



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

olneyparishpriest@icloud.com

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

Deacon: Rev Peter Griffin – 07850 499414

pfgriffin@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Website: www.ourladysolney.co.uk

Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

Telephone: 01234 711212 ourladysolney@btconnect.com

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

Turvey Abbey – 01234 881432

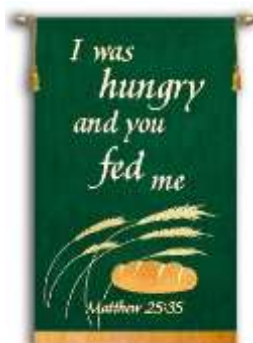
SVP Contact: 07925 125206

9 th January 2022	The Baptism of the Lord	
First Reading	Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7 <i>Here is my servant in whom my soul delights.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	The Lord will bless his people with peace	
Second Reading	Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38 <i>God anointed him with the Holy Spirit.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, Alleluia! The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: "This is my Son, the Beloved, Listen to him." Alleluia!	
Gospel	Luke 3:15-16.21-22 <i>While Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened.</i>	
<i>Here ends the Season of Christmas</i>		
Saturday 8 th January +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (David Beadle RIP)
Sunday 9 th January +	10.30am	Mass – (For the Parish)
FIRST WEEK OF THE YEAR Sunday Lectionary: Year of Luke – (C) Ferial lectionary: Year II – Psalter Week: 1		
Monday 10 th January <i>Feria</i>	10.00am	Mass – (James McGee RIP)
Tuesday 11 th January <i>Feria</i>	10.00am	Mass (Michael & Margaret McCormick Int)
Wednesday 12 th January St Aelred of Rievaulx – <i>op memoria</i>		No Parish Mass today
Thursday 13 th January St Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop & Doctor	10.00am	Mass – (Sr Yvonne Pilaski Int.)
Friday 14 th January <i>Feria</i>	10.00am	Mass – (Bruce Kelly RIP)
Saturday 15 th January <i>Our Lady on Saturday</i>	10.00am 10.30am	Mass (Phil & Clare Burrows Int) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Peace Day		
Saturday 15 th January +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 16 th January +	10.30am	Mass – (Frank & Peggy Cockings RIP)

THE WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS (UNLESS YOU ARE EXEMPT) IS STILL A REQUIREMENT IN ALL PLACES OF WORSHIP

Next Weekend: Second Collection for White Flower Appeal (SPUC)

Next 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. Thank you



MK Food Bank

We continue to be very grateful to all of you who have been supporting the Food Bank particularly over the Christmas & New Year period. Sadly, there continues to be an ever-increasing need for the Food Bank more so in this very cold weather. 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 Soup – Pasta Sauce – Spreads



One of the many blessings in our parish is the work undertaken by our SVP volunteers who very much live up to the motto of the society – **'Turning Concern into Action'**. There are many difficult challenges that face us all, particularly as we continue through the pandemic. If you are aware of any family or individual, young or old, that are in need of support, please contact Fr David, Deacon Peter or any member of the Parish SVP – contact details can be found at the top of the newsletter.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - Fr David is available to hear Confessions after every Mass and especially during Exposition on Saturday mornings and this is carried out in a socially distanced and safe fashion.

"It is a beautiful thought my children, that we have a Sacrament which heals the wounds of our souls." – St John Mary Vianney

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP - On Monday 17 January a weekly Charismatic Prayer Group will commence at 7.30pm in the Reconciliation Chapel at St Joseph's RC Church, Brereton Road, Bedford MK40 1HU. All are warmly welcome to attend. For further information please contact Ted Fawcett on 01234.838134



Moveable Feasts 2022

Baptism of the Lord – 9th January
Ash Wednesday – 2nd March
Easter Triduum – 14th - 16th April
EASTER SUNDAY – 17th April
Ascension of the Lord – 26th May
Pentecost – 5th June
Trinity Sunday – 12th June
Corpus Christi – 19th June
Sacred Heart of Jesus – 24th June
Christ the King – 20th November



ST BERNADETTE SOUBIROÛS

The relics of Saint Bernadette will travel from the Upper Basilica in Lourdes to every Catholic Cathedral in the UK in 2022. The Catholic Bishops Conference have announced that each diocese will host the relics, a bone from her thigh, for two days on a yet to be announced date next year.

The remains of Saint Bernadette are preserved in a shrine in the town of Nevers, 700 kilometres north of Lourdes. Bernadette joined a convent in Nevers in 1880 to escape the attention of pilgrims. Canon Christopher Thomas, the general secretary of the CBCEW, recently made the announcement at the end of the bishops' plenary meeting, the first face to face meeting of bishops' conference since the beginning of the pandemic. He likened it to the visit of the relics of Saint Thèrèse of Lisieux to Britain in 2009. The invitation to host the relics was issued by the Shrine of Lourdes to the Bishops of England and Wales and will *"remind British Catholics of the importance of pilgrimage in our lives"* Canon Thomas continued.

