



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH

Diocese of Northampton

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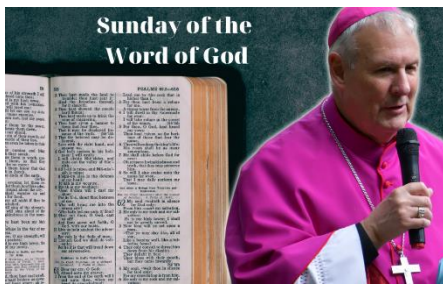
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22 nd January 2023 Psalter Week 3		Third Sunday of the Year Sunday of the Word of God	
First Reading	Isaiah 8:23-9:3 <i>In Galilee of the nations the people has seen a great light</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	The Lord is my light and my help		
Second Reading	1 Paul to the Corinthians 1:10-13. 17 <i>Make up the differences between you instead of disagreeing among yourselves.</i>		
Gospel Acclimatation	Alleluia, Alleluia! Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the kingdom, and cured all kinds of sickness among the people. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Matthew 4:12-23 <i>He went and settled in Capernaum: in this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled.</i>		
Saturday 21 st January +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)	
Sunday 22 nd January +	10.30am	Mass (Joan Bagg RIP)	
Monday 23 rd January <i>Feria</i>	10.30am	Requiem Mass for Chas Harris RIP	
Tuesday 24 th January St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor – <i>memoria</i>	10.00am	Mass - (Mary Guiry RIP)	
Wednesday 25 th January CONVERSION OF ST PAUL - <i>Feast</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Patrick Cockings RIP)	
Thursday 26 th January Ss Timothy & Titus, Bishops - <i>memoria</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (All Priests who have served in Olney)	
Friday 27 th January St Angela Merici, Virgin – <i>op mem.</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Ann & John Betts RIP)	
Saturday 28 th January St Thomas Aquinas, Doctor - <i>memoria</i>	10.00am 10.30am	Mass – (Anita Chapman RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR			
Saturday 28 th January	6.30pm	Vigil Mass (For the Parish)	
Sunday 29 th January +	10.30am	Mass (McCarthy Family Ints.)	



SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD - On the Feast of St Jerome in 2019, Pope Francis issued a 'Motu Proprio' instituting the **Sunday of the Word of God** - it is marked each year on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time.

The Holy Father proposed the idea at the conclusion of the Year of Mercy when he wrote of a desire to institute a "Sunday given over entirely to the Word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people." On this day we are encouraged to celebrate the Word of God by the reading of the scriptures. We are blessed in our parish with having a good team of readers and we are asked to pray with them and for them on this special day. Reflecting on the importance of the Word of God, Bishop David said, "It is important for us to allow the Word of God to deepen these mysteries of faith within us to remind us that we are the Church. I have seen so often as a priest that God's word has the power to change lives."

To celebrate this occasion, Mgr Kevin McGinnell will preside at a Service of the Word in the Cathedral **TODAY (22nd January) at 3.00pm**. As a part of this service Mgr Kevin will bless all readers who proclaim the Word of God in their parishes. Readers are invited to attend if they wish or anyone can access the 'live stream' via the Cathedral website: <https://northamptoncathedral.org/>



NEXT SUNDAY – 29th January the SVP invite you for a cuppa after Mass to meet prospective new members. We would welcome any suggestions from parishioners as to how we can best meet the needs of the parish. We have plans in the pipeline and with new members and hopefully some volunteers we would be able to do a lot more.

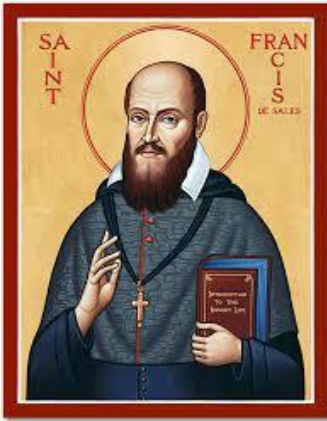
Please feel free to chat to Pat Reilly, John Curtin and Veronica Tarrant who would be delighted to talk to you and to hear your views. We look forward to seeing you.



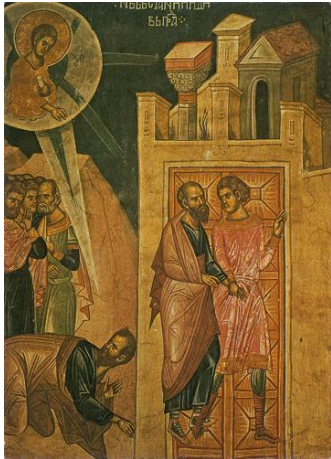
Light up Lent! - Online Week of Accompanied Prayer – 23rd February – 2nd March. Give yourself the gift of time with God this Lent by taking part in our Online Week of Accompanied Prayer led by Canon John Udris. Encounter Jesus in a new way through the Scriptures and see your prayer life come to life.

Introductory webinar 7.30pm – 8.30pm Monday 23rd January – further information:
https://week_of_accompanied_prayer.eventbrite.co.uk

Your Legacy - Invest in the future of your parish and our Diocese. Gifts in your Will are a memorable and lasting way you can continue to support the Church's ministry and mission and help meet the needs of future generations. Please consider gifts to the Church and Catholic charities next time you update your Will. For more information, contact Denise or alternatively, go to: www.northamptondiocese.org/your-legacy or contact Brian Emmanuel on 01604 600337 or brian.emmanuel@northamptondiocese.org.



