

**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

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1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023 <b>Psalter Week 2</b>	Mary, Mother of God <b>The Season of Christmas</b>	
<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Numbers 6:22-27</b> <i>They are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.</i>	
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>O God, be gracious and bless us</b>	
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>St Paul to the Galatians 4:4-7</b> <i>God sent His son, born of a woman.</i>	
<b>Gospel Acclimatation</b>	<b>Alleluia, Alleluia! At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, He has spoken to us through His Son. Alleluia!</b>	
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Luke 2:16-21</b> <i>They found Mary and Joseph and the baby... When the eighth day came, they gave Him the name Jesus.</i>	
<b>Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December +</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Vigil Mass (Millie Shopshire RIP)</b>
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass (For the Parish)</b>
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b> <b>Ss Basil the Great &amp; Gregory Nazianzen –</b> <i>Bishops &amp; Doctors - memoria</i>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b> <b>The Most Holy Name of Jesus – op mem.</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass (Eugenia Tymrakiewicz RIP)</b>
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>Feria</i>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January</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 6<sup>th</sup> January +</b> <b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	<b>10.00am</b> <b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Mass (Jerard Doherty RIP)</b> <b>Mass (Michael Griffin RIP)</b>
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>St Raymond of Penyafort - Op memoria</b>		<b>No Parish Mass this morning</b>
<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b> <b>The Season of Christmas</b>		
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>5.45pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Confession</b> <b>Vigil Mass (David Watson RIP)</b>
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass (McCarthy family Int.)</b>

**The Epiphany of the Lord – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January** - A reminder that The Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord is a Holyday of Obligation. There will be Mass on Friday at 10.00am and 7.00pm.



**Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI** - Pope Benedict XVI has passed away aged 95. He was a gentle, beautiful and gifted soul – one of the greatest theologians of the past 100 years. He came to visit our country in a very successful and prayerful visit, winning the hearts of many people inside and outside of the Church. We pray that the Lord will give this “humble worker in the Lord’s vineyard” eternal rest and peace.

Let us pray.

O God,

from whom the just receive an unfailing reward,  
grant that your servant Benedict, our Pope,  
whom you made vicar of Peter  
and shepherd of your Church,  
may rejoice forever in the vision of your glory,  
for he was a faithful steward here on earth  
of the mysteries of your forgiveness and grace.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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**.

**MK Food Bank** – We have been asked by the staff at the MK Food Bank to remind donors that all donations of food need to have a ‘use by’ date of at least two months please. This is to enable the safe distribution of those making use of the Food Bank. A massive thank you for all your donations, particularly over this Christmas period – as we can all appreciate, in these very challenging times, the numbers relying on the Food Bank are increasing dramatically.



### Mass Intentions

If you would like a Mass offered for a particular intention, please try to give us at least two months’ notice of the date/time that you would like. Already there are no available dates in January and February is

beginning to fill up. Whilst every effort is made to offer the Mass on your chosen date, there are occasions when this may need to be amended. Thank you.

**White Flower Appeal** – the annual White Flower Appeal in support of the work carried out by SPUC, is scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> January.

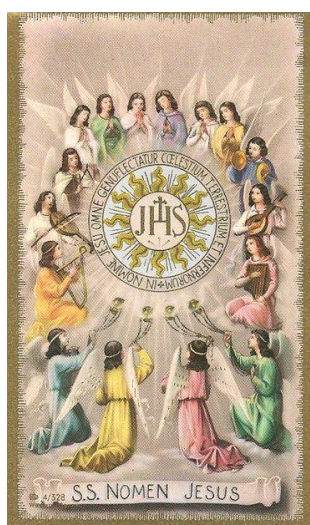


## Moveable Feasts 2023

Baptism of the Lord – 8<sup>th</sup> January  
 Ash Wednesday – 22<sup>nd</sup> February  
 Easter Triduum – 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> April  
 EASTER SUNDAY – 9<sup>th</sup> April  
 Ascension of the Lord – 18<sup>th</sup> May  
 Pentecost – 28<sup>th</sup> May  
 Trinity Sunday – 4<sup>th</sup> June  
 Corpus Christi – 11<sup>th</sup> June  
 Sacred Heart of Jesus – 16<sup>th</sup> June  
 Christ the King – 26<sup>th</sup> November

**Home & Hospital Visiting** - As people get elderly, we appreciate that it may be difficult for them to attend Mass. If you have an elderly family member who is not able to come to Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact the parish office on **01234 711212**. 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 the hospital admissions team aware that you are a Catholic, so that you can be offered the opportunity to receive Holy Communion.

