



Parish of Our Lay Help of Christians &
St Lawrence

39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH

Diocese of Northampton

Parish Priest: Fr David B Barrett

olneyparishpriest@icloud.com

Fr Brian Leatherland (Rtd) – Fr John Fowler (Rtd)

Deacon: Rev Peter Griffin – 07850 499414

pfgriffin@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Website: www.ourladyolney.co.uk

Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

Telephone: 01234 711212 ourladyolney@btconnect.com

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

Turvey Abbey – 01234 881432

SVP Contact: 07925 125206

23rd January 2022 Psalter Week 3	Third Sunday of the Year Sunday of the Word of God	
First Reading	Nehemiah 8:2-6. 8-10 <i>Ezra read from the law of God and the people understood what was read.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.	
Second Reading	1 St Paul to the Corinthians 12:12-30 <i>You together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, Alleluia! The Lord has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives. Alleluia!	
Gospel	Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21 <i>This text is being fulfilled today.</i>	
OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18th – 25th January 2022		
Saturday 22nd January +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 23rd January +	10.30am	Mass – (Ludwik Grabowiecki RIP)
Monday 24th January St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor - memoria	10.00am	Mass – (Margaret Leavy Int.)
Tuesday 25th January CONVERSION OF ST PAUL - Feast	10.00am	Mass (Linda Hewitt RIP)
Wednesday 26th January SS Timothy & Titus, Bishops - memoria		No Parish Mass today
Thursday 27th January St Angelica Merici, Virgin – optional memoria	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Geoffrey Ayles RIP)
Friday 28th January St Thomas Aquinas, Doctor - memoria	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Mgr David Donnelly RIP)
Saturday 29th January Our Lady on Saturday	10.00am 10.30am	Mass (Betty Horohan RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR		
Saturday 29th January +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 30th January +	10.30am	Mass – (Mary Guiry RIP)



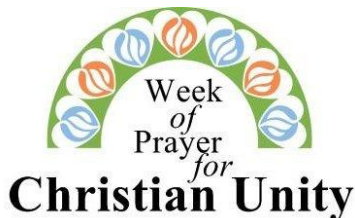
SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD - On the Feast of St Jerome in 2019, Pope Francis issued a 'Motu Proprio' instituting the **Sunday of the Word of God** - it is marked each year on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time. The Holy Father proposed the idea at the conclusion of the Year of Mercy when he wrote of a desire to institute a "Sunday given over entirely to the Word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people." On this day we are encouraged to celebrate the Word of God

by the reading of the scriptures. We are blessed in our parish with having a good team of readers and we are asked to pray with them and for them on this special day.

TODAY (Sunday) - Bishop David will be preside at a Service of the Word in the Cathedral at 3pm. As a part of this service Bishop David will bless all readers who proclaim the Word of God in their parishes. Readers are invited to attend if they wish or you can access the 'live stream' via the Cathedral website: <https://northamptoncathedral.org/>



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 two 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.



OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY continues until Tuesday 25th 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.

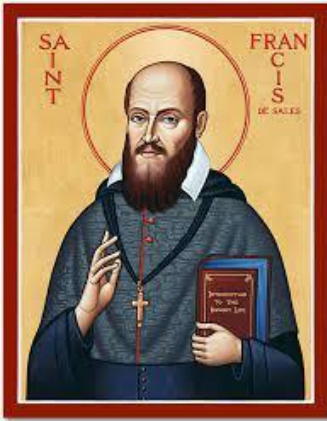
John 17:21



MANY THANKS to the anonymous parishioner who donated the very generous sum of £60.00 to the SVP funds. Be assured it will be put to good use. SVP members are happy to provide lifts to parishioners who may like to attend Mass in person in church and for whom transport is difficult. If parishioners would like Communion brought to them at home, please contact the SVP.

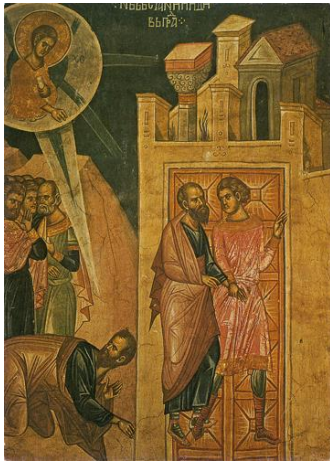


NEXT WEEKEND - 29th/30th January - we will be holding a second collection on behalf of Willen Hospice. Normally the Christmas carol concert raises funds for the hospice but due to COVID this hasn't happened for the last 2 years.