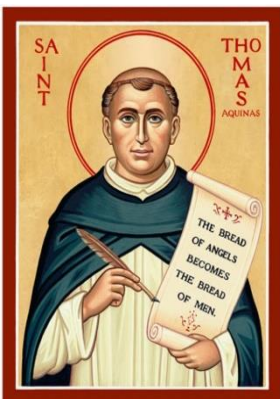
St Francis de Sales was born near Annecy in Savoy in the year 1567. After his ordination as a priest, he worked strenuously for the renewal of the faith in his country; and after his election as Bishop of Geneva he showed himself to be a true shepherd towards his clergy and the faithful, being an example in all things and helping all by his writings and work. He died at Lyons on 28th December 1622 and was buried at Annecy on 24th January 1623



The Conversion of St Paul - St Paul the Apostle was the greatest of the early Christian missionaries. He first appears in the Acts of the Apostles under the name of Saul. Saul was raised in the Jewish faith as a Pharisee trained in the strict observance of God's Law. He believed the Law should be obeyed by himself and all Jews. Saul was upset by the early Christian Church, believing that the early Christians had broken away from their Jewish traditions. He actively persecuted the Church in Jerusalem. On the road to Damascus Saul had an encounter with the risen Jesus Christ (Acts 9:1-19) Jesus asked, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Paul replied, "Who are you, sir?" Jesus responded, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:4-5). Saul was shaken and blinded by the experience and when a Christian named Ananias came and baptised Saul, his blindness went away. As a result of this encounter Saul became a follower of Christ. He was now convinced that communion with the risen Jesus Christ, not the observance of the Law, was all that was needed to receive God's promise of salvation.

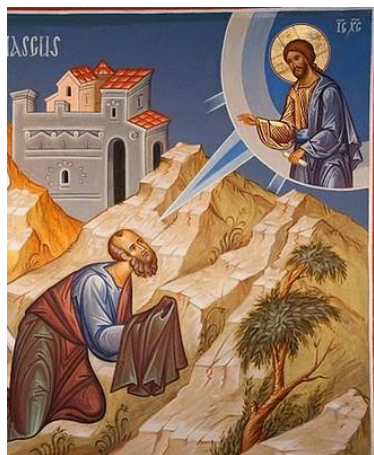


Ss Timothy and Titus were disciples and helpers of the Apostle Paul, the former being placed in charge of the Church at Ephesus, the latter the Church at Crete. St Paul wrote his pastoral epistles to them containing much useful advice for the instruction of the clergy and people



St Thomas Aquinas was born about the year 1225, a member of a noble family of Aquino. He studied first at Monte Cassino and then at Naples; later as a member of the Dominican Order he completed his studies at Paris and then at Cologne with St Albert the Great as his teacher. He was an outstanding writer and teacher of philosophy and sacred theology. He died at Fossanuova Abbey, Italy on 7th March 1274. He was venerated on 28th January for on that date in the year 1369 his body was reburied at Toulouse. He is considered to be one of the greatest theologians of the Church's history.

From Fr David's desk....



In 2008 Pope Benedict XVI gave a beautiful reflection for the Feast of St Paul's Conversion. Below is the final part of it, which is very beautiful:

This turning point in Paul's life, this transformation of his whole being was not the fruit of a psychological process, of a maturation or intellectual and moral development. Rather it came from the outside: it was not the fruit of his thought but of his encounter with Jesus Christ. In this sense it was not simply a conversion, a development of his "ego", but rather a death and a resurrection for Paul himself. One existence died and another, new one was born with the

Risen Christ. There is no other way in which to explain this renewal of Paul. None of the psychological analyses can clarify or solve the problem. This event alone, this powerful encounter with Christ, is the key to understanding what had happened: death and resurrection, renewal on the part of the One who had shown himself and had spoken to him. In this deeper sense we can and we must speak of conversion. This encounter is a real renewal that changed all his parameters. Now he could say that what had been essential and fundamental for him earlier had become "refuse" for him; it was no longer "gain" but loss, because henceforth the only thing that counted for him was life in Christ. Nevertheless, we must not think that Paul was thus closed in a blind event. The contrary is true because the Risen Christ is the light of truth, the light of God himself. This expanded his heart and made it open to all. At this moment he did not lose all that was good and true in his life, in his heritage, but he understood wisdom, truth, the depth of the law and of the prophets in a new way and in a new way made them his own. At the same time, his reasoning was open to pagan wisdom. Being open to Christ with all his heart, he had become capable of an ample dialogue with everyone, he had become capable of making himself everything to everyone. Thus, he could truly be the Apostle to the Gentiles.

Turning now to ourselves, let us ask what this means for us. It means that for us to Christianity is not a new philosophy or a new morality. We are only Christians if we encounter Christ. Of course, he does not show himself to us in this overwhelming, luminous way, as he did to Paul to make him the Apostle to all peoples. But we too can encounter Christ in reading Sacred Scripture, in prayer, in the liturgical life of the Church. We can touch Christ's Heart and feel him touching ours. Only in this personal relationship with Christ, only in this encounter with the Risen One do we truly become Christians. And in this way our reason opens, all Christ's wisdom opens as do all the riches of truth. Therefore let us pray the Lord to illumine us, to grant us an encounter with his presence in our world, and thus to grant us a lively faith, an open heart and great love for all, which is capable of renewing the world.

May Our Lady Help of Christians, Mary, Mother of God, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Henry Newman, St Vincent, St Francis de Sales, St Paul, Ss Timothy & Titus, St Angela Merici, St Thomas Aquinas pray for us all.

With our love and prayers to you all - Fr David, Fr Patrick & Deacon Peter