



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

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Diocese of Northampton

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23 rd April 2023 Psalter Week 3	Third Sunday of Easter	
First Reading	Acts of the Apostles 2:14. 22-33 <i>It was impossible for him to be held in the power of Hades.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	Show us, Lord, the path of life.	
Second Reading	1 St Peter 1:17-21 <i>Your ransom was paid in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely, Christ.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us. Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us. Alleluia!	
Gospel	Luke 24:13-35 <i>They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.</i>	
Saturday 22nd April +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Una Kearns RIP)
Sunday 23rd April +	10.30am	Mass – (For the Parish)
Monday 24th April ST GEORGE, Martyr – Patron of England - Solemnity		No Parish Mass today
Tuesday 25th April ST MARK, Evangelist - feast	10.00am	Mass - (John Pichowicz RIP)
Wednesday 26th April <i>Feria</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Robert Mulcahy RIP)
Thursday 27th April <i>Feria</i>	6.15pm 7.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Sr Delia's Intentions)
Friday – 28th April St Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr – op mem St Louis de Montford, Priest – op mem	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Fr Dominic Rolls RIP)
Saturday – 29th April ST CATHERINE OF SIENNA – Virgin & Doctor – Patron of Europe - feast	10.00am 10.30am	Mass – (Breda Cribben Int.) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Good Shepherd Sunday		
Saturday – 29th April +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Ulla Lemberg RIP)
Sunday 30th April +	10.30am	Mass – (For the Parish)

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND FOR THE PRIEST'S TRAINING FUND



Our grateful thanks to Fr Patrick Hutton and to Fr Alessandro Reno for stepping in at short notice to ensure that our celebration of Holy Mass could continue during this week & the weekend. This enabled Fr David to be with his mother who has been unwell. Please do hold both Fr David & his dear mother in your prayers.

PASTORAL LETTER – Third Sunday of Easter - Bishop David's Pastoral Letter for the Third Sunday of Easter will be read out at this weekend. You can also find a copy of this Pastoral Letter on our Parish Website under the 'Pastoral Letter' Tab

MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESE - Did you know that we have two men in seminary training to be priests for our diocese at present? Next weekend we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday. This is a day across England and Wales when we remember and pray for our Shepherds, Bishop David and our priests. You will receive a prayer card this weekend containing our diocesan prayer for priestly vocations. Please pray this prayer, individually, as a family and in prayer groups. The second collection next weekend will go towards priestly formation, seminarian formation and promoting vocations. Please prayerfully consider a gift to support this vital ministry. Without priests, we do not have the Church.



REQUIEM MASS – the Parish remain saddened at the recent death of both Molly Wogan and Judy Ashford. The Requiem Mass for Molly will be held here on **Friday 5th May at 11.00am** – the Requiem Mass for Judy will be held here on **Friday 19th May at 11.00am** – Judy's body will be received into the church at **4.00pm on Thursday 18th May**. We continue to pray for the repose of their souls and for the Lord's comforting grace for their families and friends.

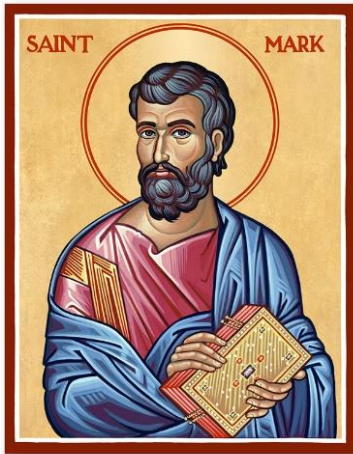
SOCIAL COMMITTEE - We are looking for more people to join the Social Committee. If you feel you could help with planning and supporting a few parish social events each year please come along to a short meeting on **Friday 28 April in the parish room at 4:30pm**

SVP Healing Mass – Fr David will be celebrating a Healing Mass on **Saturday 20th May at 12 noon**. This will be followed by light refreshments in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome regardless of age or how one feels. The SVP can provide transport if required; simply contact a member of the parish SVP – we look forward to welcoming you all.

From Olney Baptist Church - You are most welcome to come along and watch the King's Coronation ceremony on our big screens between 10.00am and 1.00pm 6th May. We would love to share this special event with you - you can find us next to the Cherry Tree. Coffee, tea and cakes will be provided.

