



**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](mailto:olneyparishpriest@icloud.com)

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

Deacon: Rev Peter Griffin – 07850 499414

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Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

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Turvey Abbey – 01234 881432

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1 <sup>st</sup> May 2022 Psalter Week 3	Third Sunday of Easter	
First Reading	<b>Acts of the Apostles 5:27-32. 40-41</b> <i>We are witnesses of all this, we and the Holy Spirit</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	<b>I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me.</b>	
Second Reading	<b>Apocalypse 5:11-14</b> <i>The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given riches and power.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	<b>Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us. Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us. Alleluia!</b>	
Gospel	<b>John 21: 1-19</b> <i>Jesus stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish.</i>	
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> April +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> May +	10.30am	Mass – (Michael Tarrant RIP & Grace McMultan Int)
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor - memoria	10.00am	Mass – (Robert Harris & family Int.)
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May Ss PHILIP & JAMES, Apostles - feast	10.00am	Mass - (Bernie Wogan RIP)
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> May MARTYRS OF ENGLAND & WALES - feast		No Parish Mass today
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> May Feria	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (James Griffin Int.)
Friday – 6 <sup>th</sup> May Feria	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Michael Tarrant RIP)
Saturday – 7 <sup>th</sup> May Feria	10.00am 10.30am	Mass (Richard Cooper RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>		
Saturday – 7 <sup>th</sup> May+	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday – 8 <sup>th</sup> May+	10.30am 12.30pm	Mass – (Anne Harris Int.) Baptism – Vivienne Egan-Stone

**SECOND COLLECTION** next weekend for the Priests Training Fund



## Requiescat In Pace

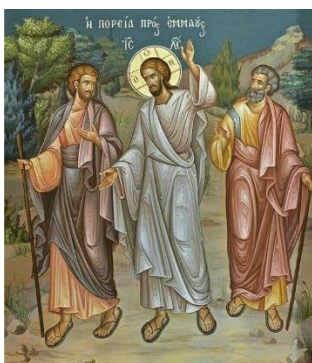
The requiem Mass for Sr Teresa Buckley, DHS will be held at Our Lady's on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am**. We pray for the repose her soul and pray also for her family, friends and the Daughters of the Holy Spirit, especially here at St Joseph's and Burlington Hall.



## Month of May – Our Lady's Month

We begin the month of May which we dedicate to Our Lady. After every Mass, we will either pray the Rosary or say the Litany of Loreto. I would suggest we pray for peace in the world – for the conversion of nations away from war to reconciliation and peace.

**Many thanks to Fr Eugene** for his presence in our parish over the past week. It has been a delight to have him here. Fr David is grateful too as it has given him the opportunity to catch up on some of his work elsewhere which he had to postpone when he was unwell. We look forward to seeing Fr Eugene again!



## Would you like to be part of an RCIA Team here in our parish?

From September, it would be very useful to have some volunteers to help with a team to prepare people for becoming Catholics. If you would like to be part of this, then please do speak to Fr David, Deacon Peter or Denise. There will be training available from our Diocese on the following dates and it will all be done through Zoom:

**Session 1- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022 (7.15pm-8.30pm):** What is the RCIA? Looking at its background, theology, history and shape.

**Session 2: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022 (7.15pm-8.30pm):** Exploring the Periods of Evangelisation & Catechumenate. Reflecting on guidance from the Directory for Catechesis to inform our approach to welcoming enquirers.

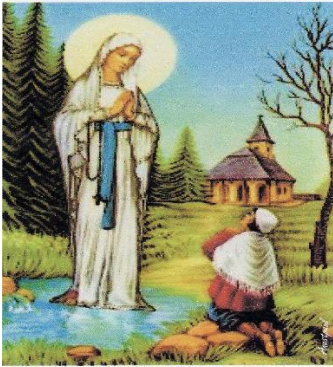
**Session 3- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 (7.15pm-8.30pm):** Exploring the Period of Enlightenment, the celebration of the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil and issues around Reception into Full Communion.

**Session 4: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022 (7.15pm-8.30pm):** Exploring the Period of Mystagogia. Building RCIA Teams & developing roles. Opportunity for questions and sharing of good practice.

The course is free but there will be opportunity to make a donation. To book your place and receive information for joining the Zoom sessions please visit:

<https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/rciateamtraining/>

"I come to alleviate sufferings....  
I am the Virgin of the Poor....  
I am the Mother of the Saviour,  
the Mother of God. Pray very much."  
Our Lady of Banneux 1833



Our Lady of Banneux, Belgium

## Mary's Meals

will be running their 'Pray in May' campaign again this year. Mary's Meals has been built on a foundation of prayer and the many little acts of love from those who support them. They are inviting churches across the UK to join us in prayer to celebrate the wonderful work of Mary's Meals and give thanks that we are now reaching more than 2 million children with a nutritious meal in 20 countries every school day.

