

Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH

Diocese of Northampton

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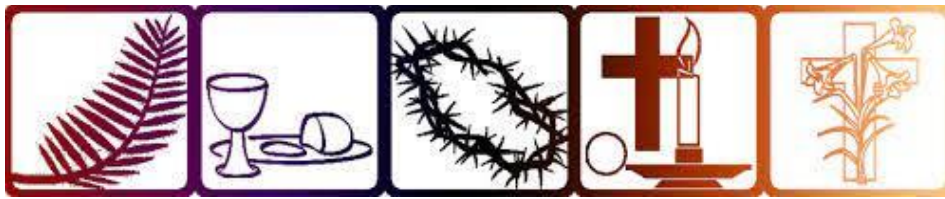
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"They took branches of palm trees and went forth to meet him, and cried,
Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

John 12:13

2 nd April 2023 Psalter Week 2		Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion	
The Procession Gospel	Matthew 21: 1-11 <i>Blessings on Him who comes in the name of the Lord.</i>		
First Reading	Isaiah 50:4-7 <i>I did not cover my face against insult – I know I shall not be shamed.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?		
Second Reading	St Paul to the Philippians 2:6-11 <i>He humbled himself, but God raised him high.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory: Christ was humbler ye, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all names. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory		
THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST	Matthew 26:14-27:66		
Saturday 1st April +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass (Josie & Tom Bermingham RIP)	
Sunday 2nd April +	10.30am	Mass (For the Parish)	
<i>This is Holy Week</i>			
Monday 3rd April <i>Of Holy Week</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition & Confession Mass (Kevin Bell Int)	
Tuesday 4th April <i>Of Holy Week</i>	10.00am	Mass (Kate Bird RIP)	
Wednesday 5th April <i>Of Holy Week</i>	11.00am 7.00pm	Requiem Mass – Sr Hannah Sullivan, DHS, RIP Reconciliation Service	
Thursday 6th April Maundy Thursday	11.00am	Chrism Mass – The Cathedral	
<i>Here Ends the Season of Lent</i>			

The Easter Triduum		
MAUNDY THURSDAY – 6 th April Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper	8.00pm	Mass (<i>Ann Murphy RIP</i>)
GOOD FRIDAY – 7 th April	3.00pm	Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord
	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross with Divine Mercy Novena & Confession
HOLY SATURDAY – 8 th April	9,30am	Matins & Lauds (Office of Readings & Morning Prayer) followed by Divine Mercy Novena and then Confession
HOLY SATURDAY – 8 th April	8.00pm	Easter Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection (<i>Bridie Keenan RIP</i>)
EASTER SUNDAY – 9 th April	10.30am	Mass – (<i>For the Parish</i>)
	12 noon	Divine Mercy Novena



THIS IS HOLY WEEK

The most holy and deeply moving week of the Christian Year

As we journey towards Good Friday, we remember the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus and pray:

- Who else but God could take a cross that represented **defeat** and turn it into a symbol of **Victory**?
- Who else but God could take a cross that represented **guilt** and turn into a symbol for **Grace**?
- Who else but God could take a cross that represented **condemnation** and turn it into a symbol of **Freedom**?
- Who else but God could take a cross that represented **pain and suffering** and turn it into a symbol of **Healing and Hope**?
- Who else but God could take a cross that represented **death** and turn it into a symbol of **Life**?

Sr Hannah Sullivan DHS – RIP – the Requiem Mass for Sr Hannah will be celebrated here at Our Lady's on **Wednesday 5th April at 11am**.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - In preparation for celebrating the great feast of Easter, there will be a special Service of Reconciliation here at Our Lady's this **Wednesday 5th April at 7.00pm**. Fr David will be assisted by three other priests.

There will be other opportunities to celebrate Confession: **Monday 9.15-9,50am**, after Stations of the Cross at **7.00pm on Good Friday**, and on **Holy Saturday** after Matins, Lauds and Divine Mercy Novena at **10.30am**.



The Easter Triduum begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper and concludes with Vespers (Evening Prayer) on Easter Sunday. From Good Friday until Divine Mercy Sunday we will be praying the Divine Mercy Novena. A brief guide to the events that form the Easter Triduum, which includes references to passages from Scripture, together with information on the Divine Mercy Novena is available on the parish website under the 'Prayers & Reflections' tab.



