



Parish of Our Lay Help of Christians &
St Lawrence

39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH

Diocese of Northampton

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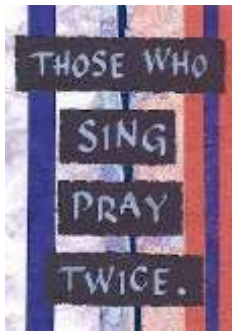
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| 13th February 2022 Psalter Week 2 | <i>Sixth Sunday of the Year</i> Day of Prayer for Racial Justice | |
| First Reading | Jeremiah 17:5-8 <i>A curse on the man who puts his trust in man, a blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord.</i> | |
| Responsorial Psalm | Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord. | |
| Second Reading | 1 St Paul to the Corinthians 15:12. 16-20 <i>If Christ has not been raised, your believing is useless.</i> | |
| Gospel Acclamation | Alleluia, Alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia! | |
| Gospel | Luke 6:17. 20-26 <i>How happy are you who are poor. Alas for you who are rich.</i> | |
| Saturday 12th February + | 6.30pm | Vigil Mass – (For the Parish) |
| Sunday 13th February + | 10.30am | Mass – (Eileen Brady RIP) |
| Monday 14th February Ss Cyril (Monk) & Methodius (Bishop) Patrons of Europe - Feast | 10.00am | Mass – (Sharonne Van Reyk RIP) |
| Tuesday 15th February <i>Feria</i> | 10.00am | Mass – (Eileen Donnelly RIP) |
| Wednesday 16th February <i>Feria</i> | | No Parish Mass today |
| Thursday 17th February The Seven Holy Servites – optional memoria | 9.15am 10.00am | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Throckmorton Family RIP) |
| Friday 18th February <i>Feria</i> | 9.15am 10.00am 1.00pm | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Frances O’Hanlon RIP) Requiem Mass – John Smail RIP at Ss Peter & Paul Church, Olney |
| Saturday 19th February Our Lady on Saturday | 10.00am | Mass (Alice Sapwell RIP) |
| SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Day of Prayer for Racial Justice | | |
| Saturday 19th February + | 6.30pm | Vigil Mass – (For the Parish) |
| Sunday 20th February + | 10.30am | Mass – (Sr Rita Scott DHS – RIP) First Anniversary |

Please note – there will be no Exposition and Rosary next Saturday morning

COVID-19 - We have provided and will continue to provide a safe environment in our church. With the lifting of many of the restrictions we ask everyone to be aware of other people's needs in charity. We encourage you to respect the wishes and boundaries of other worshippers by using hand sanitiser upon entry and to continue wearing a face mask if you are able. The requirement to book your place at Mass and to sign in on arrival has now been discontinued. The QR code remains available in the Narthex for anyone who wishes to register their presence. Your continued help & understanding remain much appreciated.

THIS WEEKEND – we offer a warm welcome to **Fr Eugene Terngohol Lugah**, Director Mission Development of the MSP (Missionary Society of St Paul) who is visiting our parish this weekend for the annual mission appeal.



One of the many blessings in our parish is the presence of the choir and musicians so ably led by Judy. Sadly, during the pandemic restrictions we were not able to have singing in the church. With the lifting of many of the restrictions we are now able to resume singing and happily our choir is once again able to perform. They will be holding a rehearsal this coming **TUESDAY afternoon at 2.30pm in the church**. If you would like to join the choir you are very welcome to come along or if you not able to come this week then please speak to Judy or any member of the choir.

JOHN SMAIL RIP – The Requiem Mass for the late John Smail will be celebrated this coming **Friday afternoon at 1pm**. Due to the expected high numbers that are likely to attend, the Vicar of Ss Peter & Paul, Olney – Revd Andrew Pritchard-Keens – has very kindly given permission for Fr David to celebrate the Requiem Mass at Ss Peter & Paul, Olney followed by internment in Olney Cemetery.



RightToLife

The Government is due to make a decision on whether to end 'DIY' at home abortion services as the current policy allowing them expires after 30th March 2022. Over the last week, the abortion lobby, led by the abortion provider

BPAS, have ramped up their campaign to put pressure on the Government to make these dangerous abortion services available permanently. As Catholics we are encouraged to write to our MP and make our feelings known. Right to Life UK have further information on this together with a useful tool to make contacting your MP easier on their website: <https://righttolife.org.uk>



SR RITA SCOTT, DHS, RIP – Next Sunday will be the first anniversary of the passing of Sr Rita and the Mass will be celebrated for the repose of her soul. We will be welcoming members of Sr Rita's family who will be travelling here from Ireland – this will be especially poignant as the Covid restrictions meant that they could not attend the Requiem Mass last year. *"Blessed are those who die in the Lord! 'Blessed indeed,' the Spirit says, 'now they can rest for ever from their labours, since their good deeds go with them.'"* (Rev 14:13)



After Mass we will be joining together for Tea/Coffee – the first time in two years! Everyone is warmly welcome.