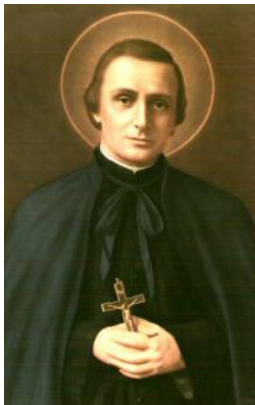
Thought for the week – "We are such value to God that he came to live among us and to guide us home. He will go to any length to seek us, even to being lifted high upon the cross to draw us back to himself. We can only respond by loving God for his love. "

St Catherine of Siena



ST MARK – Evangelist - Much of what we know about St. Mark, the author of the Second Gospel, comes largely from the New Testament and early Christian traditions. Mark the Evangelist is believed to be the 'John Mark' referred to in the Acts of the Apostles, the history of the early Church found in the Canon of the New Testament. He was the son of Mary of Jerusalem (Acts 12:12) whose home became a meeting place for the apostles. He is also the cousin of St. Barnabas (Colossians 4:10), a Levite and a Cypriot. Mark joined St. Paul and St. Barnabas on their first missionary journey to Antioch in 44 A.D. When the group reached Cyprus, Christian tradition holds that Mark left

them and returned to Jerusalem, possibly because he was missing his home (Acts 13:13). This incident may have caused Paul to question whether Mark could be a reliable missionary. This created a disagreement between Paul and Barnabas and led Paul to refuse Mark's accompaniment on their second journey to the churches of Cilicia and the rest of Asia Minor.



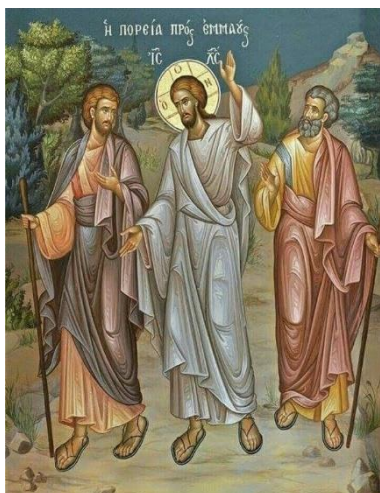
ST PETER CHANEL - Born in the town of Cuet in France in the year 1803. He entered the ranks of the clergy and for a few years did pastoral work. He then entered the Marist Society and went to Oceania to preach the Gospel. Despite many difficulties he did manage to convert a number to the true faith. In hatred of the faith, he was clubbed to death on the island of Fortuna in the year 1841.



ST CATHERINE OF SIENA - Catherine was born during the outbreak of the plague in Siena, Italy on March 25, 1347. She was the 25th child born to her mother, although half of her brothers and sisters did not survive childhood. Catherine herself was a twin, but her sister did not survive infancy. Her mother was 40 when she was born. Her father was a cloth dyer.

At the age of 16, Catherine's sister, Bonaventura, died, leaving her husband as a widower. Catherine's parents proposed that he marry Catherine as a replacement, but Catherine opposed this. She began fasting and cut her hair short to mar her appearance. Her parents attempted to resist this move, to avoid marriage, but they were unsuccessful. Her fasting and her devotion to her family, convinced them to relent and allow her to live as she pleased. Catherine once explained that she regarded her father as a representation of Jesus and her mother as Our Lady, and her brothers as the apostles, which helped her to serve them with humility. Despite Catherine's religious nature, she did not choose to enter a convent and instead she joined the Third Order of St. Dominic, which allowed her to associate with a religious society while living at home.

Gospel Reflection – ‘The Road to Emmaus



In our Gospel reading today, St Luke tells us about two of Christ’s disciples who were walking to Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were sad and dejected – for so long they had been waiting for the ‘promised one’; the one who would show them the way to God. Then Christ came amongst them and professed to be the ‘one’ – the Son of God. For over thirty years he lived amongst them and taught them, but so often they failed to fully understand all that He was saying to them. Nevertheless, they professed their faith in Him and became His disciples.

At a safe distance, they had witnessed the arrest, trial, and death of Jesus; they had even heard reports of His resurrection. But now it was as if all that they had seen and heard had made difference to them. They were leaving Jerusalem seemingly untouched by all that had happened to them. It was as they walked along that road that they were confronted by the risen Lord but they were so wrapped up in their own feelings of dejection that they failed to recognise Jesus – the man they had spent so much of their lives with was now a stranger to them.

There were so many ways that Jesus could have identified Himself to them – as in our Gospel last week when He showed His wounds to Thomas – but on this occasion He chose a completely different way. Jesus responded to their indifference to Him by opening up the scriptures to them – *“starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, He explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about Himself.”*

This was the power of Christ, opening up their hearts and minds, to understand their Risen Lord in the Scriptures. We also see Christ in a prayerful way reading the scriptures, and it is His Spirit at work within us that enables us to understand our lives in the Living Word of the scriptures.

What Christ is teaching us all today is that we can believe in Him if we understand the scriptures and His teachings. In our journey through life, the presence of Jesus can frequently appear hidden but whenever we come to receive Him in the Eucharist, Christ presents Himself to us in the same as He did to the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

We should also recognise Him in the Liturgy of the Word by listening to what it is that He is teaching us. We should also recognise Him in the Eucharist; His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity – Christ is the sacrifice that makes us whole.

Like the disciples on that road to Emmaus, we too are called upon to *“recognise Christ at the breaking of the bread.”*

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, St George, St Mark, St Peter Chanel, St Louis de Montford, St Catherine of Siena 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