a Roman official, instead declaring herself committed to Christ as a virgin during an era when Christianity was still an underground religion. In the decades after her death, Agnes's tomb became a place of pilgrimage. She was martyred at the Stadium of Domitian, built by that Emperor, which is now the Piazza Navona. She was buried in a catacomb on the Via Nomentana over which was eventually built a Basilica – Sant'Agnese fuori le Mura (St Agnes-Outside-the-Walls)



## St Vincent

Vincent, a deacon of the Church of Saragossa (Spain), suffered terrible tortures and died the death of a martyr at Valencia, in Spain, during the persecution of Diocletian, around the same time as St Agnes. Veneration for him quickly spread throughout the Church.

*“It has been granted to you”, he says, “that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake” – ‘the deacon Vincent received both these gifts; belief and suffering’*

*From the sermons of St Augustine*

## This Sunday's Readings

### Isaiah 62:1-5

The marriage relationship is perhaps the most intimate of the personal relationships we know, designed to become ever deeper and more absorbing. Even the relationship of mother to child cannot equal it. So, in the Bible the relationship of the Lord to his people is likened to the relationship in marriage. But, like many human marriage relationships, it went through bad patches. Israel was so persistently unfaithful to the Lord that eventually it seemed that the Lord abandoned her to those with whom she had 'prostituted' herself. This could not be permanent; Israel could not go on being called 'Abandoned' and 'Forsaken'; the past would be forgotten. After the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, Isaiah prophesies the final wedding in terms of the unalloyed joy of a freshly wedded couple. So in the gospels, Jesus uses the figure of the final wedding-feast, and the image of himself as the bridegroom in the joy of the festival. The Lord always gives us another chance, an unalloyed welcome to his feast.

### 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

At the beginning of each year the Church gives us some six Sundays of readings from St Paul's first letter to that troubled community, the Corinthians. Corinth was a thriving port-town of southern Greece, with a very varied community, rich and poor, academics and dockers. There were no clear human leaders in the Church community, and reliance on the Spirit for guidance in the problems of living as Christians did not always seem to provide a solution. The readings on these three Sundays show Paul trying to help. Yes, the Spirit is at work in the community in many different ways. There are many different gifts, all necessary for this varied community. The trouble seems to have been that each person valued their own contribution so much that the gifts of others seemed insignificant. St Paul's stress on the variety of ways in which the Spirit works to build up a community gives us the occasion to reflect on the variety of gifts which the Spirit has poured out on our own Christian community, and on every individual member of it. I can rejoice in gifts which God has given to me, but only if simultaneously I think of all the gifts which others have and I lack.

### St John 2:1-12

Year C is the year of St Luke's gospel, but we start with this reading from St John which recounts the symbolic beginning of Jesus' ministry. It is full of riches. After the first reading from Isaiah, it is impossible not to see this 'sign' (as John calls it) as a sign of that final wedding-feast of God and his people. Furthermore, in Jewish thought, water represents the Law: in an arid land water is the sign of life and is precious – just so, the Law of God is precious and gives life. Jesus transforms this water of the Law into the wine of the New Covenant – and in such generous quantities: over one hundred gallons of wine! Then there is Mary's part: Jesus says his Hour has not yet come (and the reader knows that the Hour of Jesus will be the moment of his exaltation at the Cross and Resurrection), but Mary's confident plea is a reminder to us of the power of her intercession. She will be mentioned no more in this gospel till she is present at the Cross, sharing the passion of her Son and joined to the Beloved Disciple to form the first Christian community.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, Our Lady Mother of God, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St Edmund, St Rita, St Anthony, St Wulstan, St Fabian, St Sebastian, St Agnes, St Vincent, pray for us all.

With our love and prayers,

Fr David and Deacon Peter