

Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH

Diocese of Northampton

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| 19th June 2022 Psalter Week 4 | The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) DAY FOR LIFE | |
| First Reading | Genesis 14:18-20 <i>He brought bread and wine.</i> | |
| Responsorial Psalm | You are a priest for ever, a priest like Melchizedek of old. | |
| Second Reading | 1 St Paul to the Corinthians 11:23-26 <i>Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming the Lord's death.</i> | |
| Gospel Acclamation | Alleluia, alleluia! I am the living bread which has come down from heaven, says the Lord. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever. Alleluia! | |
| Gospel | Luke 9:11-17 <i>They all ate as much as they wanted.</i> | |
| Saturday 18th June + | 6.30pm | Vigil Mass – (For the Parish) |
| Sunday 19th June + | 10.30am | Mass – (Fr Bernard Barrett Int.) |
| Monday 20th June <i>St Alban, Protomartyr of Britain - memoria</i> | 10.00am | Mass – (Murphy family – Foundation Mass) |
| Tuesday 21st June <i>St Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious – memoria</i> | | No Parish Mass today |
| Wednesday 22nd June SS JOHN FISHER & THOMAS MOORE, Martyrs <i>– Feast. Day of Prayer for the Persecuted & Oppressed</i> | | No Parish Mass today |
| Thursday 23rd June THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST – Solemnity | 9.15am 10.00am | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Patrick Kavanagh RIP) |
| Friday – 24th June THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS - Solemnity | 9.15am 10.00am | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Michael Tarrant RIP) |
| Saturday – 25th June <i>The Immaculate Heart of Mary - memoria</i> | 10.00am 10.30am | Mass – (Tony Roche RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament |
| THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR | | |
| Saturday – 25th June + | 6.30pm | Vigil Mass – (Thomas Moore RIP) |
| Sunday – 27th June + | 10.30am | Mass – (For the Parish) |

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND – DAY FOR LIFE



Are you new to our Parish?

Since the original 'lockdown' back in March 2020 it is possible that you may have moved into the Parish and that we don't have your details. In order to keep our records up to date, if you or your family have moved into the parish in the last two years, can you please check with Denise that she has your details recorded – contact details for Denise are at the top of this newsletter. Similarly, if you are planning to move out of the parish in the coming weeks/months, again please let Denise know.



Milton Keynes Foodbank

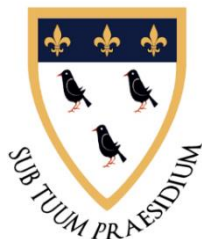
You will all be well aware of the current cost of living crisis that is affecting so many people – these difficult times are particularly challenging for those individuals and families less fortunate than many of us. We continue to be ever grateful for the tremendous support that you have given to the Foodbank over many years. If you wish to make any donations please deposit them in the box by the Presbytery door – this is emptied daily and the goods taken to Milton Keynes each week. Thank you



MASS INTENTIONS - If you would like to submit a Mass Intention, can you please use the envelopes provided at the back of the church. It is important that you clearly write the name for whom the intention is being requested, can you please also include your name and a contact number. Occasionally it may be necessary for us to move the intention to a new date and we will need to contact you to discuss this with you. Wherever possible please give plenty of notice if you require a particular date as the diary quickly fills up.



If any parishioner is expecting to be admitted to hospital for planned treatment and would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, please contact Father David before you go in. Also, if you are admitted to hospital, please make sure the hospital admissions team are aware you are a Catholic so that you can be offered the opportunity to receive Holy Communion. Finally, if you know of someone in our parish who is sick or unable to attend Mass, can you please let us know in order that we can visit them with Holy Communion



Deacon Jithu James

On Monday 27th June 2022 at 11am in the Cathedral, Bishop David will ordain Deacon Jithu James to the Sacred Priesthood. In the days leading up to his ordination, please do keep Deacon Jithu and his family in your prayers. Deacon Jithu is a former parishioner of Fr Brian.



Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

When we hear the name, “Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,” most of us probably think of a statue that appears in many of our churches; the image where Jesus stands with his heart, burning with joy and love for us, exposed to all. Many of us probably do not think any deeper about this statue, and yet we are called to more.

Pope Francis, in his 2013 homily on the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, said, “It is more difficult to let God love us than to love Him! The best way to love Him in return is to open our hearts and let Him love us.”

Every time we see these images of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, we are reminded to open ourselves to the love of Christ and give ourselves completely to him as he does. He lays his heart open before us as an example of how to live our lives.



