



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH

Diocese of Northampton

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12 th February 2023 Psalter Week 2		Sixth Sunday of the Year	
First Reading	Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20 <i>He never commanded anyone to be godless</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	They are happy who follow God's law		
Second Reading	1 Paul to the Corinthians 2:6-10 <i>God predestined wisdom to be for our glory before the ages began.</i>		
Gospel Acclimatation	Alleluia, Alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Matthew 5:17-37 <i>You have learnt how it was said to your ancestors; but I say this to you.</i>		
Saturday 11 th February +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass (For the Parish)	
Sunday 12 th February +	10.30am	Mass (David Butcher RIP + Butcher family intentions)	
Monday 13 th February <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today	
Tuesday 14 th February Ss Cyril (Monk) & Methodius (Bishop) - Feast	10.00am	Mass - (Sharonne van Reyk RIP)	
Wednesday 15 th February <i>Feria</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Fr Don Breen RIP & Fr Joe Duggan RIP)	
Thursday 16 th February <i>Feria</i>	6.15pm 7.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Olive Crowley RIP)	
Friday 17 th February The Seven Holy Servites – op mem.	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Edward Follows RIP)	
Saturday 18 th February Our Lady on Saturday	10.00am 10.30am	Mass – (Linda Hewitt RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR			
Saturday 18 th February +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass (For the Parish)	
Sunday 19 th February +	10.30am	Mass (Alice Sapwell RIP)	



TURKEY-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL -

CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. Let us join

CAFOD in praying for our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather. Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give> - alternatively you can donate via the Disaster Emergency Committee (which incorporates CAFOD) via: <https://www.dec.org.uk/>



We have been serving Mary's Meals at schools in Syria since 2017. Working alongside our partner on the ground, Dorcas, we now stand ready to provide emergency support to communities affected in Aleppo and the surrounding areas.

<https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>



CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY PARISH SOUP LUNCH

Our parish CAFOD group will be hosting a **soup lunch** on **Friday 3rd March at 12.00pm** to commemorate Family Fast Day in Lent. All are welcome to attend. It is a good way to mark the

season of Lent and the call to fast and pray during the holy season. Any donations from the lunch will go towards CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal.



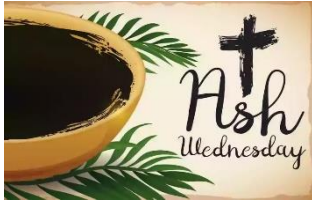
SVP - PARISH LUNCH - The SVP, now energised by new members, invite you to a little get together over lunch on **Wednesday 8th March at 1.00pm in the Parish Room**. This is so that we can celebrate together all the good things that happen in the parish. In order to have an idea of numbers please add your name to the list at the back of the Church and let us know if you would like transport. We look

forward to seeing you.

Church Windows – the Diocese have given us the go ahead to replace some of the windows and their frames – namely, the two on either side of the sanctuary and the one at the very top of the church facing the sanctuary. These have been leaking for a while and so need to be replaced to stop any further leaking and possible damage. The cost to the parish will be about £13,800. If any parishioners wish to contribute directly to the fund that will pay for the replacements, please do have a word with Fr David or with Denise.



Sr Margaret WALSH DHS – RIP – we were all truly saddened to learn of the death of dear Sr Margaret. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated here at Our Lady's at on Monday 20th February at 11am. Please do continue to pray for the repose of her soul and for comfort for her family, friends and of course the Sisters at St Joseph's & those at Burlington Hall



ASH WEDNESDAY – this year will be on **Wednesday 22nd February**. As is usual, Mass will be celebrated here at Our Lady's at **10am and 7pm** with the distribution of ashes at both Masses. Whilst not a Holy Day of Obligation it remains a most fitting way to begin our Lenten Journey.



