



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians &
St Lawrence

39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH

Diocese of Northampton

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3 rd April 2022 Psalter Week 1	Fifth Sunday of Lent	
First Reading	Isaiah 43:16-21 <i>See, I am doing a new deed, and I will give my chosen people drink.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.	
Second Reading	St Paul to the Philippians 3:8-14 <i>Reproducing the pattern of his death, I have accepted the loss of everything for Christ.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Seek good and not evil so that you may live, And that the Lord God of hosts may really be with you. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!	
Gospel	John 8:1-11 <i>If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.</i>	
Saturday 2 nd April +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Una Kearns RIP)
Sunday 3 rd April +	10.30am	Mass – (For the Parish)
Monday 4 th April St Isidore – as a commemoration	10.00am	Mass – (Helen Holding Int.)
Tuesday 5 th April Feria	10.00am	Mass - (John Burke RIP)
Wednesday 6 th April Feria		No Parish Mass today
Thursday 7 th April Feria	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass (Hannah & Francis Hannon – Anniv.)
Friday 8 th April St John Baptiste de la Salle – as a commemoration	9.15am 10.00am 2.30pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Bernie Wogan RIP) Stations of the Cross
Saturday 9 th April	10.00am 10.30am	Mass (Phil & Chris Ayles Int.) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION		
Saturday 9 th April +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Eibhlin Dean Int.)
Sunday 10 th April +	10.30am	Mass – (Josie & Tom Bermingham RIP)

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES – new envelopes are available at the back of the church. If you are new to the parish or would like to start using envelopes, please contact Denise who will make the arrangements.



Stations of the Cross

Throughout Lent we will be praying the 'Stations of the Cross' each Friday afternoon at 2.30pm finishing with Exposition at 3pm for 15 minutes of quiet prayer and reflection.

Ukraine Refugees - Update

The Trustees of Emmaus Village, Carlton have registered as an interested provider of accommodation for Ukrainian refugees. They have accommodation available and very much want to welcome refugees to our community. The Trustees are working with Caritas here in our Diocese, as well as the Local Authority, Carlton Parish Council, the local Church of England parishes as well as our own parish. If you would like to offer any help the Group are looking for the following:

- People who can speak languages (Ukrainian – Russian – German)
- Volunteer Drivers
- Volunteers to provide cooked meals

If you are considering offering accommodation you will need to first register your interest as a sponsor on the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/register-interest-homes-ukraine>

If you wish to help in any way or would like further information, please contact either Fr David or Deacon Peter and we can put you in touch with the relevant people.

CAN YOU HELP PLEASE? - A cleaning session for the Emmaus houses in preparation to receive refugees, is scheduled for **2pm on Tuesday 5th April**. The centre is requesting as many volunteers as possible to report at reception (ask for Conroy). Cleaning equipment (brushes, cloths etc.) would be a help.



Sacrament of Reconciliation

In preparation for celebrating the great feast of Easter, there will be a special Service of Reconciliation here at Our Lady's this **Thursday 7th April at 7.00pm**. Fr David will be assisted by a number of other priests. If you are not able to attend this service, Fr David is available to hear Confessions after every Mass and especially during Exposition on Saturday mornings, from 5.45-6.15pm on Saturday evenings 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

News from NYMO (Northampton Youth Ministry Office)

On **Saturday 9th April** - NYMO host a young adult brunch at the NYMO offices in Luton – no cost! If you are aged 18- 30yrs you are invited to join the team for a brunch and some incredible teaching. The brunch will start with food at 11.30am with prayer at 12.15pm and then teaching and discussion from 12.30 until 1.30pm, as we focus on the upcoming celebrations of Holy Week. You are welcome to just turn up but it will help with catering if you can let them know that you will be joining in – please contact them at info@nymo.org

CHINESE CATHOLICS IN MILTON KEYNES - The Chinese Community in Milton Keynes will be holding their second Mass in Milton Keynes on Saturday 9th April at St Mary's Church in Woburn Sands. Enquiries at: mk.chinese.catholic@gmail.com

CHRISM MASS



This is being held at **11.00am on Thursday 14th April** at the Cathedral with Bishop David as the Principal Celebrant. During this Mass Bishop David will bless the oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens and, together with the Priests, will consecrate the Oil of Chrism. These Holy Oils will be used by the Priests and Deacons of our Diocese throughout the coming year.

