



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

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Diocese of Northampton

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30 th April 2023 Psalter Week 4	Fourth Sunday of Easter DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD	
First Reading	Acts of the Apostles 2:14. 36-41 <i>God has made him both Lord and Christ</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.	
Second Reading	1 St Peter 2:20-25 <i>You have come back to the shepherd of your souls.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! I am the god shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep an my own know me. Alleluia!	
Gospel	John 10:1-10 <i>I am the gate of the sheepfold</i>	
Saturday 29 th April +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Ulla Lemberg RIP)
Sunday 30 th April +	10.30am	Mass – (For the Parish)
	12.30pm	Baptism – Azra Brown
Monday 1 st May St Joseph the Worker – <i>op memoria</i>		No Parish Mass today
Tuesday 2 nd May St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor - <i>memoria</i>	10.00am	Mass - (Sr Teresa Doherty RIP)
Wednesday 3 rd May Ss PHILIP & JAMES, Apostles - <i>feast</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Sr Mae's Intentions)
Thursday 4 th May Martyrs of England & Wales - <i>feast</i>	9.00am	Mass – (Sr Margaret's Intentions)
Friday – 5 th May <i>Feria</i>	11.00am	Requiem Mass – Molly Wogan RIP
Saturday – 6 th May <i>Feria</i>	9.00am 1.00pm	Mass – (Paul Bolter RIP) Wedding – Katherine McManus & Thomas James
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER		
Saturday – 6 th May +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 7 th May+	10.30am	Mass – (Charles Patrick Tyrell RIP)

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND FOR THE PRIEST'S TRAINING FUND

NOTE: MORNING MASS NEXT THURSDAY & SATURDAY WILL BE AT 9.00am



Good Shepherd Sunday

Today we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday. This is a day across England & Wales when we pray for vocations to the Priesthood. We especially remember and pray for our Shepherd, Bishop David and his Co-Workers, our priests. Please continue to pray for priestly vocations using the prayer card containing our diocesan prayer - our Diocese currently only has **two men** in the seminary. The second collection this weekend will go towards priestly formation, seminarian formation and promoting vocations. Did you know that it costs over **£30,000 per year to train a man to be a priest?** You are encouraged to prayerfully give as much as you can to support this vital ministry as without priests, we do not have the Church.



REQUIEM MASS – the Parish remains 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.

Deanery Pastoral Area Council - the next planned meeting of the council is on **Thursday 4th May at 7.30pm at Christ the King Church, Kent's Hill, MK7 6HQ**. The main focus of the meeting will be on the forthcoming Diocesan Assembly in preparation for the Synod about which Bishop David spoke in last week's pastoral letter. Mike Galvin is already a member of the council but new members are all welcome.

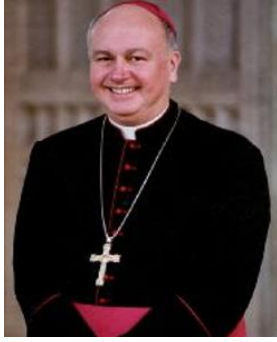


Sacrament of Matrimony – next Saturday, 6th May is a very special day! Katherine & Thomas will be getting married here at Our Lady's. Please do hold them in your prayers asking God to bless their marriage with peace and happiness and to make their love fruitful for the greater glory of God.

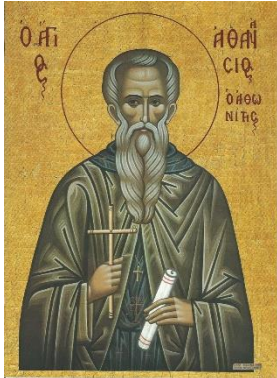
SVP Healing Mass – Fr David will be celebrating a Healing Mass here on **Saturday 20th May at 12 noon**. This will be followed by light refreshments in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome regardless of age or how one feels. The SVP can provide transport if required; simply contact a member of the parish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

Coronation Cup Cake Candles – a parishioner has been busy hand making some Coronation Cup Cake Candles using recycled wax from the burnt down candles used in our church. They are available in the porch with a suggested donation of 50 pence each. Proceeds will go towards the replacement of the church windows.

Right to Life – Sponsored Walk - Join Lord Alton on a sponsored walk from where Tolkien wrote The Lord of the Rings. There will be two sponsored walks in support of Right To Life UK in May. For further details on: www.righttolife.org.uk/sponsoredwalks



Archbishop Kevin McDonald – On Tuesday next, 2nd May, Archbishop Kevin McDonald, will be celebrating the twenty-second anniversary of his Episcopate as the 11th Bishop of Northampton. Please do keep him in your prayers along with Bishop Emeritus, Peter Doyle (12th Bishop of Northampton) and of course Bishop David Oakley our current Bishop (13th Bishop of Northampton).