**Fr Robert Spitzer** is a Jesuit Priest and is currently the President of the Magis Centre of Reason and Faith and the Spitzer Centre for Ethical Leadership. He is the host of a weekly international EWTN television programme – Fr Spitzer’s Universe. There is a very interesting video on You Tube showing Fr Spitzer delivering a talk entitled: **‘The Latest Scientific Evidence of God and the Soul’** – you can view this by following the link: <https://youtu.be/KvghlgftwnE>



## The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Although Saint Paul might claim credit for promoting devotion to the Holy Name because Paul wrote in Philippians that God the Father gave Christ Jesus “*that name that is above every name*” (see 2:9), this devotion became popular because of 12th-century Cistercian monks and nuns but especially through the preaching of Saint Bernardine of Siena, a 15th-century Franciscan. Bernardine used devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus as a way of overcoming bitter and often bloody class struggles and family rivalries or vendettas in Italian city-states. The devotion grew, partly because of Franciscan and Dominican preachers. It spread even more widely after the Jesuits began promoting it in the 16th century. In 1530, Pope Clement V approved an Office of the

Holy Name for the Franciscans. In 1721, Pope Innocent XIII extended this feast to the entire Church.





## Reflection on the Epiphany of the Lord

Sometimes waiting for a feast or solemnity in the Church's Liturgical Year can feel like waiting for a bus, you wait a long time for one and then we seem to be engulfed in them. It has only been a little short of a fortnight since we welcomed the newly born Jesus into our lives at Christmas and since then we've celebrated The Holy Family; St Stephen; St John of the Cross; The Holy Innocents; St Thomas Beckett; Mary Mother of God and this coming Friday, The Epiphany of the Lord. So much for us to celebrate in such a relatively short period of time that there can be a real danger that we do not fully immerse ourselves into each celebration in the way that we should.

For many people, the Christmas Season can be a very busy time in their lives – shopping to complete, gifts to buy, cards to write and deliver, homes to prepare to welcome family and friends barely time for us to draw breath let alone to ponder the great mysteries of our faith. Together with the feast of the Epiphany and the following two Sundays, our Gospel readings reveal three of the great **Epiphanies of Christ** – the arrival of the Wise Men at Bethlehem, the Baptism of the Lord and the wedding feast at Cana - all of these revelations come to us before Jesus fully begins his ministry.

Reflecting on the Epiphany, I am drawn to the role of the star that guided the three wise men to where they would find Christ. This should remind us of the importance of praying to God to be given that **'inner star'** in our lives – the light of faith – a light that will draw us ever closer to God and to one another – a light that will strengthen our faith in God not simply as something that merely remains on our lips to which we give assent but something that will fundamentally change our lives.

The events in detailed in St Matthew's Gospel on the Epiphany remind us that there is a *real* need for us to **'go to Christ'** and to make our act of faith in Him. But we should not come to Him empty handed – we must come bearing gifts. **Our gift of Gold:** the talents that each of us have been blessed with, the opportunities that have been given to us to strengthen our faith and to be heralds of that faith to those in our lives. **Our gift of Frankincense:** that symbol of worship of God which has to be a fundamental part of our lives – day by day to spend time with God in prayer. And finally, **our gift of Myrrh:** the offering of our lives entirely to God – to be prepared and ready to leave this world when He calls us; to live our lives building up the kingdom of God.

As we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord – when Christ revealed Himself to the world but more significantly to each one of us, we are reminded that it is because of God's great love for us, that we all have it within ourselves to recognise Christ as the Son of God; to recognise His great love for us and to respond with our love for Him by what we say and what we do.

The Christmas story is littered with acts of giving – the giving of Christ to us from God; Mary's giving of herself in response to God's call; the self-giving of Joseph to Mary in a time of great testing; the giving of the lamb to the newly born infant Jesus by the poor Shepherds; the giving of lavish gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh by the wise men – but what of us? What is our gift? Do we perhaps spend far too much time in our lives worrying about things that we cannot change?

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, Mary, Mother of God, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, Ss Basil & Gregory Nazianzen, pray for us all.

With our love and prayers to you all – Happy New Year!  
Fr David, Fr Patrick & Deacon Peter