



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

39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH

**Diocese of Northampton**

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18 <sup>th</sup> December 2022 Psalter Week 4	Fourth Sunday of Advent O Adonai	
<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Isaiah 7:10-14</b> <i>The maiden is with child.</i>	
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory</b>	
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7</b> <i>Jesus Christ, descendant of David, Son of God.</i>	
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	<b>Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us' Alleluia!</b>	
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Matthew 1:18-24</b> <i>Jesus is born of Mary who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.</i>	
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December + - O Wisdom</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 Adonai</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (For the Parish)</b>
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December – O Root of Jesse</b> <i>Feria</i>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December – O Key</b> <i>Feria</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass – (Fr Brian Leatherland RIP)</b>
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December – O Rising Sun</b> <i>Feria</i>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> <b>Mass (John Kavanagh RIP)</b>
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – O King</b> <i>Feria</i>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b> <b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> <b>Mass (Brian Barrett RIP)</b> <b>Reconciliation Service</b>
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – O Emmanuel</b> <i>Feria</i>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> <b>Mass Douglas Rentle RIP)</b>
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Feria</i>	<b>10.00am</b> <b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Fr John Fowler RIP)</b> <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b>
<i>Season of Christmas</i>		
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> <b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>6.30pm</b> <b>9.30pm</b>	<b>Children's Vigil Mass (For the Parish)</b> <b>Mass during the Night (Brian Barrett RIP)</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> <b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>8.00am</b> <b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass at Dawn (John Abbott RIP)</b> <b>Mass during the Day (Brian Barrett RIP)</b>



## Sacrament of Confession

Confession will be available at Our Lady's as follows:

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 9.30-9.50am**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December After 10.00am Mass and at 7.00pm we will have our Reconciliation Service with other priests available for individual Confession**

**Saturday (Christmas Eve) 9.30-9.50 and after 10.00 Mass until 12.00 noon.**

**You are welcome to pop in to the presbytery at any time, or make an appointment, for Confession when I am here.**

## Children's Mass 6.30pm Christmas Eve

Next Christmas Eve we will have our first Christmas Children's Mass in a few years because of the pandemic. All children are welcome to come to Mass dressed as angels, shepherds, kings or any other character from the Christmas story.



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.**



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

In place of our parish Christmas Carol Service at Our Lady's, this Sunday evening at 6.00pm we will have a talk given by one of our parishioners, Julia Scott, followed by some Carols and mince pies and mulled wine on followed by seasonal refreshments in the parish hall. Julia writes novels for teenagers focusing on Pro-Life issues. It is a hopeful message and something we need to hear in difficult times. Proceeds from the evening will go to Willen Hospice. Everyone is welcome to come along for what should be a joyful and relaxing evening.



## Caritas: Love for Christmas Campaign

Many thanks to everyone who dropped off gifts for the Love for Christmas Campaign organised by Caritas. A large amount was given which impressed the organisers and they express their gratitude for what will bring joy to many in need.

## Reflection of Pope Benedict XVI on St Joseph

I like to recall that beloved John Paul II was also very devoted to St Joseph, to whom he dedicated the Apostolic Exhortation *Redemptoris Custos*, Guardian of the Redeemer, and who surely experienced his assistance at the hour of death.

The figure of this great Saint, even though remaining somewhat hidden, is of fundamental importance in the history of salvation. Above all, as part of the tribe of Judah, he united Jesus to the Davidic lineage so that, fulfilling the promises regarding the Messiah, the Son of the Virgin Mary may truly be called the "son of David".

The Gospel of Matthew highlights in a special way the Messianic prophecies which reached fulfilment through the role that Joseph played: the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem (2: 1-6); his journey through Egypt, where the Holy Family took refuge (2: 13-15); the nickname, the "Nazarene" (2: 22-23).

In all of this he showed himself, like his spouse Mary, an authentic heir of Abraham's faith: faith in God who guides the events of history according to his mysterious salvific plan. His greatness, like Mary's, stands out even more because his mission was carried out in the humility and hiddenness of the house of Nazareth. Moreover, God himself, in the person of his Incarnate Son, chose this way and style of life - humility and hiddenness - in his earthly existence.

From the example of St Joseph we all receive a strong invitation to carry out with fidelity, simplicity and modesty the task that Providence has entrusted to us. I think especially of fathers and mothers of families, and I pray that they will always be able to appreciate the beauty of a simple and industrious life, cultivating the conjugal relationship with care and fulfilling with enthusiasm the great and difficult educational mission.

To priests, who exercise a paternal role over Ecclesial Communities, may St Joseph help them love the Church with affection and complete dedication, and may he support consecrated persons in their joyous and faithful observance of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience. May he protect workers throughout the world so that they contribute with their different professions to the progress of the whole of humanity, and may he help every Christian to fulfil God's will with confidence and love, thereby cooperating in the fulfilment of the work of salvation.



*Fr David, Fr Malcolm, Fr Patrick, Deacon Peter,*

*Denise & the Sisters*

*wish you and your loved ones a very Blessed & Holy Christmas*

*together with a Blessed & Peaceful New Year*

## Christmas Mass Readings

### Children's Vigil Mass (6.30pm)

<b>First Reading:</b>	Isaiah 62:1-5
<b>Psalm:</b>	<b>I will sing forever of your love, O Lord</b>
<b>Second Reading:</b>	Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17. 22-25
<b>Gospel Alleluia:</b>	<b>Alleluia, Alleluia! Tomorrow there will be an end to the sin of the world and the saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!</b>
<b>Gospel:</b>	Matthew 1:1-25

### Mass During the Night (9.30pm)

<b>First Reading:</b>	Isaiah 9:1-7
<b>Psalm:</b>	<b>Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.</b>
<b>Second Reading:</b>	St Paul to Titus 2:11-14
<b>Gospel Alleluia:</b>	<b>Alleluia, Alleluia! I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!</b>
<b>Gospel:</b>	Luke 2:1-14

### Mass at Dawn (8.00am)

<b>First Reading:</b>	Isaiah 62:11-12
<b>Psalm:</b>	<b>This day new light will shine upon the earth: the Lord is born for us.</b>
<b>Second Reading:</b>	St Paul to Titus 3:4-7
<b>Gospel Alleluia:</b>	<b>Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory to God in the highest heave, and peace to men who enjoy his favour. Alleluia!</b>
<b>Gospel:</b>	Luke 2:15-20

### Mass During the Day (10.30am)

<b>First Reading:</b>	Isaiah 52:7-10
<b>Psalm:</b>	<b>All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.</b>
<b>Second Reading:</b>	Hebrews 1:1-6
<b>Gospel Alleluia:</b>	<b>Alleluia, Alleluia! A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth. Alleluia!</b>
<b>Gospel:</b>	John 1:1-18