



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence
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Diocese of Northampton
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23 rd October 2022 Psalter Week 2	Thirtieth Sunday of the Year World Mission Day	
First Reading	Ecclesiasticus 35:12-14. 16-19 <i>The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	This poor man called; the Lord heard him.	
Second Reading	2 Paul to Timothy 4:6-8. 16-18 <i>All there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!	
Gospel	Luke 18:9-14 <i>The publican went home at rights with God; the Pharisee did not.</i>	
Saturday 22 nd October +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 23 rd October +	10.30am	Mass – (Fr Hildebrand van Reyk RIP)
Monday 24 th October St Anthony Claret, Bishop – op mem		No Parish Mass today
Tuesday 25 th October Feria	10.00am	Service of Word & Holy Communion
Wednesday 26 th October Ss Chad & Cedd, Bishops – op mem	10.00am	NO MASS TODAY
Thursday 27 th October Feria	6.15pm 7.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Tony Brennan RIP)
Friday – 28 th October SS SIMON & JUDE, Apostles - feast	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Francis Morris RIP)
Saturday – 29 th October Our Lady on Saturday	10.00am 10.30am- 11.30am	Mass – (Monica & Laurence Drummond RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confession
THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR		
Saturday – 29 th October +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday – 30 th October +	10.30am	Mass – (Fr John Fowler RIP)

NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY AS FR DAVID HAS TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE

Second Collection this weekend for World Mission Day (Missio)



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY – 23rd OCTOBER is the one day in the year when the entire global Church comes together in support of mission. Coordinated by Missio, the Pope’s charity for world mission, World Mission Sunday is an opportunity to support every mission diocese and faith community which are in need of our help. It is one of only three Papal collections and has been especially chosen by the Holy Father to support the mission of the Church in the world via Missio. This special day is celebrated in every Catholic community in the world. It is a moment of grace to express solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are living in situations of poverty, violence and oppression.



If anyone would like a red Missio collection box, Maria Deery will be at the back of the church to hand them out. Please can existing box holders please empty them, place the money into a bag along with your name and return to the church next week. Thank you.



NOVEMBER – MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

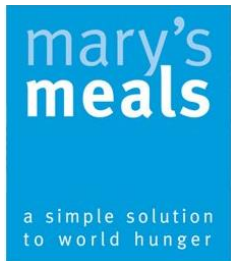
Holy Souls envelopes are now available in the narthex. Can you please print clearly the name of the deceased on a piece of paper and place in the envelope, together with any offering, and return to the church **no later than next Sunday** please.



Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
Parish CAFOD Group

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY – HARVEST 2022

With ever grateful thanks for your continued generosity, the annual CAFOD Harvest Fast Day held on Friday 7th October, raised the magnificent total of **£787**. Your gift will support communities around the world, particularly those worst affected by the global food crisis in Kenya, South Sudan and Somalia and help fight the causes of hunger. Thank you.



A thank you from Mary's Meals

Mary’s Meals would like to thank everyone in the parish for their wonderful generosity. We spoke at the end of each Mass last weekend and were genuinely surprised by the total given – a terrific £643.46. As a result, 40 children will be fed one good meal every day in their place of education for a whole school year. Please continue to pray for our work and if interested in volunteering (we always need people to speak at the end of Mass) then email gerrard.mcmahon@marysmeals.org God bless you all.

Are you New to the Parish? – If you have recently moved into the parish, can you please contact Denise, the Parish Secretary, to ensure that we have your details.

Br Herbert Kaden RIP - The Requiem Mass for Br Herbert will be on **Thursday 3rd November at 12noon at All Saints Church, Turvey**. It is hoped to have the Mass 'Live Streamed' & extra car parking in place. Refreshments will be available in the monastery afterwards. A cremation service will take place in Bedford at 1.45pm.

Month of the Holy Rosary - This month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary – a way of meditatively praying through the life of Jesus and Mary through the eyes of Mary. **Throughout October we will recite the Rosary after Mass for those who wish to remain, praying especially for conversion and peace in the world.**

Milton Keynes Foodbank – Thank you for your continued support for the MK Foodbank. The staff tell us that there are experiencing particularly difficult times at the moment with stocks running very low. If you can please support our brothers and sisters who are in need.

Second Collection next weekend for the **Bishop's Maintenance Fund**

Solemnity of All Saints – Tuesday 1st November – Holy Day of Obligation

Right to Life – Update - MPs have voted by 297 votes to 110 in support of the amendment (NC11) to the Public Order Bill to introduce 'buffer zones' around abortion clinics nationwide.

