



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH

Diocese of Northampton

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5th February 2023 <i>Psalter Week 1</i>	Fifth Sunday of the Year RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY	
First Reading	Isaiah 58:7-10 <i>Then will your light shine like the dawn.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.	
Second Reading	1 Paul to the Corinthians 2:1-5 <i>During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus and the crucified Christ.</i>	
Gospel Acclimatation	Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!	
Gospel	Matthew 5:13-16 <i>You are the light of the world.</i>	
Saturday 4th February +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass (Tony & Richard Roche RIP)
Sunday 5th February +	10.30am	Mass (For the Parish)
Monday 6th February Ss Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs - memoria		No Parish Mass today
Tuesday 7th February <i>Feria</i>	10.00am	Mass - (Alan Hannigan RIP)
Wednesday 8th February St Josephine Bakhita, Virgin – op mem Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Judy Ashford Int.)
Thursday 9th February <i>Feria</i>	7.00pm	Mass – (Albert Lawrence Blunt RIP)
Friday 10th February St Scholastica, Virgin - memoria	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Fr David's Intentions)
Saturday 11th February Our Lady of Lourdes – op mem Day of Prayer for the Sick & their Carers	10.00am 10.30am	Mass – (Ludwik & Ruth Grabowiecki RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR		
Saturday 11th February +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass (For the Parish)
Sunday 12th February +	10.30am	Mass (David Butcher RIP + Butcher family intentions)



THIS WEEKEND we have the annual diocesan missionary appeal. This year it is Missio and Mill Hill Missions. We extend a warm welcome to **Fr Brian Oswald MHM** who will be celebrating the 6.30pm and 10.30am Masses on 4th/5th February.



MK FOODBANK – we continue to be very grateful for your generous donations to the MK Foodbank – particularly during these very difficult times for families & individuals.

The organisers of the Food bank are specifically requesting the following please:

- Tinned Meat, Tinned Fish, Tinned Pasta, Tinned Veg, Pasta Sauce
- Long Life Milk, Juice or Squash, Cooking Oil, Spreads – Jams, Peanut Butter, or Chocolate Spread
- Biscuits, Tinned Fruit, Rice Pudding/Custard, Dried Rice – 500g or 1kg packets please



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

BabyBasics Milton Keynes

Baby Basics MK is a pregnancy resource centre in Milton Keynes, it is run by volunteers and helps women and families in Milton Keynes and the

immediate surrounding area. The team at Baby Basics work tirelessly with the community and local businesses to re-use excellent condition second hand and new items to create gift packages that give families everything they need to start life with a new-born baby or support families with children from 0-6 years. The team work with professionals and numerous organisations to ensure the most vulnerable in our community have support in their time of need (eg: Midwives, Health Visitors, Children Centres, Social Workers). You can find out more about this Group together with ways that you might be able to help them on their website:

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

Church Windows – as mentioned last weekend, 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.



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!



Day of Prayer for Victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking - 8 February 2019 - St Josephine Bakhita (1869-1947) patron saint of victims of slavery and of Sudan. Prayer to St Josephine:

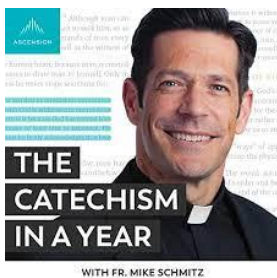
St Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child
And endured untold hardship and suffering
Once liberated from your physical enslavement
You found true redemption and, in your encounter,
With Christ and His Church.

St Josephine, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery

Intercede with God on their behalf so that they
Will be released from their chains of captivity.

For all those enslaved, including those who are victims of forced labour, Human trafficking and the survivors, give us the courage and strength to reach out And provide a voice and comfort.

Help all survivors find healing from their wounds,
May they see you, Sr Josephine, as an example of hope & faith.