Also, at this very special Mass, the Priests of our Diocese will renew their Priestly Promises. We thank God for our Bishop, David and for the Priests of our Diocese, especially of course our Parish Priest, Father David as well as our retired Priests, Fr John, Fr Brian & Fr Malcolm – we pray especially for them on this day.

You are welcome to attend if you wish or alternatively the Mass will be 'live streamed' and you can access this via the Cathedral website: <https://northamptoncathedral.org/>

Day of Prayer

This coming **Friday, 8th April**, has been designated as a special Day of Prayer for Survivors of Sexual Abuse. Let us all come be united in prayer for all victims and survivors of Sexual Abuse:

Praise to you Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
the source of all consolation and hope.
Be the refuge and guardian of all
who suffer from abuse and violence.
Comfort them and send healing
for their wounds of the body, soul and spirit.
Help us all and make us one with you
in your love for justice
as we deepen our respect for the dignity of every human life.
Giver of peace, make us one in celebrating
your praise, both now and forever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

This Sunday's Readings....

Philippians 3:8-14

As we prepare for the celebration of the Passion next week, we read of Paul's own struggle in this letter to his special friends at Philippi in Northern Greece. He is tired, probably already quite elderly, and longs to finish his race and be with Christ in tranquillity. The games and athletic contests were the football tournaments of the ancient world. Corinth, where Paul spent so long, was the centre for the Isthmian Games (more important at the time than the Olympics) and Paul often uses imagery of running and even boxing. He knows the thrill of the contest, but at the same time he recognizes that all our power comes from the Resurrection of Christ. Christ endured and was raised by the Father. Often for us Christianity consists of also enduring – enduring slights, insults or neglect and replying with a cheerful word or gesture which dissolves the hurt and seeks to renew friendship and genuine relationship. There is no need aggressively to turn the other cheek; it needs more of the courage of Christ to reply with a positive advance. If I can bring myself to ask, 'What would Jesus have done?' I am already sharing in his strength. In this way, the aggression of the athlete is redirected!

Isaiah 43:16-21

During Lent we have been working through the story of Israel preparing – or being prepared – for the coming of Christ: we have heard of Adam, Abraham, Moses, the monarchy, and now we hear of the promise of a new beginning. For that is what Easter is. This part of Isaiah was written during the Exile of the Jews in Babylon, a traumatic event which seemed to them to be the end of all their hopes; it seemed to be permanent condition of exile and slavery, far from their beloved Jerusalem - 'There we sat and wept,' says the Psalmist. But the prophet (whose work is attributed to Isaiah) set out to re-invigorate them with the promise that they would return to Jerusalem, and that the wonders of the Exodus from Egypt would be renewed. There would be a new road across the desert and miraculous supplies of water for the travellers. The desert would bloom afresh (for the slightest supply of water brings the withered plants to life in the spring), and the curious beasts of the desert, jackals and ostriches, would praise the Lord. There is a lesson for us too. Our trust in God teaches us – and our own experience eventually grudgingly reinforces this – that seemingly total disaster can become a source of strength and instruction.

John 8:1-11

Why this reading from John in the middle of the Year of Luke? All the other gospels during this Lenten season have been from Luke. The answer is that it is an independent, floating story which does not even fit into the Gospel of John. In early manuscripts of the gospels this story moves around and is found in various places before it becomes anchored as an example of Jesus' teachings just after he says, 'Our Law does not allow us to pass judgement on anyone without first giving them a hearing' (John 7:51). It is appropriate for this Year of Luke because the tone of the story and the theme of welcome for the repentant sinner are both thoroughly Lukan, a theme which is constantly stressed in Luke's Gospel (for example, in the Parable of the Prodigal Son). What did Jesus write on the ground, or was it that he was just doodling to allow the accusers time to reflect on their self-righteousness? The latter is certainly one of the main concerns of St Luke's Gospel, where it is made clear that you cannot be a follower of Christ without first admitting your sinfulness: when Peter meets Jesus, he tells Jesus to go away, because he (Peter) is a sinner; Zacchaeus recognises that he is a sinner and promises to make multiple restitution for his embezzlements; the woman at the supper weeps for her sins at Jesus' feet.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, Our Lady of Zarvaniza, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, St Edmund, St Isidore, St John Baptiste de la Salle pray for us all.

With our love and prayers,

Fr David and Deacon Peter