Thousands of Catholics from across the UK visit Lourdes on pilgrimage every year. In our diocese we travel with the Catholic Association in August. The sick and all those seeking healing are central to the majority of pilgrimages to Lourdes and it is hoped that this will be the case here in our own diocese.



St AELRED OF RIEVAULX - In 1143, Aelred was appointed abbot of Revesby Abbey, a newly founded Cistercian monastery in Lincolnshire. However, he was destined to greater things and in 1147 was recalled to Rievaulx (North Yorkshire Moors) to serve as its third abbot. Over the next 20 years, the already thriving monastery became a religious, cultural and economic powerhouse. According to Walter Daniel, Aelred 'doubled everything', the size of the community reaching 640 men. The name of Rievaulx became famous at the royal courts of England, France and Scotland and to popes in Rome. The monastery attracted recruits from across Europe. These included men who had struggled to settle at other monasteries. In Aelred, they found a loving and compassionate father and were able to fulfil their monastic vocation. Walter Daniel and his brother monks held their abbot in such esteem that they called him 'our Aelred'.



St HILARY, Bishop & Doctor of the Church, - was born in Poitiers at the beginning of the fourth century, Hilary was elected Bishop of that city in the year 350. He combatted the Arians relentlessly, for which reason he was exiled by the Emperor Constantine. For the purpose of strengthening the Catholic faith and interpreting sacred scripture he published works which are outstanding in their wisdom and learning. He died in the year 367.

"I realise indeed, almighty God and Father, that the overriding duty of my life to you, is that you should be the subject of all my words and all my thoughts."

From the treatise of St Hilary on the Trinity

Do you know the date of your Baptism? We all know the date of our birth, when we entered this world from our mother's womb: the human life nurtured and grown within the womb was then nurtured and helped to grow in the world. But the day of our Baptism was when we entered into the new world which Christ came to inaugurate. That world is the world of grace – the world where we begin to share God's life in a way that changes us for ever. The day of our birth was the beginning of our human life which will one day end in this world. But the day of our Baptism was the beginning of our living a life that, when we die in this world, will see no sunset, no dimming, no weakening but an ever greater share in the infinite and joyful plenitude of God's existence. All this has already begun in us – on the day of our Baptism. This is why St Paul could exclaim, "I live – no, it is not I who live but Christ who lives in me" (Galatians 2:20).

So the day when we were baptised was the day when we became God's children because we were joined to Jesus and He was joined to us. This is Jesus who died and rose again for us: His risen human nature is now alive with the incorruptible and vibrant fullness of who He is as God. Baptism marks the moment when the transformation that took place in Jesus at His Resurrection begins to work its effect in us – note the word "begins": this is a transformation that takes place throughout our lives and will only reach its fullness in eternal life and most of all the final Resurrection of the body. What this will be like we do not know – but it will be beautiful and magnificent. The words of St John hint at this, "We shall be like Him because we shall see Him as He really is" (1 John 3:2). St Paul describes it in a way that links with St John: "God will be all in all" (1 Corinthians 15:28). The key point is that within each one of us this Resurrection-life is at work and growing – and it all began the day we were baptised.

St Paul in his letter to the Colossians expresses this beautifully: "I became a servant of the Church when God made me responsible for delivering God's message to you, the message which was a mystery hidden for generations and centuries and has now been revealed to his saints... The mystery is Christ in you, your hope of glory: this is the Christ we proclaim, this is the wisdom in which we thoroughly train everyone and instruct everyone, to make them all mature in Christ" (Colossians 1:25-26,27b-28).

Christ is in you! Just as we need food and drink and care and love to grow naturally, this life of God that each of us has been given at Baptism all so needs to be helped to grow. We have to become mature in Christ. Our personal faith has to grow and we each have the personal responsibility to nurture this growth – through prayer, the sacraments, through living our Faith and putting it into practice through love. These are the things no-one else can do for us. It is a responsibility for each of us. Yet, it is more of a gift and privilege than a responsibility – we each get to work with Jesus Christ! The apostles worked with Jesus 2000 years ago; but they were not to be the only ones to get to do so. Each of us is invited by Jesus to join Him in His great work of salvation. We reap the harvest of salvation with Him in our own selves – but we also help to sow the seed of salvation elsewhere and help it to grow in others. Jesus is in us. We are not alone. And we have the help of the whole Church and of our parish and families and friends – we all reap the harvest together: we don't have to do anything just on our own. We have Jesus in us – in each of us and therefore in all of us, and this makes us always never alone but joined to each other. All this because of Baptism.

So, what is the date of the anniversary of your Baptism? Find out. Mark it in your diary. Make it a day of celebration. Something mighty began in each of us that day. It really is something to celebrate. Our Lady declared that God had done great things for her; for this reason, she cried out, "My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour." Make that day a day to join Our Lady in rejoicing in our Saviour.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, Our Lady Mother of God, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St Edmund, St Rita, St Aelred, St Hilary, pray for us all.

With our love and prayers,

Fr David and Deacon Peter