Thank You

to everyone who has helped to restore the church to something like normality since the pandemic restrictions. The removal of the seating notices, the direction arrows on the floors/doors; the cleaning of the floor and polishing of the benches and so much more. We are so very grateful to you all.



SOMETHING WORTH DYING FOR – ST VALENTINES DAY - On February 14 every year, couples around the world celebrate one of the heroes of Catholic history. As the story goes, Valentine was a Roman priest who married young couples in secret despite the decree of Emperor Claudius II forbidding all weddings. The emperor did this to more readily recruit young, unattached men into his armies. Valentine was discovered, arrested and eventually executed. St Valentine didn't officiate secret weddings simply out of compassion for local, love-struck couples. He did it because Catholic marriage is about a whole lot more than just two people committing to live together and maybe raise a few children.

Catholic marriage has a purpose beyond the fulfilment of the two spouses. It is a call to honour God by living in service to each other, helping each other and their children to grow closer to God and to our destiny to be with Christ for eternity. It is also a Sacrament – a living witness of God's presence in the world. As such, it has a number of characteristics that define it. Click the link to find out what they are! <https://smartloving.org/something-worth-dying-for-st-valentines-day/>



Sts Cyril and Methodius

Cyril was born in Salonika and was educated at Constantinople. With his brother Methodius he went to Moravia to preach the faith. They both translated the liturgical books into the Slavonic language using the Cyrillic alphabet which they invented. They were called to Rome and here Cyril died on 14th February in the year 869. Methodius was made a bishop and went to Pannonia (Hungary) where he laboured ceaselessly in preaching the gospel, while enduring many hardships as a result of jealousy, though he had the support of the Holy See. He died on 6th April in the year 885 at Velehrad in Czechoslovakia.



The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

These seven men were born in Florence and led lives as hermits on Monte Senario, especially venerating the Blessed Virgin Mary. They then preached through the length and breadth of Tuscany, and founded the Order of Servites which in 1304 received the approval of the Holy See. They are venerated on this day which is said to be the day which St Alexis Falconieri, one of the seven, died in the year 1310

From Fr David's desk.....

We really do seem to be emerging from the pandemic. Of course, we are eyeing things carefully, perhaps even cautiously. But things seem to be moving in the right direction.

But which direction is the right direction? St Paul, in the second reading today, makes plain that our hope in Christ looks forward to beyond this life. There is a danger that we only think about this life, a danger that the lockdowns perhaps have accentuated. The fear and anxiety that were generated, even in a manipulative manner, has had an impact on all generations and it is important to reflect on how it has affected each one of us. Did we lose sight of our faith in God, our hope in His care for us, on the need to love God above all things and to love each other as Christ has loved us? Does our Faith shape and inspire our lives? What do we search for most of all in our lives? God? If not, why not?

These are not easy questions; but they also should not be asked in a harsh, judgmental way. It is too easy to think about God as if He is saddled with the critical, judgmental thought patterns that so often form our thinking. "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are my ways your ways," says the Lord in Isaiah 55:8. The questions need to be asked in the light of the truth our Faith that "God is love" (1John 4:16). God the Father is the eternal Lover; God the Son is the eternally Beloved; and God the Holy Spirit is the eternal Love of Father and Son.

The questions above really gravitate around the question, *Do I believe that God really is love, that He really loves me, and He wants me to be for ever united to Him in the infinitely joyous loving which He is?* Those are big and deep questions, but we need to ask them. In Jesus we find how far God is prepared to go to win our hearts, to gain our love. He died on the Cross, accepting all that human sinfulness and brokenness could throw at Him, and loving us all the time throughout. He rose from the dead to show us that there is nothing, absolutely nothing, that can extinguish His eternal love – not even death. In fact, death and sin are being swallowed up by His never-ending love: His rising from the death is the foundation of all our hope that, when we die, we will be with Him.

If we did lose sight of God, we do not need to be afraid: God never lost sight of us. If we made mistakes, God is reaching out to make them right. We do not need to judge ourselves so harshly when God loves us so completely. Whatever happened, it is time to turn back to Him. We need to live in the light of our Faith. We need to live by grace and not just by human fear. We can let God take away our fear and heal us of all those things which hold us back – including our false ideas of God.

Look at Jesus: everywhere He went, He healed. He freed people from all that ailed them. He still heals us. The sacraments are the chief instruments He uses to heal us. Not only do they heal us but they also fill us with grace – grace which is the sunshine of the soul – God pouring into us the full vigour of His life and light and peace. When we live in a state of grace, we are living in communion with God – or rather, God is truly alive in each of us. So – come to the sacraments. Receive Baptism or Confirmation or Holy Communion; come back to the sacrament of Confession and Reconciliation to experience the liberating joy of a new beginning; receive the Anointing of the Sick if you are unwell, mentally or physically. Don't hold back – because in each of these sacraments we experience the amazing grace of our God who never holds back.

If you would like to explore the meaning of God's grace, I would highly recommend watching these videos which can be found at <https://www.stfrancisandmary.org/parish-videos>

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

With our love and prayers,

Fr David and Deacon Peter