Hundreds of women have been helped outside abortion clinics by pro-life volunteers who have provided them with practical support, which made it clear to them that they had another option other than going through with the abortion.

If the Public Order Bill passes all its stages in the Commons and Lords, as is likely to be the case, given it is a Government Bill, the vital practical support provided by volunteers outside abortion clinics will be removed for women.

While the majority of the MPs who voted for the amendment were Labour MPs, it is important to note that the Conservative Government did not choose to whip on this issue, which meant that they did not ensure that their MPs voted against the amendment. In 2021, a similar amendment was brought forward by Rupa Huq MP to a Government Bill, but for that amendment, the Government whipped against it on the grounds that it was a public order issue.

If the Government had done the same today, and whipped against this amendment, it is very unlikely that it would have passed. If you are a Conservative Party member or know people involved with the party, I would encourage you to make contact with the party to make it clear that you are unhappy about their decision to not whip against this amendment. It is very important that the party is aware that people are very unhappy with this decision.

Catherine Robinson – Right to Life

Readings for Sunday

Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 35:12-14. 16-19 - The Book of Sirach was translated into Greek by the grandson of the author. The grandfather wrote in Hebrew. He was a wise, witty and sometimes cynical teacher in Jerusalem, who gathered and built on the pithy sayings of the sages. The first part of this reading, about the widow's persistent appeal to the Lord, may well be the basis of last Sunday's parable of the persistent widow and the unjust judge. Did Jesus build his parable on this piece of wisdom of the ancients, or did Luke use the Book of Sirach to expand Jesus' teaching? So also, the second part of the reading, which prepares us for today's parable of contrasting suppliants (proud and humble) in the Temple: did Jesus build on the ancients or did Luke? Jesus certainly heard and learnt from the holy books of Judaism. Whether Jesus directly used Sirach or not, the message of the two parts of this reading is clear in the phrase which joins them together: whoever wholeheartedly serves God will be accepted. There is no pretending in prayer. As a wise old priest once said to me, 'In prayer you can stop pretending to be Queen Victoria or a poached egg.'

2 Timothy 4:6-8. 16-18 - This is the last Sunday reading from the 'Pastoral Letters', addressed to Paul's assistants, Timothy and Titus. Fittingly, it is a summing-up and defence of his mission, according to the literary conventions of the time. We do not know where the trial he mentions took place, nor the eventual outcome, though the tradition holds strong that he was martyred in Rome (and his severed head bounced three times, giving rise to three fountains, the famous 'Tre Fontane' in Rome). In his letters Paul several times mentions imprisonment, but nowhere a formal trial; so we can only guess. Did he set out on further journeys, even to Spain, after his confinement in Rome? We do not know. The sporting images of the 'good fight' and the 'race' are typical of Paul, and also the image of a libation, the first few drops from a cup of wine, offered in homage to a divinity. But most of all we are reminded that Paul had long yearned for death and to be fully united to his Lord and ours: 'Life to me, of course, is Christ, and death would be a positive gain' (Philippians 1:21), but he remained fully aware of the Lord's call to provide energetic guidance in the early Church.

St Luke 18:9-14 - These two figures in today's Gospel are stock characters, sketched with Luke's brilliant wit and sensitivity. The gospels invariably give the Pharisees a bad press: after the destruction of Jerusalem, they were the only surviving branch of Judaism and so, for the evangelists, they represent the vigorous opposition of Judaism to Christianity at that time. The Jewish historian, Josephus, paints a sympathetic picture of them, and Matthew's picture of them as the personification of hypocrisy may be a caricature of their scrupulosity concerning the observance of the Law. Jesus played them at their own game in his careful interpretation of scripture, presenting them with a rich and profound understanding of God's Word. The question must be asked: was Jesus a Pharisee too? Pre-occupation with exact observance of rules can often appear to outsiders as hypocrisy. In Jesus' time a tax-collector was the epitome of malpractice and the abandonment of all decent standards: he worked for the hated Roman occupying power; he had to make his own living by extorting excessive tax. So this parable is one more example of Jesus' reversal of expected values, and his outreach to those generally despised: to the woman notorious in the city as a sinner, to the woman taken in adultery, to Zacchaeus and to the 'good thief'. It beautifully fulfils the first reading, demonstrating that the prayer of the humble 'pierces the clouds'.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, Our Lady of the Rosary, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, St Anthony Claret, Ss Chad & Cedd, St Alfred the Great, Ss Simon & Jude pray for us all.

With our love and prayers – Fr David & Deacon Peter