



**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

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Deacon: Rev Peter Griffin – 07850 499414

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St Joseph's Convent – Sr Delia DHS - 01234 711267

Turvey Abbey – 01234 881432

8 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 Psalter Week 4	Fourth Sunday of Easter Day of Prayer for Vocations	
First Reading	Acts of the Apostles 13:14. 43-52 <i>We must turn to the pagans.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	We are his people, the sheep of his flock.	
Second Reading	Apocalypse 7:9. 14-17 <i>The Lamb will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me. Alleluia!	
Gospel	John 10:27-30 <i>I give eternal life to the sheep that belong to me.</i>	
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
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> May <i>Feria</i>	9.00am	Mass – (Sr Margaret's Intentions)
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> May <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> May St Fremund, Martyr – optional memoria		No Parish Mass today
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> May St Pancras Martyr – opt. memoria	10.00am	Service of Word & Communion
Friday – 13 <sup>th</sup> May Our Lady of Fatima - optional memoria		No Parish Mass today
Saturday – 14 <sup>th</sup> May ST MATTHIAS, Apostle - feast		No Parish Mass today
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>		
Saturday – 14 <sup>th</sup> May+	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday – 15 <sup>th</sup> May+	10.30am	Mass – (Eddie Bagg RIP)

The funeral of Jack Robbins will be held on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May at Downham Market**

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.**

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



## Good Shepherd Sunday

Today, on this Fourth Sunday of Easter, often referred to as 'Good Shepherd Sunday', we pray for vocations particularly to the priesthood here in our Diocese. We especially pray for our Seminarians, their families and friends and those discerning their ministry at this time. We pray also for Deacon Jithu James who, please God, will be ordained to the sacred priesthood on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June at the Cathedral. We think also of our own particular vocation in whatever form this may take – we pray that the Holy Spirit will be our constant guide and protector in all that we strive to do for the greater glory of God.



## 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.



Rite of Christian Initiation  
for Adults

## 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/>



When requesting a Mass Intention could you please ensure the donors name and contact details are shown either on the brown envelope or on the front of a white envelope if you are using your own stationery.

Occasionally Masses have to be rescheduled and when this happens, we would like to be able to notify you of this. If you are looking for a specific date/time please

book well in advance if possible – at present there are few options left in June/July. Thank you.



*Mary's Meals* will be running their 'Pray in May'

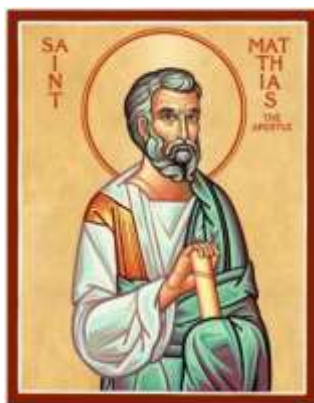
campaign again this year. Mary's Meals has been built on a foundation of prayer and the many little acts of love from those who support them. They are inviting churches across the UK to join us in prayer to celebrate the wonderful work of Mary's Meals and give thanks that we are now reaching more than 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>



### *St Pancras - Martyr*

It is thought that St Pancras was born at the end of the third century and brought up by an uncle in Rome after the death of his parents. Both of them converted to Christianity and then died for that conversion during the reign of Diocletian. St Pancras was perhaps only fourteen years old when he was martyred for his faith. In the seventeenth century, the Basilica of Saint Pancras was entrusted to the Discalced Carmelite Order, whose members still reside there today. St Pancras is especially venerated in England because Augustine of Canterbury dedicated his first church to Pancras and his relics were presented as a gift to the king of Northumberland. A district in London is named St. Pancras after him.



### *St Matthias - Apostle*

He was chosen by the apostles to take the place of Judas so that he might be a witness of the resurrection of the Lord. The story of how he was numbered with the other apostles is found in the Acts of the Apostles (1:15-26) – *'We must therefore choose someone who has been with us the whole time that the Lord Jesus was travelling round with us, someone who was with us right from the time when John was baptising until the day when he was taken from us – and he can act with us as a witness to the resurrection.'*

## From Deacon Peter's desk.....

Like any good Shepherd, Christ tells us that *"His sheep know him and that He knows them"* – if this were not the case His job as Shepherd would be in vain.

But being a Good Shepherd isn't just about 'the person' it is very much about the flock in his/her care and the response of the flock to his/her call. Sheep have a reputation for being rather dumb animals – if one runs off the rest of the flock follow; if one lies down, they all lie down. In reality, sheep are very intelligent animals – they have to be to survive. You only have to stand and watch a Shepherd at work to realise that it isn't him/her doing all the work, the success or otherwise of his/her endeavours rests heavily on the response given by the flock.

As part of Christ's 'flock' we naturally turn to Him for leadership and direction:

- What is it that He wants of us?
- How can I achieve what Christ wants me to achieve?
- Do I really have total faith in Christ our Shepherd?

Just as we would not expect a Shepherd to lead his/her flock into any danger or to make unrealistic demands of them, so it is with Christ. Whatever He is calling us to do, we must have the courage and the faith to realise that we can achieve this – for God gives us all the grace that we need to carry out His will of us – all that we have to do is accept this. And here lies the problem – we don't always accept this.

In our daily lives, we so readily turn to God when we are in need of something – perhaps we have a relative or friend who is ill and in need of prayer, perhaps we have a difficult day ahead at school, college or work; perhaps things aren't going too well in our lives and we are feeling sorry for ourselves; we come to Mass each week to receive Christ in the Eucharist knowing that He is always there waiting for us. Of course, as our loving Father, this is exactly what God wants us to do but (and there is always a but) we are asked to listen to Him for what He wants of us.

Each one of us has a vocation in life, where we are called by God to play some part in building up the Church in our time – it may be a simple task or something a little more involved but whatever it is we must listen and respond to Christ's call – He calls us by our name!

As is the case in most Dioceses in England & Wales, here in our Diocese of Northampton our Priests are ageing and our dear Bishop David is having to spread them out more thinly across the parishes. Where once there were two or three priests in each parish now, we find only one with many parishes having to share their priest with a neighbouring parish.

It is never easy to discern the will of God to the priesthood but I would urge any young man who has had any thoughts of whether God may be calling on them to become priests to speak to Fr David – if you stay silent you may never know if God is calling you.

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, all of us are asked to discern what it is God is calling us to do – what vocation does he have in mind for each of us? Pray about it often and ask ourselves; *"are all of us alive in God's call in our lives as His baptised people?"* Please God we have the courage and the faith to respond generously. Please pray for our Priests, our Seminarians and especially for vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and the Religious life.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, Our Lady of Fatima, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, St Edmund, St Fremund, Ss Nereus & Achilleus, St Pancras, St Matthias pray for us all as we continue to bask in the joys of Easter.

With our love and prayers, Fr David and Deacon Peter