



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

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**Diocese of Northampton**

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<b>21<sup>st</sup> August 2022</b> <b>Psalter Week 1</b>	Twenty-First Sunday of the Year	
<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Isaiah 66: 18-21</b> <i>They will bring all your brothers from all the nations.</i>	
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.</b>	
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Hebrews 12:5-7. 11-13</b> <i>The Lord trains the one that he loves</i>	
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	<b>Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia!</b>	
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Luke 13:22-30</b> <i>Men from east and west will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.</i>	
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August +</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)</b>
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Salvino Luzio Int.)</b>
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August</b> <b>The Queenship of the BVM - memoria</b>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> <b>Service of Word and Holy Communion</b>
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August</b> <b>St Rose of Lima, Virgin – op memoria</b>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August</b> <b>ST BARTHOLOMEW, Apostle - feast</b>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August</b> <b>St Louis, Confessor – op memoria</b>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> <b>Service of Word and Holy Communion</b>
<b>Friday – 26<sup>th</sup> August</b> <b>Bl Dominic of the Mother of God, Priest</b>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>
<b>Saturday – 27<sup>th</sup> August</b> <b>St Monica - memoria</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>No Parish Morning Mass today</b>
<b>TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b>		
<b>Saturday – 27<sup>th</sup> August +</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)</b>
<b>Sunday – 28<sup>th</sup> August +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Alexander Roberts RIP)</b>

**PLEASE NOTE: As part of the Summer Schedule, no weekday Parish Mass during this week. A service of Word & Holy Communion will be celebrated this week on Monday and Thursday at 10.00am**

**WELCOME** – We extend a warm welcome to Mgr Tony McDermott, a retired diocesan priest, who will be celebrating Mass in the parish this weekend. We are very grateful for his help and support with this.

### FR JOHN FOWLER, RIP



Fr David & Deacon Peter would like to thank everyone who helped in the preparations for the Requiem Mass of Fr John last Thursday – both before and after. Cicely & her family also extend their gratitude for the many cards and words of condolence that they have received since their loss. At the request of Fr John, there was a retiring collection after the Mass for the work of the British Heart Foundation – if you would like to make a contribution the collection box will be at the back of the church on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Alternatively, you can make an online donation via the British Heart Foundation website: <https://www.bhf.org.uk/>

**DIOCESAN VACANCY** - We are currently recruiting for a Director of Mission to develop and manage the vision, strategic direction and day to day operations of Mission Northampton. The role will be for 32 hours per week and working pattern is to be negotiated. Full information for the position and an application form can be found by visiting <https://northamptondiocese.org/jobs/> or via email: [hadmin@northamptondioces.com](mailto:hadmin@northamptondioces.com) The closing date for applications will be **Wednesday 24th August 2022**. Interviews will be held week commencing **29th August 2022**.



### St Bernadette Soubirous

In September and October of this year, the relics of St Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage through England, Scotland and Wales for the first time. It is hoped that

this event will enable people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes in a church or cathedral near them.

The relics will be arriving in our own diocese on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 3pm**. The reliquary will be placed in front of the sanctuary in the Cathedral for people to venerate, before leaving Northampton on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 9am**. During this time, the Cathedral will be open from **7am until 10pm**, with Mass being celebrated at various points during the day, as well as led rosaries. There will also be a number of priests hearing confessions in the Cathedral during this time. Please do check the diocesan website closer to the time for a more detailed schedule of events.



### PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE

Father in Heaven, have mercy on us and on the whole world! You sent Your Son, the Prince of Peace, for the salvation of the world. We pray that the Peace of Christ will reign in Ukraine. Please protect and send aid to those in Ukraine and all who are at risk. We pray for peace – we pray for all who are working towards it and for all who are in danger from this conflict. We pray for an

end to violence and war – we pray for wisdom for all leaders who have a hand in this. Lord God, please help those in most need of thy mercy. Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us! Saint Joseph, Protector of Mary, Jesus and the Church, pray for us! Saint Michael the Archangel, Patron of Kyiv, pray for us! Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, may your kingdom reign in Ukraine and all the world. Amen.

## Reflection on the Sunday Readings

### Isaiah 66:18-21

The readings today are both inspiring and daunting. The first reading comes from the very last chapter of Isaiah. Israel has returned from exile, and settled down back in Jerusalem. The people have outgrown the frantic worry about mere survival under threat of extinction in exile, and can now afford to look outwards. In a similar way, a sign of a child's maturity is when she or he grows less self-preoccupied and can begin to be aware of the needs of others. Likewise, Israel now sees that the vocation of the Chosen People is not to be turned in on itself, but to bring the Lord's salvation to others. Isaiah prophesies that this wonderfully outlandish list of far-distant lands (Tarshish, Put, Lud, Tubal and Javan) will come to draw salvation from Jerusalem, and will take part in Jerusalem's own sacred worship. This text foreshadows the spread of the Gospel. As Christians we believe that all nations will somehow be saved by Christ, even though they do not know him. 'Nor is God far distant from those who in shadows and images seek the unknown God,' says the Constitution on the Church of the Second Vatican Council.

### Hebrews 12:5-7. 11-13

What is the sense of all the suffering in the world around us, the constant pain, worry, loneliness, fear and frustration? Is all this distortion and misery really compatible with the belief in a God of love? The Letter to the Hebrews here gives one explanation: it is the loving training and discipline of a father which brings us to peace. In a world without pain would we ever turn to God? When all is going well, many of us can manage nicely without God! If our world falls apart, we need God to put it together again. Paul puts it slightly differently, seeing suffering as the privilege of sharing in Christ's own redemptive suffering. By enduring Christ's suffering in every age, the Church ensures that it truly is the body of Christ, the Servant of the Lord. But we can never be content with suffering. Jesus himself understood suffering, and he went out of his way to heal it in all its forms. We should also remember that, in an age when so many decry the selfishness and materialism of society, the generosity shown by so many for the alleviation of suffering, the care of the sick, the betterment of the underprivileged, is one of the signs of Christ at work in his society.

### Luke 13:22-30

The Gospel reading makes a point which is directly opposite to one found in the first reading. There the inhabitants of distant lands will come to draw salvation from Jerusalem. This is repeated in the Gospel, but the daunting corollary is also given to those nearer home and who are expecting to find their way into the heavenly city easily: don't sit back in complacent contentment that you have been called, or you may find the door slammed in your face. Matthew 7:21-23 has the same warning: it is not enough to keep calling out, 'Lord, Lord!' without actually doing the will of the Father. There is also the similar, more developed teaching in the parable of the wedding attendants - five who are wise with oil in their lamps, and five who are unprepared for the wedding feast. They too vainly cry, 'Lord, Lord!' from outside the door. Today's Gospel almost forms the centre-piece of the instructions to the disciples as they make their way with Jesus up to Jerusalem and to his Passion and Death. There is no cheap way to salvation: each disciple must take up the cross behind Jesus and follow to the end of the road. This teaching is the more striking in Luke, who stresses that both Jews and Gentiles will take part in the festival.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, St Rose of Lima, St Bartholomew, St Louis, St Joseph Calasanz, Bl Alice Rich, Bl Dominic of the Mother of God, St Monica pray for us all.

*With our love and prayers – Fr David & Deacon Peter*