



Parish of Our Lay Help of Christians &
St Lawrence

39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH

Diocese of Northampton

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30th January 2022 Psalter Week 4	Fourth Sunday of the Year	
First Reading	Jeremiah 1:4-5. 17-19 <i>I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	My lips will tell of your help.	
Second Reading	1 St Paul to the Corinthians 12:31-13:13 <i>There are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord; no one can come to the Father except through me. Alleluia!	
Gospel	Luke 4:21-30 <i>Like Elijah and Elisha, Jesus is not sent to the Jews only.</i>	
Saturday 29th January +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 30th January +	10.30am	Mass – (Mary Guiry RIP)
Monday 31st January St John Bosco, Priest - memoria	10.00am	Mass – (Joan Bagg & Anita Chapman RIP)
Tuesday 1st February St Brigid	10.00am	Mass (Patrick Cockings RIP)
Wednesday 2nd February PRESENTATION OF THE LORD – Feast	7.30pm	Mass (Albert Lawrence Blunt RIP)
Thursday 3rd February St Blaise, – optional memoria	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Josie Mynard RIP)
Friday 4th February <i>Feria</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Michael Grabowiecki Int.)
Saturday 5th February St Agatha, Virgin & Doctor - memoria	10.00am 10.30am	Mass (Brian & Eileen Barrett Int.) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR		
Saturday 7th February +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 6th February +	10.30am	Mass – (Mary Boyle RIP)

SECOND COLLECTION TODAY FOR WILLEN HOSPICE

CV-19 GUIDANCE FOR PARISHES

Following the announcement by HM Government on 19th January that the measures put in place to mitigate against covid virus transmission as “Plan B” were lifted in full on 27th January, we have received updated guidance from the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales. This guidance has been agreed with Public Health officials.

Acts of Worship

- Any people displaying symptoms of Covid-19 should stay at home and not participate in acts of worship in church.
- Those attending an act of worship may continue to wear a face covering (both nose and mouth) whilst in the church building.
- Congregational singing may continue but there is a general encouragement to wear face coverings while singing.
- There is no need for formal social distancing in church buildings, although those present should be sensitive to the needs of others around them. For those who require ‘safe space’ notice cards will be available from next week.
- Churches should continue to ensure there is good ventilation, balancing this against the need for church heating, especially at this time.
- It is clear from scientific evidence that transmission from surfaces (touch transmission) is now minimal and so the use of hymn books, missals and other worship aids can be resumed with immediate effect.
- Whilst it is still good practice to sanitise hands on entry and exit of churches, there is no need for readers (or other ministers) to sanitise their hands before reading or performing other ministries in the church.
- Holy water stoups may be refilled but care should be seen that the stoup is cleaned and the water is changed regularly (at a minimum of once a week).

FROM 31st JANUARY THE REQUIREMENT TO BOOK YOUR PLACE AT MASS WILL BE DISCONTINUED AS WILL THE SIGNING IN PROCESS – THE QR CODE IS STILL AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO REGISTER THEIR PRESENCE.



THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (CANDLEMAS)

On Wednesday the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas Day, since the blessing and procession of candles is included in today's liturgy.

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is

referred to as the "Purification of Mary." This is known as a "Christmas feast" since it points back to the Solemnity of Christmas. Many Catholics practice the tradition of keeping out the Nativity Crib or other Christmas decorations until this feast. **Mass will be celebrated here at 7.30pm: if you have any candles you would like to have blessed, please do bring them along.**



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 up to and including next weekend and placed into the baskets at the back of the church. Thank you. Collecting boxes are available if you would like to have one.



CROSS DEOMINATIONAL PRAYER GROUP - Billy Graham said “To get the nations back on their feet, we must first get down on our knees”. If you would like to be part of a cross denominational prayer group that meets fortnightly to pray for Olney, then why not join us at 1.30pm on alternate Thursdays for an hour. We meet at 3 Clickers Yard Court, Yardley Road, Olney. The next two meetings are on **February 3rd and 17th**. Whether you have little experience of praying in a group, or lots, you are very welcome. If you would like more information, please contact Katie in the SSPP church office at office@olney.church or **01234 241721**.