St Athanasius – born at Alexandria in the year 295, he accompanied his bishop, Alexander, to the Council of Nicaea and later he himself succeeded as bishop. He fought ceaselessly against the Arian heresy and as a result he had to endure much tribulation and he was several times sent into exile. He wrote outstandingly to illustrate and defend true doctrine. He died in the year 373.



Ss Philip & James – Philip was born at Bethsaida and was formerly a disciple of John the Baptist and a follower of Christ. James, the son of Alphaeus and a cousin of the Lord, ruled the Church at Jerusalem, wrote an Epistle and led a life of penance. He converted many of the Jews to the true faith and was martyred in the year 62



The Beatified Martyrs of England & Wales

– during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries innumerable men and women from England and Wales suffered persecution for the ancient faith of their country. Many gave their lives for the supremacy of the Pope, the unity of the Church and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Of these martyrs forty-two have now been canonised.

Some one hundred and sixty others have been declared Blessed, and their common celebration is kept on 4th May.

Thought for the week - Even on the cross He did not hide Himself from sight; rather, He made all creation witness to the presence of its Maker.

St Athanasius of Alexandria

Sunday Readings – Reflection

Acts of the Apostles 2:14,36-41 Last Sunday we heard Peter's explanation of the Resurrection as the fulfilment of God's plan which had been outlined in the scriptures. Now we hear the practical consequences: baptism to wash away sin and reception of the Holy Spirit (like Christ at his own baptism). From the very beginning Luke shows that baptism and the promises are for all people, not just for the Jews. All are welcome into Christ's company. But we must first understand what Peter (and before him Jesus and even John the Baptist) meant by 'repentance'. It is not a doleful moping over sin. It is a change of life, a complete change of our scale of values. The Greek word for 'repentance' means a changed mind-set. The corresponding Hebrew word means turning round and going in the opposite direction. 'Repentance', then, is a serious business, not to be undertaken lightly. Careful scrutiny reveals that we may well have unswept corners where the old standards remain lurking, breeding and reproducing. The Christian is baptised into Christ and into Christ's death in order to rise to new life with Christ, but even St Paul acknowledges that we remain caught up in doing the evil we want to avoid.

1 Peter 2:20-25 One of the most striking things about this passage is that it is addressed primarily to slaves, exhorting them to bear with the harsh treatment of their masters after the model of Jesus' own acceptance of harsh treatment. What is staggering for us is that the author does not in the least question the institution of slavery nor sees injustice in that savage treatment which slaves tended to receive. It was not for a millennium and a half that the treatment of slaves and indeed the institution of slavery itself were seen to be incompatible with Christ's teaching on the equal dignity and limitless value of every individual human being. As the late Pope Benedict pointed out on his visit to Britain in 2010, the extension of this important principle of social justice to slaves is due to the work of Christian political movements in Britain. However, another principle underpinning our reading remains - that we all suffer to a greater or lesser degree, and that our suffering offers a priceless opportunity to draw close to the suffering Christ, and consciously to share in his redemptive suffering. Nor must the suffering of others in union with Christ be neglected. It is easy to despise the poorer and more neglected members of society, and to forget that, by their very disadvantages, they can be the chosen favourites of the Lord.

St John 10:1-10 In each year of the three-year cycle of readings this fourth Sunday of Easter is designated Good Shepherd Sunday, with readings from the parable given in John 10. In the first two Sundays after Easter the meetings with the Risen Lord are described, but after that the most important truth about the Risen Lord which the Church puts before us is that this Jesus whom we encounter is the Good Shepherd. In the Old Testament God is the Shepherd of Israel, and indeed in the neighbouring pastoral nations too the protective deity of the nation is commonly called their 'Shepherd'. As the pastoral ancient world well knew, the duty of shepherds is to care devotedly for the sheep, with no regard to the personal cost to themselves. Ezekiel repeatedly castigates the recent leaders of Israel for their failure to care for the sheep and for managing the flock for their own personal advantage. It is especially striking that in all four gospels the divine title of Shepherd is transferred from God to Jesus himself, at least implying not only that Jesus is the perfect shepherd, but also that he is the incarnation of that divine Shepherd, fulfilling the duties which had hitherto been credited to the God of Israel alone. By his selfless generosity Jesus is the model for all rulers and leaders of nations.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, 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