Further details can be found at:

<https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/churches-and-prayers>



## PARISH LENTEN APPEAL 2022 CHANGE FOR FOOD - CAFOD AFGHANISTAN

A gentle reminder to all who took seeds & a water bottle as part of the parish CAFOD Lenten Appeal – can you please return your water bottles as soon as possible

Thank you for your generosity and your participation in helping to rebuild Afghanistan - **CAFOD Parish Group**



**A healing garden** is being created within the grounds of the Northampton Cathedral. This is a new initiative for our Diocese and Bishop David invites us to support this new development and the **Open Day on the 15<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm** and will start with a service which the Bishop will be part of. This will be followed by refreshments, time for gathering and sharing and provide an opportunity for 8 charities and organisations to promote the good work that they do in supporting those who have

been harmed by abuse, both related to the church and external. Further information is available on: <https://northamptondiocese.org/healing-garden/>

## Protect pro-life students' right to speak out about abortion

Pro-abortion groups want to intimidate and silence brave pro-life students from even speaking or debating at universities and colleges. It is very important that we maintain a pro-life witness at universities as key centres of culture and national life. In the face of the escalating abuse and discrimination these pro-life students face, along with the stifling of speech at institutions of learning, our petition calls on the Government to uphold the rights of pro-life students in the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill.

Please do consider signing and sharing our petition to the Prime Minister, calling on him to protect their right to exist and speak out on campus at [www.spuc.org.uk/protectfreespeech](http://www.spuc.org.uk/protectfreespeech)

## Readings for Third Sunday of Easter

**Revelation 5:11-14** This second reading (from Revelation) shows us a scene in the heavenly throne-room, the Lamb sacrificed enthroned. In fact this is the second half of the scene, the first half of which describes God enthroned in glory. Now we see the triumphant Lamb on the same throne, being accorded the same honours by the 24 elders and by all living creatures as were earlier accorded to the LORD God. Note the sevenfold acclamation! Then there is a fourfold acclamation from the four animals, four-square, who (as in Ezekiel's vision of the divine throne) represent the solidity of the universe. The surest indication, already in the early Church, that the risen Christ was seen as fully equal to the Father is the equality of worship accorded to them both by the whole of creation. It is precisely as the sacrificed Lamb of God that Jesus enters into the sanctuary, seated on the throne of God and presenting the very sacrifice which we present in the Eucharist. There is no time in God, and this sacrifice is 'once and for all'. The sacrifice on our altars is no new sacrifice but is the sacrifice of obedience which Christ presents in permanence to his Father

**Acts 5:27-32. 40-41** By the time this hearing before the Sanhedrin (the supreme Jewish Council in Jerusalem) occurs, the apostles have already been arrested twice for proclaiming the Good News of Jesus. The first time only Peter and John were arrested, interrogated and given a warning. Now it seems to be a whole group of the apostles. They were arrested, delivered from prison by an angel – another sign that God looks after his own people - and voluntarily went to face the Sanhedrin. The task of the apostle is first and foremost to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus and his new life, a positive message of encouragement. Is our message of Christianity to those whom we meet always a message of encouragement? Does it always set out to inspire new life? All the way through the Acts of the Apostles we see the interplay of the harassment of Christ's messengers and God's protection of them. Peter is arrested and is about to be executed when he is delivered from prison by an angel. Later on, Paul is imprisoned and delivered from prison by an earthquake. It is no surprise that the same harassment, mockery and persecution continue throughout the history of the Church.

**John 21:1-19** This epilogue to the Gospel of John shows an extraordinary link with Luke's version of the Call of the Disciples: the same unsuccessful fishing all night transformed into success at Jesus' command, and then the commission to proclaim the Gospel. As in so many encounters with the risen Christ, he is an awesome figure, the same person but mysteriously changed, so that the disciples have difficulty recognising him. In addition, here in John's Gospel, we have the touching scene of Peter's restoration: a triple declaration of love and loyalty is extorted from Peter to compensate for his triple denial, and a triple commission is given to him, concluding with the repeat of his call, 'Follow me' – as the prophecy of his martyrdom still echoes in his ears. While Matthew's Gospel concludes with a promise that the risen Christ will be always with his Church, this Gospel illustrates what this will look like in practice: Jesus feeds his followers at the picnic breakfast. Why the 153 fish? For the Venerable Bede it is too obvious: put together the numbers from 1 to 16, to this add 10 for the commandments and 7 for the days of creation, and you get 153. There may be more to it than that!

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, Our Lady of Zarvaniza, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, St Edmund pray for us all as we bask in the joys of Easter.

With our love and prayers, Fr David and Deacon Peter