Immaculate Heart of Mary

The memoria of The Immaculate Heart of Mary always follows the day after the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the liturgical calendar. The heart of Mary and the heart of her Son are united in their love for one another and for the world. These two feasts are related spring celebrations of the overflowing love of God, manifested in the Son, Jesus Christ, and through the very human love of his Blessed Mother.

This devotion to Mary and to Jesus was highlighted in the 19th century by St. Catherine Laboure, following an inspiration from Mary to create the “Miraculous Medal of Our Lady of Graces,” known more frequently just as the “Miraculous Medal,” and worn by Catholics all over the world.

In the Gospel of the finding of Jesus in the Temple by his parents after three days, when he was missing, the concern of a mother comes through in Mary’s question, “Son, why have you done this to us?” Although she didn’t understand Jesus’ response about being about God’s work in his Father’s house at the time, the Gospel said she “kept these things in her heart.” Sometimes we have to reflect on an experience to truly understand its meaning for our lives!



St John Fisher, Bishop and St Thomas More – Martyrs

John Fisher was born in 1469. He studied theology at the University of Cambridge and was ordained priest. He was appointed Bishop of Rochester. His life was austere and he became an outstanding pastor of his flock, often visiting them. In addition, he wrote against the doctrinal errors of the time.

Thomas More was born in 1477 and studied at the University of Oxford. He married and had a son and three daughters. He was appointed Chancellor of the kingdom and wrote a number of works about civil affairs and in defence of religion.

They resisted the king, Henry VIII, on the question of dissolving his marriage and on the king’s orders they were executed in the year 1535

–Fisher on 22nd June and More on 6th July. While Fisher had been held in prison, he had been created a cardinal of the Church of Rome by Paul III

Reflection on The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)



In Mark's Gospel, he tells us that "as they were eating, he took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to them. 'Take it, he said, this is my body'. Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them, and all drank from it, and he said to them, 'this is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.'" This was his Body, Blood soul and divinity – the real presence; and it is ours today and every day. Christ is truly present in the Church and in the Eucharist. As a community, we gather together in worship to be nourished by both the Word of God and the Body and Blood of Christ. These are the emphases that form the heart of the sacrament of the Eucharist for us. The catechism tells us that in the Eucharist we receive the 'food that makes us live forever in Jesus Christ.' Furthermore, the Eucharist is not the end in itself for it must be for us the stimulus to action. It is a great challenge for us not to be just 'Sunday Catholics' but to acknowledge the unbreakable bond that exists between our faith and our daily life, both intertwined.

Here in our church, we can see the Sanctuary lamp gently burning its reassuring light telling us that all is well – Christ is present with us. That Sanctuary lamp is kept burning always as a visible sign of Christ's presence in our lives – not just here in our church and in our convent next door but in Churches and Chapels; Monasteries and Convents all over the world – telling Christians everywhere that Christ is real; Christ is ever present. In the Eucharist, at our beckoning, Christ comes into our lives in a very real and positive way - but this isn't a mere fleeting visit – a reassuring 'I'm still here' sort of visit – but a desire for us to want Christ in our lives for every minute.

As we gaze at the Sanctuary lamp, we may ponder how wonderful it would be if, wherever we went in our daily lives, we could look up at any time and see that reassuring light flickering away reminding us that Christ is ever present. But surely our faith tells us that we do have such a 'lamp' -it is there if we look hard enough.

God is everywhere and in everything. When we see something beautiful; a sunset; a running stream; the waves of the sea coming ashore; the autumn leaves dropping gently to the ground; the early morning dew; the sharp frosty mornings; the swirling meadows – these are powerful reminders of God's presence. But when we talk about the *real* presence, Christ's sacramental presence, that is a very important concept. Through the actions of the priest in *persona Christi* the bread and wine offered up become the body and blood of Jesus Christ – that same gift given by Him to the apostles is given by Him to us. Each time we receive Christ in the Eucharist we are inviting Him into our lives – we want Him to be with us and He very much wants us to be with Him but Christ will never force Himself upon us – He requires an invitation from us.

The late Bishop Michael Evans of East Anglia once wrote, "If we really understood the Good News of Jesus Christ – the Good News of salvation, and if we were to fully grasp the truth that the Eucharist is the making present here and now of all that Jesus Christ has achieved for us – if that were so – we would need no urging to come to Mass".

Deacon Peter

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, St Edmund, St Alban, St Aloysius Gonzaga, Ss John Fisher & Thomas More, St John the Baptist pray for us all.

With our love and prayers – Fr David & Deacon Peter