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 led 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 bestselling apps on the internet at the moment.



St John Bosco

Born near Castlenuovo in the diocese of Turin in 1815. He had a difficult childhood in poverty but eventually was ordained priest. He put every effort into the education of youth and founded Religious Congregations to teach them and to bring them up in the Christian way of life. He wrote some short works in defence of the faith. He died in the year 1888.



St Agatha

St Agatha was from Catania, Sicily. Though her birth date is unknown, it is believed she died around 251 AD. St. Agatha was born to a wealthy and powerful family in Sicily. As a young woman she refused any offers of marriage. She wanted to live the life of a virgin, consecrated to God. A young man, named Quintian, felt as though his high ranking would persuade St. Agatha to give in and marry him. When she refused him, he had her arrested and brought before the judge, who was Quintian himself. He threatened her with the sentence of torture and possibly death, thinking that this would make her give in to him. Her response was a prayer to God: “Jesus Christ, Lord of all, you see my heart, you know my desires.

Possess all that I am. I am your sheep: make me worthy to overcome the devil.” St Agatha’s name is inserted in the Roman Canon.



St Blaise

He was Bishop of Sivas in Armenia in the fourth century. In the Middle Ages veneration of him spread throughout the Church. Bishop Blaise was martyred in Sebastea, Armenia, in 316. The legendary Acts of St. Blaise were written 400 years later. According to them Blaise was a good bishop, working hard to encourage the spiritual and physical health of his people. Armenia. Legend has it that as the hunters hauled Blaise off to prison, a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blaise’s command the child was able to cough up the bone.

From Fr David's desk...

The Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)

For the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) on 2nd February this week, we have the following beautiful sermon by St Sophronius of Jerusalem (560-638): Born in Damascus, Sophronius was an ascetic and monk until 634 when he became Patriarch of Jerusalem. His homily here captures some of the main themes of this lovely Feast. Even if we cannot be at church today, perhaps we can light candles at home to celebrate this Feast and ask that the Light which is Christ shines more brightly in our hearts, our homes, our parish, the whole Church, and the world.

In honour of the divine mystery that we celebrate today, let us all hasten to meet Christ. Everyone should be eager to join the procession and to carry a light.

Our lighted candles are a sign of the divine splendour of the one who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brilliance of his eternal light. Our candles also show how bright our souls should be when we go to meet Christ.

The Mother of God, the most pure Virgin, carried the true light in her arms and brought him to those who lay in darkness. We too should carry a light for all to see and reflect the radiance of the true light as we hasten to meet him.

The light has come and has shone upon a world enveloped in shadows; the Dayspring from on high has visited us and given light to those who lived in darkness. This, then, is our feast, and we join in procession with lighted candles to reveal the light that has shone upon us and the glory that is yet to come to us through him. So let us hasten all together to meet our God.

The true light has come, the light that enlightens every man who is born into this world. Let all of us, my brethren, be enlightened and made radiant by this light. Let all of us share in its splendour, and be so filled with it that no one remains in the darkness. Let us be shining ourselves as we go together to meet and to receive with the aged Simeon the light whose brilliance is eternal. Rejoicing with Simeon, let us sing a hymn of thanksgiving to God, the Father of the light, who sent the true light to dispel the darkness and to give us all a share in his splendour.

Through Simeon's eyes we too have seen the salvation of God which he prepared for all the nations and revealed as the glory of the new Israel, which is ourselves. As Simeon was released from the bonds of this life when he had seen Christ, so we too were at once freed from our old state of sinfulness.

By faith we too embraced Christ, the salvation of God the Father, as he came to us from Bethlehem. Gentiles before, we have now become the people of God. Our eyes have seen God incarnate, and because we have seen him present among us and have mentally received him into our arms, we are called the new Israel. Never shall we forget this presence; every year we keep a feast in his honour.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St Edmund, St Rita, St John Bosco, St Blaise, St Ansgar, St Werburgh, St Agatha, pray for us all.

With our love and prayers,

Fr David and Deacon Peter