



Parish of Our Lay Help of Christians &
St Lawrence

39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH
Diocese of Northampton

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20 th February 2022 Psalter Week 3	Seventh Sunday of the Year	
First Reading	1 Samuel 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23 <i>The Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	The Lord is compassion and love.	
Second Reading	1 St Paul to the Corinthians 15:45-49 <i>We who have been modelled on the earthly man will be modelled on the heavenly man.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, Alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!	
Gospel	Luke 6.27-38 <i>Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate</i>	
Saturday 19 th February +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 20 th February +	10.30am	Mass – (Sr Rita Scott DHS - RIP) First Anniversary
Monday 21 st February St Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor – op mem	10.00am	Mass – (Eleanor Blunt RIP)
Tuesday 22 nd February ST PETER'S CHAIR - Feast	10.00am	Mass – (Colin Hamilton-Day RIP & family)
Wednesday 23 rd February St Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr - memoria		No Parish Mass today
Thursday 24 th February Feria	10.00am	Mass – (Jean & Michael Griffin RIP)
Friday 25 th February Feria	10.00am	Mass – (John Cookham RIP)
Saturday 26 th February Our Lady on Saturday	10.00am	Mass (Richard Roche RIP)
EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Day of Prayer for the Unemployed		
Saturday 26 th February +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Stephen & Adam Coleman RIP)
Sunday 27 th February +	10.30am	Mass – (Ruth Grabowiecki RIP)



SR RITA SCOTT, DHS, RIP

This Sunday marks the first anniversary of the passing of Sr Rita and the Mass will be celebrated for the repose of soul. We welcome members of Sr Rita's family who have travelled here from Ireland – this is especially poignant as the Covid restrictions meant that they could not attend the Requiem Mass last year. We keep all of our dear Sisters, both here and at Burlington Hall, in our thoughts and prayers.

"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)

PARISH DONATIONS: We have £127.01 left from the donations we received back in 2020 to help with the purchase of the original camera to enable us to live stream the Mass. Similarly, the statue appeal, we have £30.00 left as someone paid the full amount but we also received an additional £30.00. In order for us to be able to reallocate the money a notice must appear in the newsletter over a 4-week period in case anyone has any objections. If you do have any concerns about this please speak to Fr David or Denise.



MK FOODBANK - BIG little GIVE 2022 CAMPAIGN

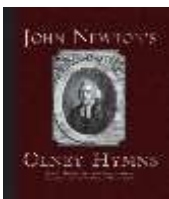
News from MK Foodbank - Right now, we are in the middle of the busiest winter the Food Bank has ever seen. Food prices and home energy costs are absolutely soaring and every single day we hear from dozens of people who can't keep their houses warm or who are struggling to feed themselves and their children. In the 6 weeks of 2022 so far, we have given out more than **2,500 food**

parcels. This is around 10% up on last year – and rising. It also means that we are running dangerously low on our core food items. To address this, next week we are launching our **BIG Little GIVE 2022 campaign** – further details: <http://mkfoodbank.org.uk/>



AG250 CELEBRATIONS – (sponsored by Olney Baptist Church to celebrate 250 years since the hymn Amazing Grace was first sung). **WANTED...**

Individuals or Groups to join us to make The Amazing Grace Community Quilt for the AG250 celebrations. We can show you what to do, so anyone can participate - from beginner to expert! We also need embroiderers to do some wording. All materials will be provided. If you would like to be involved, please contact Denise or Monica Stainton



MESSAGE FROM RICHARD HEYES - who is in charge of the music at the Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Olney. 'I am writing to invite your singers to join us in the choir stalls for the Shrivings Service following the Pancake Race on Shrove Tuesday 1st March. The race starts at 11:55am in the Market Place and the service is scheduled to begin at 12:15pm. We will be singing three hymns by John Newton: 'Amazing Grace'; 'How sweet the name of Jesus sounds' and 'May the grace of Christ our Saviour' and two hymns by William Cowper: 'O for a closer walk with God' and 'God moves in a

mysterious way'. We hold our choir practice in the church from 7:00pm until 8:30pm on Wednesday evenings, so we will be pleased to welcome your singers on 23rd February.'



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

From Fr David's Isolation Desk.....

Fr David would like to say how very grateful he is for the many messages and the acts of kindness since his enforced isolation on Thursday morning – he wants you all to know that he is doing fine with thankfully only mild symptoms so far. Please God he will be up & about very soon. Meanwhile you are all very much in his thoughts and prayers. God bless you all.

Many thanks for your generosity with recent second collections – the collection for Willen Hospice raised £342 and the Missionary Appeal last weekend raised £516. Thank you very much!