St Francis de Sales

St Francis was born near Annecy in Savoy in the year 1567. After his ordination as a priest, he worked strenuously for the renewal of the faith in his country; and after his election as Bishop of Geneva he showed himself to be a true shepherd towards his clergy and the faithful, being an example in all things and helping all by his writings and work. He died at Lyons on 28th December 1622 and was buried at Annecy on 24th January 1623



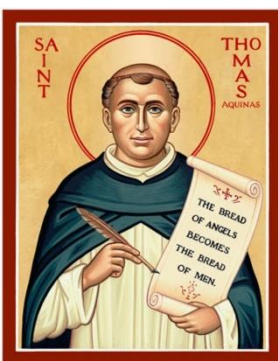
The Conversion of St Paul

St Paul the Apostle was the greatest of the early Christian missionaries. He first appears in the Acts of the Apostles under the name of Saul. Saul was raised in the Jewish faith as a Pharisee trained in the strict observance of God's Law. He believed the Law should be obeyed by himself and all Jews. Saul was upset by the early Christian Church, believing that the early Christians had broken away from their Jewish traditions. He actively persecuted the Church in Jerusalem. On the road to Damascus Saul had an encounter with the risen Jesus Christ (Acts 9:1–19) Jesus asked, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Paul replied, "Who are you, sir?" Jesus responded, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:4–5). Saul was shaken and blinded by the experience and when a Christian named Ananias came and baptised Saul, his blindness went away. As a result of this encounter Saul became a follower of Christ. He was now convinced that communion with the risen Jesus Christ, not the observance of the Law, was all that was needed to receive God's promise of salvation.



Ss Timothy & Titus

Timothy & Titus were disciples and helpers of the Apostle Paul, the former being placed in charge of the Church at Ephesus, the latter the Church at Crete. St Paul wrote his pastoral epistles to them containing much useful advice for the instruction of the clergy and people



St Thomas Aquinas

St Thomas was born about the year 1225, a member of a noble family of Aquino. He studied first at Monte Cassino and then at Naples; later as a member of the Dominican Order he completed his studies at Paris and then at Cologne with St Albert the Great as his teacher. He was an outstanding writer and teacher of philosophy and sacred theology. He died at Fossanuova Abbey, Italy on 7th March 1274. He was venerated on 28th January for on that date in the year 1369 his body was reburied at Toulouse. He is considered to be one of the greatest theologians of the Church's history.

In 2008 Pope Benedict XVI gave a beautiful reflection for the Feast of St Paul's Conversion. Below is the final part of it, which is very beautiful:

This turning point in Paul's life, this transformation of his whole being was not the fruit of a psychological process, of a maturation or intellectual and moral development. Rather it came from the outside: it was not the fruit of his thought but of his encounter with Jesus Christ. In this sense it was not simply a conversion, a development of his "ego", but rather a death and a resurrection for Paul himself. One existence died and another, new one was born with the Risen Christ. There is no other way in which to explain this renewal of Paul. None of the psychological analyses can clarify or solve the problem. This event alone, this powerful encounter with Christ, is the key to understanding what had happened: death and resurrection, renewal on the part of the One who had shown himself and had spoken to him. In this deeper sense we can and we must speak of conversion. This encounter is a real renewal that changed all his parameters. Now he could say that what had been essential and fundamental for him earlier had become "refuse" for him; it was no longer "gain" but loss, because henceforth the only thing that counted for him was life in Christ.

Nevertheless, we must not think that Paul was thus closed in a blind event. The contrary is true because the Risen Christ is the light of truth, the light of God himself. This expanded his heart and made it open to all. At this moment he did not lose all that was good and true in his life, in his heritage, but he understood wisdom, truth, the depth of the law and of the prophets in a new way and in a new way made them his own. At the same time, his reasoning was open to pagan wisdom. Being open to Christ with all his heart, he had become capable of an ample dialogue with everyone, he had become capable of making himself everything to everyone. Thus he could truly be the Apostle to the Gentiles.

Turning now to ourselves, let us ask what this means for us. It means that for us too Christianity is not a new philosophy or a new morality. We are only Christians if we encounter Christ. Of course, he does not show himself to us in this overwhelming, luminous way, as he did to Paul to make him the Apostle to all peoples. But we too can encounter Christ in reading Sacred Scripture, in prayer, in the liturgical life of the Church. We can touch Christ's Heart and feel him touching ours. Only in this personal relationship with Christ, only in this encounter with the Risen One do we truly become Christians. And in this way our reason opens, all Christ's wisdom opens as do all the riches of truth.

Therefore let us pray the Lord to illumine us, to grant us an encounter with his presence in our world, and thus to grant us a lively faith, an open heart and great love for all, which is capable of renewing the world.

One Other Thing...

Would you like to read and follow the Bible over the course of a year? There is an excellent daily podcast which you can subscribe to or get with things like Spotify or on any podcast app: it is called **The Bible in a Year** and it is lead by a very gifted American priest, Fr Mike Schmitz. You can look it up by simply typing **The Bible in a Year** on Google or Bing. I would *highly* recommend it. It is one of the best selling apps on the internet at the moment.

[May Our Lady, Help of Christians, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St Edmund, St Rita, St Francis de Sales, St Paul, Ss Timothy & Titus, St Angela Merici, St Thomas Aquinas, pray for us all.](#)

With our love and prayers,

Fr David and Deacon Peter