



**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](mailto:olneyparishpriest@icloud.com)

Fr Patrick Hutton - Retired

Deacon: Rev Peter Griffin – 07850 499414

[pfgriffin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pfgriffin@hotmail.co.uk)

Parish Website: [www.ourladysolney.co.uk](http://www.ourladysolney.co.uk)

Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

Telephone: 01234 711212 [ourladysolney@btconnect.com](mailto:ourladysolney@btconnect.com)

St Joseph's Convent – Sr Eileen Gorman DHS - 01234 711267

Turvey Abbey – Rev Bro John Mayhead OSB - 01234 881211

**SVP Contact: 07925 125206**

16 <sup>th</sup> April 2023 Psalter Week 2	Second Sunday of Easter Low Sunday (Divine Mercy Sunday)	
<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47</b> <i>The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common.</i>	
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His love has no end.</b>	
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>1 St Peter 1:3-9</b> <i>In His great mercy He has given us a new birth as His sons by raising Jesus from the dead.</i>	
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	<b>Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'</b> <b>Alleluia!</b>	
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>John 20: 19-31</b> <i>Eight days later, Jesus came.</i>	
<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April +</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Vigil Mass – (Agnes Wogan RIP)</b>
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (For the Parish)</b>
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b> <i>Feria</i>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April</b> <i>Feria</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass - (Anne Murphy RIP)</b>
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b> <i>Feria</i>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> <b>Mass – (Fr Brian Leatherland RIP)</b>
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b> <i>Feria</i>	<b>6.15pm</b> <b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> <b>Mass – (Paul Bolter RIP)</b>
<b>Friday – 21<sup>st</sup> April</b> <b>St Anselm – Bishop &amp; Doctor – op mem.</b>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> <b>Mass – (Diana Micallef RIP)</b>
<b>Saturday – 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b> <i>Feria</i>	<b>10.00am</b> <b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Fr Anthony Roberts RIP)</b> <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions</b>
<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>		
<b>Saturday – 22<sup>nd</sup> April +</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Vigil Mass – (Una Kearns RIP)</b>
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (For the Parish)</b>

A very warm welcome to Anthony Bolter who at the Easter Vigil was received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church. Of course, Anthony is already a very familiar member of our parish community – we wish Anthony every grace & blessing as he continues his journey of faith. Congratulations Anthony!

**Many thanks** to everyone who helped in so many varied and different ways to prepare our church for the worthy celebration of Holy Week, the Sacred Triduum and Easter Day. A special thank you to our young Altar Servers; Joseph, Jacko, Connor and Kayla who served so well over this period – given that this was the first time they had served at the Altar over the Sacred Triduum and Easter, they did an amazing job.

**Thanks also** to Rev Dr Canon John O’Leary STB, PhL, PhD, Rector of Allen Hall Seminary, for celebrating Daily Mass in our Parish throughout the Easter Octave thereby enabling Fr David to take a well-earned rest.

**The Divine Mercy Sunday Service** will take place at **3pm on Sunday 16th April** at **St Francis de Sales, Radcliffe Street, Wolverton MK12 5LJ**. This Service will include:

- Adoration and Silent Meditation on the Passion
- Veneration of the Image of Divine Mercy [incensation]
- Chaplet of Mercy and Prayers of Reparation
- Divine praises and Benediction



**Requiescat in Pace** - We were greatly saddened to learn of the death of dear **Judy Ashford** who returned to the Lord very peacefully on Wednesday morning fortified with the Rites of Holy Mother Church. Please do keep Judy, David their family & friends in your prayers. Details of Judy’s Requiem Mass will be announced once they have been finalised. We pray too for **Molly Wogan** who passed away on Holy Saturday, also strengthened by the Last Rites.

Molly was much loved and a strong presence in her family and here in Olney for many years. We pray for her eternal rest and for consolation for all her family. Her Requiem Mass will take place on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am**.

**Fr Eugene Terngohol Lugah** of the Missionaries of St Paul, a good friend to our parish, has now been given a new appointment back in Nigeria. He sends his love and blessing to all in our parish. I told him we will very much keep him in our prayers. *Fr David*

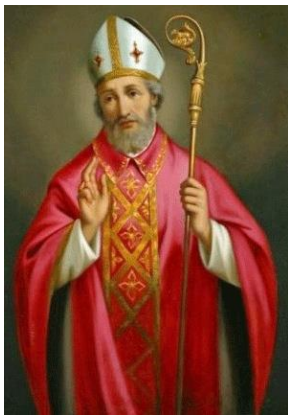
**Diocesan Mass for the Sick** – will be celebrated at The Holy Family Parish Church, Langley, Slough next **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 3:00pm**. Everyone is welcome to attend either in person, or via The Holy Family Parish livestream. Can you help a housebound person, or someone in hospital or in a care home to join us online via the parish website: [www.holyfamily.co.uk](http://www.holyfamily.co.uk)

*Thought for the week* – “For I do not seek to understand in order to believe, but I believe in order to understand. For I believe this: unless I believe, I will not understand.



**APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO GREAT BRITAIN** - The Vatican have announced the appointment of a new Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain. Announcing the news on their website the Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales said, "Pope Francis has appointed His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía as Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain."

Commenting on the news, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster and President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said: "*I welcome the appointment of Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía as Papal Nuncio to Great Britain. On behalf of our Bishops' Conference, I assure him not only of our warm welcome but also of our full cooperation when he takes up these new responsibilities.*"



**ST ANSELM – Bishop & Doctor** was born in the year 1033 in Aosta in Piedmont, Italy. He entered the Benedictine Order in the monastery of Le Bec in France where he taught theology to the students while he himself quickly progressed in the spiritual life. He went to England where he was chosen to be Archbishop of Canterbury. There he fought strenuously for the freedom of the Church and was twice condemned to exile. He is renowned for his writings, particularly in mystical theology. He died in the year 1109.



**Bishop David** celebrated the Easter Vigil at Northampton Cathedral last Saturday evening. To a packed church he delivered the following homily:

"So how was Lent for you? Was it just me, or did Lent seem to fly by this year? Did it leave us feeling a little guilty, we should have made more of these weeks? The forty days of Lent remind us of many biblical times, the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness. But also, the

forty days of flood, the forty days Moses was immersed in a cloud on Sinai, the forty years Israel was in the wilderness. Like those biblical moments, our time of Lent was a preparation on our part for what the Lord will do, acting in and through the pilgrim people of God.

And so, to the familiar events we call to mind this evening. We know the elements of the story so well. Disciples came to the tomb and found it empty. Messengers shared the basic narrative, he who was crucified and buried here is now risen. The Lord appears to his disciples. Sometimes they recognise him immediately. More often, it takes some time for them to realise who he is.

But if these accounts are all that lie behind our celebration today, then we will never fully understand the resurrection. Every Sunday and holy day, we profess our faith, 'he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day'; 'I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come'; 'I believe in the resurrection of the body.'

It would be easy to say these words, whilst thinking about other things. The family gathering together for Easter lunch. The chocolate we have waiting for us in the car.

And certainly, the Creed speaks of events which happened in ancient history. We look forward to something which will happen one day in the future. But what does it all mean for us today, Easter 2023? Jesus did not share with us, some interesting religious ideas, a kind of self-help programme to make this world a better place and give us something to hold on to at difficult times.

What intrigues me about the stories of the resurrection, this is clearly not what his friends expected. They were confronted with something very different, a new understanding of reality. Pope Benedict XVI put it this way, *'Much as the reality of the event overwhelmed them and impelled them to bear witness, it was still utterly unlike anything they had previously known.'* He goes on to say, *'The Resurrection opens up the new space that transcends history and creates the definitive. In this sense, it follows that Resurrection is not the same kind of historical event as the birth or crucifixion of Jesus. It is something new, a new type of event.'*

The resurrection is not a myth story. It is not some kind of mystical experience. It is a real event. And we have a choice. We might get on with our lives, gently or firmly setting all this to one side. Or, we may choose to become intrigued by this new type of event. We seek to immerse ourselves in the resurrection in such a way, our lives are changed completely.

For many of us, there are no 'Damascus Road' encounters with the risen Lord. Like Moses, we seem to dwell in the midst of a cloud, but in our case, it is a cloud of unknowing. We say our prayers. But God doesn't seem to listen. And if he does, he doesn't seem to do anything about it. We are full of questions. We stutter along. All this is the experience of the disciples in the Gospel. This was the reality of their relationship with Jesus before the resurrection. After the resurrection, something has changed. These are new people who live within a different reality. It is as though they are caterpillars or silk worms, gone through the chrysalis stage and now they are butterflies. This is what it means to experience the dying and rising of Jesus within ourselves. We look at the world around us with new eyes. We see ourselves in a new way. We have been born again.

The best way we come to know what this new life looks like, is to get to know the saints. Like the first disciples of Jesus, each saint is different. We may find some more attractive than others. But all saints share one thing in common, they have embraced the dying and rising of Christ within the setting of their particular life. The life of the saint has embraced a new reality. The saint has become a new kind of event. And this is what Easter is all about. In a moment, eleven new brothers and sisters in Christ will be baptised or received into full communion with the Church. They are signs of new life to us and we welcome them accordingly. But this night, all of us can share in their experience when we renew our baptismal promises. We are able to step into the reality of the resurrection. As always, the apostle Paul puts this succinctly and completely, *'When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised, we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.'*

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, St Anselm, pray for us all as we continue to bask in the glory of the Easter Season.

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