The Chrism Mass is being held at **11.00am on Thursday 6th April** at the Cathedral with Bishop David as the Principal Celebrant. During this Mass Bishop David will bless the oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens and, together with the Priests of the Diocese, will consecrate the Oil of Chrism. These Holy Oils will be used by the Priests and Deacons of our Diocese throughout the coming year. Also, at this very special Mass, the Priests of our Diocese will renew their Priestly Promises. We thank God for our Bishop, David, and for the Priests of our Diocese, especially of course our Parish Priest, Father David as well as our retired Priests, Fr Malcolm & Fr Patrick – we pray especially for them on this day.

You are welcome to attend if you wish or alternatively the Mass will be 'live streamed' and you can access this via the Cathedral website: <https://northamptoncathedral.org/>



RECEIVING THE PRECIOUS BLOOD FROM THE CHALICE

Bishop David has granted permission for parish priests to reintroduce the giving of the Precious Blood at all Masses from Maundy Thursday. He says that each parish should make their own decision as to when and how to do this. The Bishop strongly encourages us to use the opportunity to provide some developed catechesis on the Eucharist as well as on the actual

reception of the Chalice. Would parishioners like this to happen? Please let me know. If we are to reintroduce reception of the Precious Blood from the Chalice, we will need to have volunteers to become Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. These will need to be trained. If we go ahead with this we will begin on the **Solemnity of Corpus Christi (The Body and Blood of Christ) on 11th June**. Do let me know what you think.

Fr David



DIVINE MERCY NOVENA This lovely devotion was revealed to St Faustina in Poland and has spread throughout the world. It recalls God's infinite mercy and how we can pray for the gift of that mercy upon the world, the Church and ourselves. The Novena for Divine Mercy begins on Good Friday (at 7.00pm this year with Stations of the Cross in our church) and over 9 days it prepares us for Divine Mercy Sunday on the Second Sunday of Easter. Details of how to pray the Novena and Chaplet of Divine Mercy can be found on the website.

BON VOYAGE! – last Monday we bade farewell to Sr Delia, Sr Mae & Sr Margaret as they left St Joseph’s Convent here in Olney to begin the next phase of their Spiritual Journey in Lucan, near Dublin. On the previous Saturday evening we gathered in the Parish Hall to enjoy a little celebration with the Sisters which they greatly enjoyed. A big thank you to all those who helped prepare this and to those parishioners who were able to join us. Thank you one and all!

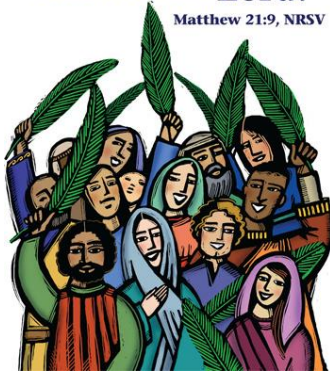
FROM MK FOODBANK – URGENT APPEAL: Food donations in February amounted to 21,000 items, sadly this was less than half of what went out in parcels (55,000) meaning that our stocks are now very low. Please do support us in whatever way you can.

MORNING PRAYER - HOLY SATURDAY we are encouraged to pray the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours. The Readings and Prayers can be found on the parish website under the ‘Prayers & Reflections’ tab. We will celebrate this in church at 9.30am on Holy Saturday (8th April).

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

**Blessed is the one
who comes in the
name of the Lord!**

Matthew 21:9, NRSV



PALM SUNDAY REFLECTION – ‘Today, Palm Sunday, we remember how the crowds went out to meet Christ calling out: “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.” Then we listen to that part of the Gospel which describes the passion and death of Our Lord. This Holy Week then, we are to set out to meet Christ in His passion, in those last days of His suffering.

We go out to meet Him first, in order to follow Him. He said to us, “If you want to be my disciple, you must deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me.” So, in what we read in the Gospel story and from our own experience of life and what is going on in the world around us, the experience of the world’s suffering is taken by Christ in order to sanctify it, to give it meaning and significance. During this Holy Week, hour by hour, we can follow Christ in those moments of His passion.

It is good then to decide now that this is indeed going to be a Holy Week, a different week, a week when we meet Christ in His passion in order that, when the resurrection is celebrated, we can, after Easter Sunday, follow Him more closely and witness to Him – Christ who suffered, died, and rose from the dead.’

Cardinal Basil Hume, Palm Sunday, Westminster Cathedral 1997

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, Our Lady of Sorrows, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, pray for us all as we journey through the events of Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum.

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