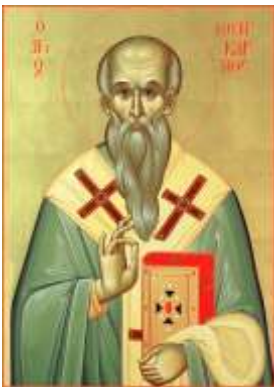
A reminder from Fr David - If you would like to explore the meaning of God's grace, I would highly recommend watching these videos which can be found at:

<https://www.stfrancisandmary.org/parish-videos>



THE CHAIR OF ST PETER

On this very special Feast, we celebrate and give thanks to God for the graces and authority given to Peter by Christ, and for the continuing role of the Petrine ministry as being a point of unity for the universal Church. We should pray especially for Pope Francis that he may be a faithful disciple of the Gospel and that he may govern and guide the Church in the way of truth, steering her through the tumultuous storms of time as she journeys on to her final destination. The seat or 'cathedra' of a bishop is, traditionally, the place from which the bishop preaches. It is a sign of his authority. Pope Benedict spoke of the 'cathedra' as *'literally meaning the established seat of the Bishop, placed in the mother church of a diocese which for this reason is known as a "cathedral"; it is the symbol of the Bishop's authority and in particular, of his "magisterium", that is, the evangelical teaching which, as a successor of the Apostles, he is called to safeguard and to transmit to the Christian Community'*. We pray especially today for Bishop David.



ST POLYCARP

Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, disciple of Saint John the Apostle and friend of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, was a revered Christian leader during the first half of the second century. Saint Ignatius, on his way to Rome to be martyred, visited Polycarp at Smyrna, and later at Troas wrote him a personal letter. The Asia Minor Churches recognized Polycarp's leadership by choosing him as a representative to discuss with Pope Anicetus the date of the Easter celebration in Rome—a major controversy in the early Church.

Only one of the many letters written by Polycarp has been preserved, the one he wrote to the Church of Philippi in Macedonia. At 86, Polycarp was led into the crowded Smyrna stadium to be burned alive. The flames did not harm him and he was finally killed by a dagger. The centurion ordered the saint's body burned. The "Acts" of Polycarp's martyrdom are the earliest preserved, fully reliable account of a Christian martyr's death. He died in 155.

Reflection on Readings - Seventh Sunday of the Year

First Reading: 1 Samuel 26.2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

This delightful story of David occurs when Saul is pursuing the young David in the wilderness of Judah, above the dead sea. The successful young warrior was getting too ambitious for the liking of King Saul, who, in a bad mood, tried to pin him to the wall with a spear, and then threw him out of court. David then gathered a band of outlaws, and Saul attempted to hunt him down. The result was this story. Was David Magnanimous, or was he already thinking that one day he, in his turn, would be the Lord's anointed? The assassination of the king would be a bad precedent! David was a fantastic leader, the sort of person whom anyone would follow anywhere. He was also a great sinner, committing adultery and murdering the cuckolded husband to make his own guilt seem less. But he was a great penitent too, a loveable and very human figure. Above all, he was the real founder of the Israelite monarchy and of the 'line of David' from which Jesus would come. To him were the promises made that God would be a father to the Son who would reign for ever on his throne.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15.45-49

This is the third of the four Sundays on which Paul is explaining the meaning of the Resurrection of Christians. The Resurrection of Christians follows the model of Jesus' own Resurrection. As the firstborn from the dead, Christ is the founder of the new humanity, just as Adam is the founder of the fallen humanity. 'Adam' means 'man', and the story of the fall in the Book of Genesis is not so much a story of an event long ago as the story of every human temptation and sin. However, the obedience of Christ, the Second Adam, undoes the disobedience of the First Adam. Just before this passage, Paul has explained that in the Resurrection we will all be changed, and transformed into the heavenly sphere, in the image of the Risen Christ. What was weak will be strong with the strength of God, what was contemptible will be glorious with the glory of God. He refuses to say what sort of bodies we will have, but he sums up the other changes by saying that whereas the life principle was the soul, in the Resurrection it will be the spirit of God.

Gospel: Luke 6.27-38

Luke's version of the Beatitudes, which formed last Sunday's reading, puts the emphasis not on Christian attitudes, as Matthew's version does, but on the blessing on those in real, dire need. Now he continues this without duty to respond to those in need, even if they are hostile, even if they hate us. There must be no calculation whether we will get back money or property lent, no limit to how much we lend or give. At first it seems as if Luke is concerned only with money, and indeed he is so concerned, for he is always warning of the danger of possessions and the need to use them for those who have none. Luke is proclaiming Christ's Good News to a more affluent society than do Mark and Matthew, and places all the more emphasis on the danger of wealth. But, after dealing with money, Luke goes on to other acts of generosity. We must not judge, but must forgive in order to obtain forgiveness. Most of all, we must be compassionate. Whereas Matthew ends his instructions here with a general, 'Be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect', Luke focuses on compassion, 'Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate.' It is an affair of the heart: we must be emotionally involved with those in need.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, St Joseph, St Peter, St Lawrence, St Edmund, St Rita, St John Henry Newman, St Peter Damian, St Polycarp pray for us all.

With our love and prayers,

Fr David and Deacon Peter