



**Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence**

39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH

**Diocese of Northampton**

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Fr Patrick Hutton - Retired

Deacon: Rev Peter Griffin – 07850 499414

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Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

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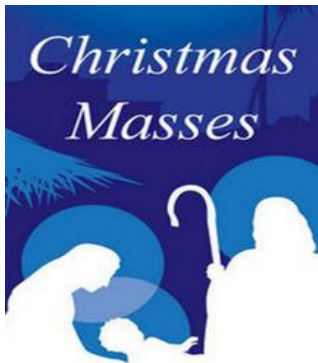
St Joseph's Convent – Sr Delia DHS - 01234 711267

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**SVP Contact: 07925 125206**

<b>4<sup>th</sup> December 2022</b> <b>Psalter Week 3</b>	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> <b>'Gaudete Sunday'</b>	
<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Isaiah 35:1-6. 10</b> <i>God himself is coming to save you.</i>	
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Come, Lord, and save us.</b>	
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>St James 5:7-10</b> <i>Do not lose heart for the Lord's coming will be soon</i>	
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	<b>Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!</b>	
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Matthew 11:2-11</b> <i>Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?</i>	
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December +</b>	<b>5.45pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Confession</b> <b>Vigil Mass – (Peter Kemish RIP)</b>
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (For the Parish)</b>
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>Our Lady of Guadalupe – op. memoria</b>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>St Lucy, Virgin &amp; Martyr – memoria</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass – (Samantha Whitworth RIP)</b>
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>St John of the Cross, Priest &amp; Doctor</b>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Feria</i>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> <b>Service of Word &amp; Holy Communion</b>
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Feria</i>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>
<b>Saturday – 17<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Feria – O Wisdom</i>		<b>No Parish Mass this morning</b>
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <b>'Gaudete Sunday'</b>		
<b>Saturday – 17<sup>th</sup> December + O Root of Jesse</b>	<b>5.45pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Confession</b> <b>Vigil Mass – (Bernie Wogan RIP)</b>
<b>Sunday – 18<sup>th</sup> December + O Root of Jesse</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (For the Parish)</b>

**CHRISTMAS CARDS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE PORCH**



24 <sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Vigil Mass	6.30pm
24 <sup>th</sup> December – Mass During the Night	9.30pm
25 <sup>th</sup> December - Mass at Dawn	8.00am
25 <sup>th</sup> December – Mass during the day	10.30am



As is customary, Christmas is the time for giving something to Father David to show our appreciation for everything he has done for our parish – we are truly blessed to have such a good shepherd watching over us. It can be done in several ways; planned giving envelopes; Digital Collection; standing order with a reference of Fr David; plain envelope clearly marked

‘Fr David Christmas Offering’ - if by cheque please make payable to **Our Lady Help of Christians**.

**Sr Catherine Scanlon DHS – RIP** – we were truly saddened to learn this week of the death of dear Sr Catherine at home in Ireland. We thank God for the many graces bestowed on Sr Catherine in this life and pray earnestly for the repose of her soul. We pray also for her family, friends and especially the sisters here at St Joseph’s Convent, Olney and those at Burlington Hall. May she rest in peace.



### Christmas Talk and Carols Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm

In place of our parish Christmas Carol Service at Our Lady’s, we will have a talk followed by some Carols and mince pies and mulled wine on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm** followed by seasonal refreshments in the parish hall. The talk will be given by one of our parishioners Julia Scott. She has written two novels for teenagers focusing on Pro-Life issues. A third is on the way. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus who is our Life, this will be a wonderful way for us to get together, hear something hopeful, sing and celebrate. Proceeds from the evening will go to Willen Hospice. Everyone is welcome.



### Caritas: Love for Christmas Campaign

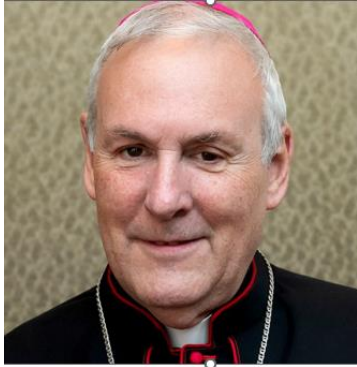
Caritas are running a Love for Christmas Campaign. Any gifts must be new and need to be dropped off at the church by December 11th. See poster in church and the following message:

***We would like to invite you, along with your colleagues and family members to join in this campaign of kindness and generosity by collecting donations of much needed gifts to put smiles on the faces of young families, children and the elderly living in isolation or poverty, as well as young people leaving the care system and living alone and young carers who do so much all year round for others and have little time to actually be a child.***