Margaret & Larry's Café – every Tuesday, after the 10.00am Mass, you are warmly invited to stay for a cup of tea/coffee & biscuits in the parish hall and share time with one another in a warm & friendly atmosphere. See you there!



Shrove Tuesday Shriving Service at **Ss Peter and Paul Anglican Church Olney**. **Tuesday 21st Feb at 12ish (after the 11.55 race)**. **Our guest speaker is Simon Poole:**

Simon lives in Bicester, he is a duathlete representing Great Britain at multiple world and European championships. Simon is part of the Elite Sport Team for Christians in Sport; he supports elite and professional track and field athletes across the world through the highs and lows of elite sport through big competitions like the world championships and the Olympic games. Simon is one of the leaders at Town Church, Bicester. He is speaking on **Romans 5 v 8** *'But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.'*



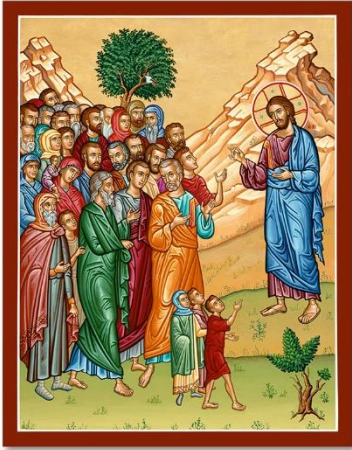
Ss Cyril and Methodius - Cyril was born in Salonika and was educated at Constantinople. With his brother Methodius he went to Moravia to preach the faith. They both translated the liturgical books into the Slavonic language using the Cyrillic alphabet which they invented. They were called to Rome and here Cyril died on 14th February in the year 869. Methodius was made a bishop and went to Pannonia (Hungary) where he laboured ceaselessly in preaching the gospel, while enduring many hardships as a result of jealousy, though he had the support of the Holy See. He died on 6th April in the year 885 at Velehrad in Czechoslovakia.



The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

These seven men were born in Florence and led lives as hermits on Monte Senario, especially venerating the Blessed Virgin Mary. They then preached through the length and breadth of Tuscany, and founded the Order of Servites which in 1304 received the approval of the Holy See. They are venerated on this day which is said to be the day which St Alexis Falconieri, one of the seven, died in the year 1310

Reflection on Sunday's Gospel Reading - Matthew 5:17-37



Today Jesus instructs His disciples what not to do. He begins His instructions by saying:

“Do not think that I have come abolish the law and the prophets, I have come, not to abolish them, but to fulfil them.”

He continues on: *“Of this much I assure you: until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter of the law. . . shall be done away with until it all comes true. Anyone who fulfils the law is the least in the kingdom.”*

Then He adds: *“Whoever fulfils and teaches these commandments shall be great in the kingdom of God. And unless your holiness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of God.”*

Jesus also speaks about judging others. If we judge a sister or brother, we are the ones who will be liable for judgment, not them. He then talks about anger. He tells his disciples that if they get angry or use abusive language they will be held in contempt and they also are risking *“the fires of Gehenna.”* Jesus warns his disciples about the danger of thoughts of impurity, adultery, divorce or making false oaths or pledges.

He ends with these words: *“Say ‘Yes’ when you mean “yes” and ‘no’ when you mean “no.” Anything else is from the evil one.”*

Take a moment and ask yourself: how often do I speak and words that are neither just nor appropriate? Maybe far too often! Yet, we continue to do it. Why do we do this? Most of us know what is appropriate and inappropriate yet we continue to berate, judge, or demean others.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is very clear about what we are not to do! Today pause a moment and ask yourself:

- **Do I take Jesus' words seriously?**
- **Do I strive to live as He calls us to live?**
- **Or will I continue to act in a manner I know is not healthy for me or for the people in my life?**

Every day, every moment, we have a choice! What will we choose today?

May Our Lady Help of Christians, Our Lady of Peace, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Henry Newman, Ss Cyril & Methodius, the Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order, pray for us all.

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