



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

Fr Patrick Hutton - Retired

Deacon: Rev Peter Griffin – 07850 499414

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Parish Website: www.ourladysolney.co.uk

Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

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

Turvey Abbey – Rev Bro John Mayhead OSB - 01234 881211

SVP Contact: 07925 125206

14 th May 2023 Psalter Week 2	Sixth Sunday of Easter	
First Reading	Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8 14-17 <i>They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	Cry out with joy to God all the earth.	
Second Reading	1 St Peter 3:15-18 <i>In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.' Alleluia!	
Gospel	John 14:15-21 <i>I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.</i>	
Saturday 13th May +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 14th May +	10.30am	Mass – (Neliya Edema RIP)
Monday 15th May <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today
Tuesday 16th May <i>Feria</i>	10.00am	Mass - (Eddie Bagg RIP)
Wednesday 17th May <i>Feria</i>	10.00am	Mass – (Curtin Family Int.)
Thursday 18th May + Holy Day of Obligation ASCENSION OF THE LORD	10.00am 4.00pm 7.00pm	Mass – (Bridie Keenan RIP) Reception of Body – Judy Ashford RIP Mass – (For the Parish)
Friday – 19th May St Dunstan, Bishop – op mem Bl Peter Wright, Martyr – op mem	11.00am	Requiem Mass – Judy Ashford RIP
Saturday – 20th May St Bernadine of Siena, Priest – op mem	12 noon	Healing Mass
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER		
Saturday – 20th May +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 21st May+	10.30am	Mass – (McCarthy Family Int.)

NEXT WEEKEND - SECOND COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC USE OF THE MEDIA

Last Week's Collection: **£338.50**
Card Reader: **£35.00**
Average Weekly Standing Orders: **£239.00**
TOTAL: £612.50

Thank You!

CHURCH WINDOWS – the two high windows either side of the Sanctuary and the high window at the back of the church facing the Sanctuary have, at long last been replaced at a total cost of **£13,800**. We have received generous donations of **£3,750** towards the cost for which we are very grateful.



SVP Healing Mass – Fr David will be celebrating a Healing Mass here **next 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.

PARISH FORUM – The next meeting of the Parish Forum will be held on **Thursday 25th May at 7.30pm** after Mass that day. All are welcome to attend – we will be looking at our parish's way forward, news from the Pastoral Area Council which met recently, and what the Bishop would like to hear from us for the forthcoming Diocesan Assembly on 15th July. I look forward to seeing you there – Fr David.

Anna Kearns is planning a fundraising event for a pro-life charity – Anna says:
“In August 2023, I am organising a bike ride (Life Cycle 2023) around the perimeter of the Northampton Diocese – some 584k! – if I don't get lost! The bike ride will last for 13 days and I am trying to raise money for Baby Basics MK – a secular pregnancy resource centre in Milton Keynes who do amazing work! - Any support whether financial, prayers or both would be greatly appreciated. I will be saying the rosary through each town I go through.”
Further information can be found here: <https://www.babybasicsmk.org.uk/>
To donate: <https://localgiving.org/fundraising/life-cycle-RD-Northampton/>

Olney United Reformed Church – Rev. Derek Hopkins is retiring at the end of May after 40 years. There is a celebration service plus light refreshments on **27th May at 3.00pm** at the URC. If anyone would like to attend, please contact let Denise no later than 14th May.



St Thomas More Catholic Secondary School, Bedford have a vacancy for a School Chaplain. Further information from Angela Bamford: abamford@stm.beds.olicatschools.org
Online application form: <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/139517/EDV-2023-STMCS-08194>



MK FOODBANK – we continue to be very grateful for your generous donations to the MK Foodbank – particularly during these very difficult times for families & individuals.

