



*Parish of Our Lay Help of Christians &
St Lawrence*

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Diocese of Northampton

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6th February 2022 Psalter Week 1	<i>Fifth Sunday of the Year</i>	
First Reading	Isaiah 6:1-8 <i>Here I am, send me.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	Before the angels I will bless you, O Lord.	
Second Reading	1 St Paul to the Corinthians 15:1-11 <i>I preach what they preach, and this is what you all believed</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, Alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!	
Gospel	Luke 5:1-11 <i>Thy left everything and followed him.</i>	
Saturday 5th February +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 6th February +	10.30am	Mass – (Mary Boyle RIP)
Monday 7th February <i>Feria</i>	10.00am	Mass – (Peter Bond RIP)
Tuesday 8th February St Josephine Bakhita, Virgin – op memoria Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking	10.00am	Mass – (Mary Redmond Int)
Wednesday 9th February <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today
Thursday 10th February St Scholastica, Virgin - memoria	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Julie's Intentions)
Friday 11th February Our Lady of Lourdes – optional memoria Day of Prayer for the Sick & their Carers	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Jean Kelly RIP)
Saturday 12th February Our Lady on Saturday	10.00am 10.30am	Mass (Joan & Terry Askew Int.) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Day of Prayer for Racial Justice		
Saturday 12th February +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 13th February +	10.30am	Mass – (Eileen Brady RIP)

CV-19 GUIDANCE FOR PARISHES

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)

THE REQUIREMENT TO BOOK YOUR PLACE AT MASS & TO SIGN IN ON ARRIVAL HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED. THE QR CODE IS STILL AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO REGISTER THEIR PRESENCE.



NEXT WEEKEND – we will be welcoming a member of the MSP (Missionary Society of St Paul) who will be visiting our parish for their annual mission appeal.



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.



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



ST JOSEPHINE BAKHITA - For many years, Josephine was a slave but her spirit was always free and eventually that spirit prevailed. Born in Olgossa in the Darfur region of southern Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped at the age of 7, sold into slavery and given the name Bakhita, which means *fortunate*. She was resold several times, finally in 1883 to Callisto Legnani, Italian consul in Khartoum, Sudan. Two years later, he took Josephine to Italy and gave her to his friend Augusto Michieli. Bakhita became babysitter to Mimmina Michieli, whom she accompanied to Venice's Institute of the Catechumens, run by the Canossian Sisters. While Mimmina was being instructed, Josephine felt drawn to the Catholic Church. She was baptized and confirmed in 1890, taking the name Josephine. She entered the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa in 1893 and

made her profession three years later. In 1902, she was transferred to the city of Schio (northeast of Verona), where she assisted her religious community through cooking, sewing, embroidery, and welcoming visitors at the door. She soon became well loved by the children attending the sisters' school and the local citizens. She once said, *"Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!"*



ST SCHOLASTICA – and her twin brother, Benedict, both established religious communities within a few miles from each other. Born in 480 of wealthy parents, Scholastica and Benedict were brought up together until he left central Italy for Rome to continue his studies.

Little is known of Scholastica's early life. She founded a religious community for women near Monte Cassino at Plombariola, five miles from where her brother governed a monastery.

The twins visited each other once a year in a farmhouse because Scholastica was not permitted inside the monastery. They spent these times discussing spiritual matters.

According to the *Dialogues of St. Gregory the Great*, the brother and sister spent their last day together in prayer and

conversation. Scholastica sensed her death was close at hand and she begged Benedict to stay with her until the next day.

He refused her request because he did not want to spend a night outside the monastery, thus breaking his own Rule. Scholastica asked God to let her brother remain and a severe thunderstorm broke out, preventing Benedict and his monks from returning to the abbey.

Benedict cried out, *"God forgive you, Sister. What have you done?"* Scholastica replied, *"I asked a favour of you and you refused. I asked it of God and he granted it."*



Our Lady of Lourdes

In the year 1858 the Immaculate Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette Soubirous near Lourdes in France, in the grotto of Massabielle.

Through the poor little child, Mary called sinners to penance, and thereby there arose in the Church a marvellous spirit of prayer and charity, especially in helping the poor and the sick. Today we are asked to pray for all those who are sick and for those who care for them – we pray especially for those young carers who carry such a heavy burden.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Pray for Us – St Bernadette, Pray for Us.

Reflection on today's Gospel Reading – Luke 5:1-11

‘They left everything and followed Him’



This familiar Gospel is also a parable of life. Peter, James and John are toiling in the boat, but to no avail. Try as they might, struggling as they do, nothing seems to go right for them. Surely, if they try harder, work longer, just cast their nets one more time they will get that catch which they need, which their hard work deserves?

That's life. We can work hard. Be proud of our own efforts, feel we deserve great rewards, yet it doesn't seem to work out

for us. The harder we try the less successful we seem to be. We think we only need to do just a bit more - but however many more 'bits' we may add we do not seem to succeed.

And so, like us, dejected, the fishermen hit the shore with a sense of failure.

But Jesus says, *“Yes, you can do it - just cast out your nets”*. He challenges the fishermen to do what they have already done but they are not so sure. *“We've tried that”*, they say. But Jesus doesn't ask for extra effort; He doesn't ask them to try harder; He doesn't say you've been doing it wrong. He just asks them to trust him – have faith. And when they trust him - then they are amazed - not even a normal catch - they were *‘completely overcome’*.

So too, it can be for us. While hard work and effort may end in frustration, great successes and achievements often take us by surprise: the great idea, the act of kindness, the work of art, the moment of vision or inspiration, the talent for music or sport or human compassion they don't just happen - but they seem to be so much more than the effort which we've put in. We become amazed, not by what we can do - but by what God can do through us – responding to His call: *Trust Him – Have Faith!*

This is grace - the free gift of God - the 'nets' bursting with blessings not simply because of our own efforts but because we have trusted in Him.

All of us have been entrusted to 'carry' our own individual crosses in our lives but God, out of His great love for us, gives us the strength and grace to bear our cross and for this reason we should always seek to carry our cross and never to drag it.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, Our Lady of Lourdes, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St Edmund, St Rita, St Bernadette, St Josephine, St Scholastica, pray for us all.

With our love and prayers,

Fr David and Deacon Peter