

Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH

Diocese of Northampton

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9th April 2022		Easter Sunday	
Psalter Week 1		<i>He is Risen! – Alleluia, Alleluia!</i>	
First Reading	Acts of the Apostles 10:34- 37-43 <i>We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.		
Second Reading	St Paul to the Colossians 3:1-4 <i>You must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Christ our Passover, has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord. Alleluia!		
Gospel	John 20: 1-9 <i>He must rise from the dead.</i>		
Saturday 8th April +	8.00pm	Easter Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection <i>(Bridie Keenan RIP)</i>	
Sunday 9th April +	10.30am	Mass – (For the Parish)	
	12 noon	Divine Mercy Novena	
Easter Octave			
Monday 10th April <i>of Easter Octave</i>	10.00am	Mass – (Alexander Roberts RIP)	
Tuesday 11th April <i>of Easter Octave</i>	10.00am	Mass - (Ben Mannion RIP)	
Wednesday 12th April <i>of Easter Octave</i>	10.00am	Mass – (Judy Ashford Int.)	
Thursday 13th April <i>of Easter Octave</i>	10.00am	Mass – (Carmel Donnelly & Marie Peachey RIP)	
Friday – 14th April <i>of Easter Octave</i>	10.00am	Mass – Jean & Michael Griffin RIP)	
Saturday – 15th April <i>of Easter Octave</i>	10.00am	Mass – (Elizabeth Barnett RIP)	
	10.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Divine Mercy Novena	
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Low Sunday)			
Divine Mercy Sunday			
Saturday – 15th April +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Agnes Wogan RIP)	

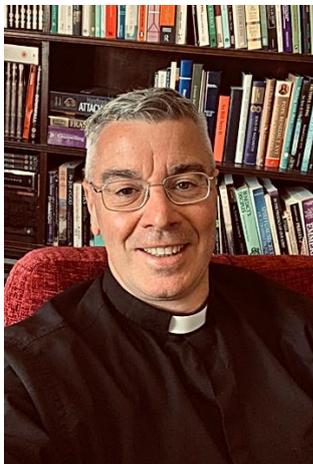


Fr David, Fr Patrick, Fr Malcom,
Deacon Peter, the Sisters, and Denise wish you, your families, and friends a
very Blessed and Happy Easter. God bless you all!



Easter Offering - as is customary, the Easter Offering is your personal gift to our Parish Priest, Fr David. If you wish to contribute, please either put this in the planned giving envelope or a plain envelope and mark it 'Easter Offering'– if using online banking please insert 'Easter Fr David' in the description or you can use the Digital Collection Plate in the narthex. Thank you

Note from Fr David ... A sincere thank you from Fr David to everyone who worked so hard in so many ways to prepare our church for the worthy celebration of Holy Week and the sacred Triduum. God bless you all!



Note from Deacon Peter... Last Thursday at the Chrism Mass, Bishop David, together with other priests from the Diocese, renewed their priestly promises. I find this to be a very special moment in the Mass when we are reminded of the special part that our priests play in our daily lives. Here in our Parish, Fr David continues to be a very faithful and true shepherd of Christ and we are very blessed to have such a fine Parish Priest here in Olney – thank you so much Fr David for all that you do for us. We pray that you will be greatly blessed this Easter and always. As we bask in the joys of Easter, we hope and pray that you will find peace and time to rest (*and of course lots of chocolate!*). God bless you Fr David.

Letter from Srs Delia, Mae & Margaret – 'Dear Fr David, Denise and all the parishioners, a very BIG THANK YOU for your most generous gifts to us - they were very much appreciated and most unexpected, We tried to slip away quietly but you had other thoughts. We appreciated very much the "farewell" that was organized for us, at short notice, and all the hard work behind the scenes - a thousand thanks. We are gradually settling in and finding our way around the area. The neighbours were very welcoming and very kind to us. We miss you all. Remember you are in our prayer. Hope you all have a blessed and happy Easter, with our love, gratitude, and prayer, Margaret, Mae, Delia'

Reflection on today's Gospel reading – John 20:1-9

“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we don't know where they have put him.”



Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The

details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling - she assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen but she does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (*it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body*).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them.

Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, Our Lady Mother of God and Mother of the Church, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, pray for us all as we bask in the joys of Easter.

With our love and prayers, Fr David, Fr Patrick, and Deacon Peter

Pope Benedict XVI on the Symbol of Light at Easter (2008)

Gregory of Tours (4th century) recounts a practice that in some places was preserved for a long time, of lighting the new fire for the celebration of the Easter Vigil directly from the sun, using a crystal. Light and fire, so to speak, were received anew from heaven, so that all the lights and fires of the year could be kindled from them. This is a symbol of what we are celebrating in the Easter Vigil. Through his radical love for us, in which the heart of God and the heart of man touched, Jesus Christ truly took light from heaven and brought it to the earth – the light of truth and the fire of love that transform man's being. He brought the light, and now we know who God is and what God is like. Thus we also know what our human situation is: what we are, and for what purpose we exist. When we are baptized, the fire of this light is brought down deep within ourselves. Thus, in the early Church, Baptism was also called the Sacrament of Illumination: God's light enters into us; thus we ourselves become children of light. We must not allow this light of truth, that shows us the path, to be extinguished. We must protect it from all the forces that seek to eliminate it so as to cast us back into darkness regarding God and ourselves. Darkness, at times, can seem comfortable. I can hide, and spend my life asleep. Yet we are not called to darkness, but to light. In our baptismal promises, we rekindle this light, so to speak, year by year. Yes, I believe that the world and my life are not the product of chance, but of eternal Reason and eternal Love, they are created by Almighty God. Yes, I believe that in Jesus Christ, in his incarnation, in his Cross and resurrection, the face of God has been revealed; that in him, God is present in our midst, he unites us and leads us towards our goal, towards eternal Love. Yes, I believe that the Holy Spirit gives us the word of truth and enlightens our hearts; I believe that in the communion of the Church we all become one Body with the Lord, and thus we encounter his resurrection and eternal life. The Lord has granted us the light of truth. This light is also fire, a powerful force coming from God, a force that does not destroy, but seeks to transform our hearts, so that we truly become men of God, and so that his peace can become active in this world.