



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH

Diocese of Northampton

Parish Priest: Fr David B Barrett olneyparishpriest@icloud.com

Fr Patrick Hutton - Retired

Deacon: Rev Peter Griffin – 07850 499414

pfgriffin@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Website: www.ourladysolney.co.uk

Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

Telephone: 01234 711212 ourladysolney@btconnect.com

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

Turvey Abbey – 01234 881432

SVP Contact: 07925 125206

| 25 th December 2022 Psalter Week 1 | The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ The Season of Christmas | |
|--|--|---|
| SEE PAGE TWO FOR CHRISTMAS MASS READINGS | | |
| CHRISTMAS EVE Saturday 24 th December + | 6.30pm 9.30pm | Children's Vigil Mass (For the Parish) Mass During the Night (Brian Barrett RIP) |
| CHRISTMAS DAY Sunday 25 th December + | 8.00am 10.30am | Mass at Dawn (John Abbott RIP) Mass during the Day (Brian Barrett RIP) |
| Monday 26th December ST STEPHEN - Feast | 10.00am | Mass (Ilona Kany RIP) |
| Tuesday 27th December St John – Apostle & Evangelist - Feast | 10.00am | Mass (Thelma van Reyk RIP) |
| Wednesday 28th December THE HOLY INNOCENTS – Martyrs - Feast | 9.15am 10.00am | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass (Brian Barrett RIP) |
| Thursday 29th December ST THOMAS BECKETT – Bishop & Martyr <i>Feast in Diocese</i> Secondary Patron of the Diocese & the Cathedral. Patron of English Pastoral Clergy | 6.15pm 7.00pm | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass (Reilly family RIP) |
| Friday 30th December THE HOLY FAMILY - Feast | 9.15am 10.00am | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass (Dennis Timpson RIP) |
| Saturday 31st December <i>Seventh Day of Christmas Octave</i> | 10.00am 10.30am | Mass (Edith Pilling RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament |
| <i>Mary, Mother of God</i> | | |
| Saturday 31st December | 6.30pm | Mass (Milly Shopshire RIP) |
| Sunday 1st January | 10.30am | Mass (For the Parish) |

Christmas Mass Readings

Children's Vigil Mass (6.30pm)

| | |
|------------------|---|
| First Reading: | Isaiah 62:1-5 |
| Psalm: | I will sing forever of your love, O Lord |
| Second Reading: | Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17. 22-25 |
| Gospel Alleluia: | 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! |
| Gospel: | Matthew 1:1-25 |

Mass During the Night (9.30pm)

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

Mass at Dawn (8.00am)

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

Mass During the Day (10.30am)

| | |
|------------------|---|
| First Reading: | Isaiah 52:7-10 |
| Psalm: | All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. |
| Second Reading: | Hebrews 1:1-6 |
| Gospel Alleluia: | 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! |
| Gospel: | John 1:1-18 |



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



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.**



ST STEPHEN was one of the first deacons of the Christian Church and was the first Christian martyr. Stephen is believed to have been a Greek Jew who converted to Christianity. When the number of disciples increased, there was much confusion over the distribution of alms and the serving of the poor. Stephen's trustworthy character marked him out, and he was chosen as one of the seven deacons who would perform this task. St Stephen is the patron of Altar Servers and today we give thanks to God for the Altar Servers in our Parish and in our Diocese. The guild

medal that is worn by Altar Servers is pictured here – in the centre are the letters XP the first two letters of the name of Christ in Greek; at the top is the crown of victory given by God to everyone who overcomes evil, especially those who die for him; at the bottom are the palm branches, traditional symbols of martyrs who died for Christ; around the edge are the Latin words of the Guild motto:

CUI SERVIRE REGNARE EST – ‘TO SERVE CHRIST IS TO REIGN’



THE HOLY INNOCENTS - During the octave of Christmas, the Church celebrates the memory of the small children of the neighbourhood of Bethlehem put to death by Herod. Sacrificed by a wicked monarch, these innocent lives bear witness to Christ who was persecuted from the time of His birth by a world which would not receive Him. It is Christ Himself who is at stake in this mass-murder of the children; already the choice, for or against Him, is put clearly before mankind. But the persecutors are powerless, for Christ came to perform a work of salvation that nothing can prevent; when He fell into the hands of His enemies at the time chosen by God it was to redeem the world by His own Blood.



ST THOMAS BECKETT was born in London in 1118. He was a cleric of the Church of Canterbury and became Chancellor of the kingdom and then in 1162 was chosen to be Archbishop. He strenuously defended the rights of the Church against King Henry II and he was exiled to France for six years. On his return to his country, he again had to bear many trials and finally, in 1170, following the infamous trial in Northampton, he was murdered by the king's followers in Canterbury Cathedral itself. **St Thomas Beckett is the Secondary Patron of the Diocese and so we especially pray today for Bishop David, Bishop Emeritus Peter, the Priests, Deacons, Religious and people of our Diocese & Parish**



IN HIM WE SEE OUR GOD MADE VISIBLE

Father all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

In the wonder of the incarnation
your eternal Word has brought to the eyes of faith
a new and radiant vision of your glory.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in love of the God we cannot see.

Preface of Christmas I – The Roman Missal

Fr David, Fr Patrick & Deacon Peter would like to thank you all for your good wishes and offerings this Christmas but especially for the tremendous support that has been given in so many ways throughout the year. We all feel very blest to be ministering in this most wonderful of parishes and together wish you, your families and loved ones a very happy and holy New Year and be assured of our continuing love & prayers for you all.