Catechism in a Year is a free daily podcast and reading plan that will guide us through the entire Catechism. It is led by a very gifted American priest, Fr. Mike Schmitz. With one short episode each day, you'll grow in your knowledge of Church teaching and deepen your loving faith. You'll see how the Church is rooted in Scripture and the wisdom of the Saints. You can look it up by simply typing **The Catechism in a Year** on Google or Bing.

Northampton Street Pastors – do a tremendous amount of good work on the streets of Northampton and are looking for more volunteers to join them. One of our parishioners already is working with them. You can find out more about their work & what is involved by going to their website:

<https://streetpastors.org/locations/northampton>

The Rise in Euthanasia – Bishop Robert Barron is currently the Bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester and is the Founder of the Catholic ministerial organisation Word of Fire and was the host of 'Catholicism' – a documentary TV series on American television. There is a YouTube video from Bishop Robert on the subject of – 'The Rise of Euthanasia'. You can access this on: <https://youtu.be/mKcXCK1T2Jw>

Readings for Fifth Sunday of the Year

Isaiah 58:7-10 - Look out! Lent is not far away! We need to start thinking again about genuine conversion, turning back to the Lord. This passage comes far on in the Book of Isaiah, written when the Jews had returned from exile in Babylon; but still things were not going right for them, still the favour of the Lord did not seem to be upon them. This reading makes a good examination of conscience: do I invite the homeless poor to shelter; do I share my advantages with others? Am I at peace with my family? Do I seek to dominate by the 'clenched fist', the wounding word, the put-down which can shrivel someone up? Isaiah is contrasting genuine service of the Lord with the merely exterior practices of religion, the conventional ways in which we may seem to be 'holy' people. In fact, however, holiness is all a matter of the heart, and – at any rate in this text – mostly a matter of seeing and serving God in other people. That is the only way our light can really shine in the darkness, and our own wounds be healed over. As in the Beatitudes, this text reminds us that God's demands always have a promise attached.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 - What was the secret of St Paul's success? At times he seems to us boastful, 'Take me as your pattern' (4:16) or 'Be united in imitating me' (Philippians 3:17). He boasts of his faultless Jewish ancestry: 'Are they Hebrews? So am I' (2 Corinthians 11:22 etc.). He claims to have undergone for Christ more sufferings and persecutions than others (2 Corinthians 12), to have been perfect in the Law (Philippians 3:6), to have outstripped his contemporaries in his zeal for the Law (Galatians 1:14). He claims that he speaks in tongues more than any of them, and yet he does not make much of it (1 Corinthians 14:18). Yet here he insists that he came among the Corinthians in weakness, in great fear and trembling in order to make known the power of the Spirit. In the same way he will later admit that he holds the treasure of the light of Christ in fragile pots made of earthenware (2 Corinthians 4:7). There are some wonderful rhetorical passages in St Paul, where he exploits to the full the literary and oratorical training he had received, but in the last analysis one must admit that his power consists simply in the power of his message and the promises of Christ.

St Matthew 5:13-16 - St Matthew here takes two piquant images from the words of Jesus which he found in St Mark's Gospel and builds on them. This text follows immediately after the Beatitudes, with which he began the Sermon on the Mount; now he shows that these Christian attitudes are not just for our own benefit but are to change the world. The first teaching is a warning, the second a promise. Christians are to be salt for the whole world. Imagine a perpetual diet of food without any tang or taste, soggy and insipid! This would be the world if Christians did not spread the good news of Christ, did not impart to the world the flavour brought by Christ's message. What would the world be without that message and without the challenge of the generosity and salvation of Christ which we profess? Yes, of course much of the same message may come to the world through other great world-faiths, but the full challenge and the full promise is in Christ. The same is true for the second image, that of light. Imagine a world of darkness, where we had to feel our way and are never quite sure of shapes and purposes! And then what a difference occurs when the sun rises over the horizon or the light is switched on. Such is the difference which Christianity – and our Christianity – must make to the world.

May Our Lady Help of Christians, Our Lady of Lourdes, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St Paul Miki & Companions, St Jerome Emiliani, St Josephine Bakhita, St Scholastica, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Henry Newman, pray for us all.

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