**Many thanks for all the gifts that we have received so far**



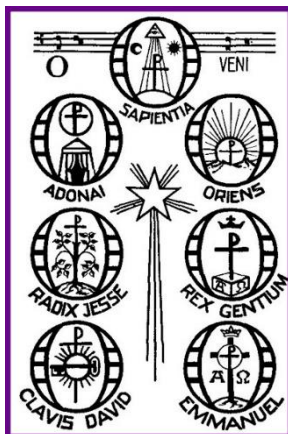
On **December 17th**, NYMO (Northampton Youth Mimicry Office) are hosting an extended Young Adults Brunch, with Adoration, Faith Formation, Food, Fellowship, Mass, and two amazing guest speakers, Joanna Bogle, and from the US, Meg Hunter-Kilmer. (Be sure to bring a Bible with you!) We invite you to join us for this free event, from 10am to start the day with Adoration, at Our Lady Help of Christians, Luton. For full details on location and times, please see [nymo.org/brunch](http://nymo.org/brunch). Age 18-35.



## Bishop David Oakley Our Missionary Diocese

Bishop David has recently put on YouTube a reflection on how our Diocese and our parishes can become more missionary. Look up Northampton Diocese on YouTube and you will find the talk entitled, “Our Missionary Diocese”. This is a direct link to it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkvLWmHX-18>



**THE ‘O ANTIPHONS’** refer to the seven antiphons that are recited or chanted preceding the Magnificat during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the ‘**Octave before Christmas**’ – 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

The importance of the ‘O Antiphons’ is twofold: Each one highlights a title for the Messiah: *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom); *O Adonai* (O Lord); *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse); *O Clavis David* (O Key of David); *O Oriens* (O Rising Sun); *O Rex Gentium* (O King of Nations); and *O Emmanuel* (O God with Us) – each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah. If you would like to follow the Liturgy of Hours you can find this on <https://universalis.com/>

## From Fr David's desk....



Advent is a beautiful season in the Church's life. But you may not notice that it has two parts to it. The first part runs up to and includes 16<sup>th</sup> December – these are the ordinary days of Advent. But from 17<sup>th</sup> December there is an Octave of days which leads right up to Christmas Eve. Advent changes gear and this is shown in a number of ways.

First of all, the Gospel readings at Mass: in the first period they are taken from various places in the Gospel, dealing first with the future Second Coming of Christ and then various ways in which we approach Christ, and finally in the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent they change gear again and all mention John the Baptist in one way or another. Then, from 17<sup>th</sup> December, the Gospel readings are taken from the Infancy Narratives of either Matthew's or Luke's Gospel, going up to the point before Jesus is born in Bethlehem. So, 17<sup>th</sup> December marks a change in gear: we increase the sense of expectation for celebrating the Lord's Nativity: our salvation is at hand – and when we say that we mean Jesus is at hand, because the names *Jesus* means *God saves*.

Secondly, from 17<sup>th</sup> December we begin the Great O Antiphons. These are recited before and after the *Magnificat* at Evening Prayer (Vespers) every day from 17<sup>th</sup> December. They are also used for the *Alleluia* verse before the Gospel at every Mass during the Octave. They take their name from the fact that each one begins with the exclamation O! There follows a title inspired by the Old Testament which is applied to Christ. There is a different one each day and they each help us understand the many sides of the salvation which Jesus is. We call on Jesus under these different titles to come and save us in all the many ways we need to be saved. They are as follows:

17<sup>th</sup> December: *O Sapientia*: O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.

18<sup>th</sup> December: *O Adonai*: O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai Mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.

19<sup>th</sup> December: *O Radix Jesse*: O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

20<sup>th</sup> December: *O Clavis David*: O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of Heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.

21<sup>st</sup> December: *O Oriens*: O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

22<sup>nd</sup> December: *O Rex Gentium*: O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.

23<sup>rd</sup> December: *O Emmanuel*: O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Saviour of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God. The hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* is based on these antiphons and is properly sung during this period.

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Latin Hymn, *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, 1710      Adapted from Plainsong by Thomas Helmore

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,    And ran-som cap-tive Is - ra - el,    That  
 Refrain  
 mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,    Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.    Re  
 joice!    Re - joice!    Em - man - u - el    Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

bethsnotes.com

May Our Lady Help of Christians, Our of Guadeloupe, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St Edmund, St Rita, St Lucy, St John of the Cross pray for us all.

With our love and prayers – Fr David & Deacon Peter