The organisers of the Food bank are specifically requesting the following please:

- **Tinned Meat, Tinned Fish, Tinned Pasta, Tinned Veg, Pasta Sauce**
- **Long Life Milk, Juice or Squash, Cooking Oil, Spreads – Jams, Peanut Butter, or Chocolate Spread**
- **Biscuits, Tinned Fruit, Rice Pudding/Custard, Dried Rice – 500g or 1kg packets please.**

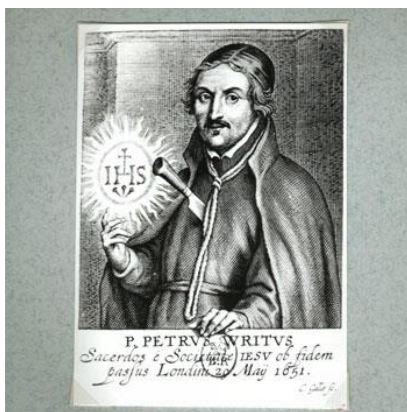


Vocations Weekend for Women (20s & 30s)

Theme: Discerning God's Call in your life

Dates: 26-28 May 2023 - Location: Liverpool

Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you. If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them. Further information from Sr Lynne FCJ at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit the FCJ website: www.fcsisters.org

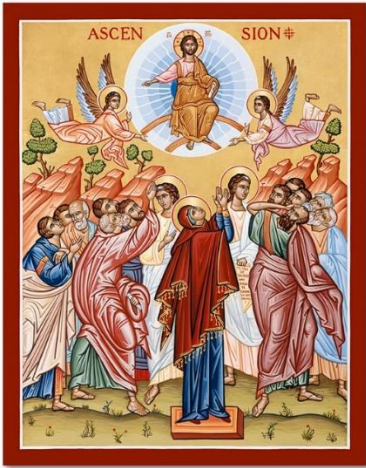


Blessed Peter Wright was born in Slipton, Northamptonshire and converted to Catholicism and was given preparation for the priesthood in Ghent and Rome. Entering the Jesuits in 1629, he ministered to English soldiers in Flanders and accompanied Sir Henry Gage back to England. He also served as a chaplain to the Royalist army during the English Civil War. After the war, he was arrested at the home of the Marquis of Winchester during the oppression of Catholicism by Oliver Cromwell and was put to death at Tyburn.

Thought for the Week: "Whenever the divine favour chooses someone to receive a special grace, or to accept a lofty vocation, God adorns the person chosen with all the gifts of the Spirit needed to fulfil the task at hand."

St. Bernardine of Siena

Reflection on the Solemnity of The Ascension



This coming Thursday, the Church will be celebrating the Solemnity of The Ascension - the ascent of Jesus Christ into heaven on the 40th day after his resurrection. The Feast of the Ascension ranks with Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost in the universality of its observance among Christians and has been celebrated 40 days after Easter in both Eastern and Western Christianity since the 4th century. Prior to that time, the Ascension was commemorated as a part of the celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Just before the passion and suffering of Jesus, his friends and followers witnessed him being betrayed, denied and condemned. They stood at a distance and watched him die a very public and humiliating death – some of them even deserted him. When they were told by some of the others that they had seen the Lord, they refused to believe them; they doubted. Eventually, after seeing the risen Lord for themselves several times, they believed that he had indeed risen from the dead. And now Jesus is preparing them for his departure and his return to heaven. The disciples thought they had lost Jesus once when he died, now they have to face the reality of life without him again – Jesus is leaving them – but he is not leaving them alone; he is not deserting or abandoning them. The reality is that he is going to be with them in a very personal and intimate way. In the Gospels, Jesus told his followers that he would give them another Advocate to be with them forever; *“The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you.”* John 14:26. Before Jesus takes his leave of them, he passes on and entrusts them with the responsibility of carrying on his mission of proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel and of establishing the Kingdom of God. This ordinary group of men and women are the ones who were chosen by Jesus to be heralds and witnesses of the resurrection. Through their words and actions, the world will know that Jesus is alive and more alive and present than ever he was. As the earthly life of Jesus ends, theirs and our mission and ministry begins. Today that responsibility now belongs to us. The first friends and followers of Jesus are our ancestors and we are their descendants. It is now up to each of us in our way to carry on the mission and ministry of Jesus. Through us today, the world will know that Jesus is alive, present and active in our world. As Pope Francis says to each of us *“every Christian is a missionary to the extent that they have experienced the love of God in Jesus.”*

Even as we celebrate the solemnity of The Ascension, it is most important that we understand and believe that Jesus has not left, deserted or abandoned us. He is with us when we are able to gather together at the celebration of Mass; he is with us when we reach out to support one another with our love; he is with us in both the good times and bad times in our lives. As he tells us in the Gospel, *“Go therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always, yes, to the end of time.”* Matthew 28:19-20

May Our Lady Help of Christians, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Henry Newman St Dunstan, Bl Peter Wright, St Bernadine 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