



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

pfgriffin@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Website: www.ourladysolney.co.uk

Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

Telephone: 01234 711212 ourladysolney@btconnect.com

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

Turvey Abbey – Rev Bro John Mayhead OSB - 01234 881211

SVP Contact: 07925 125206

21 st May 2023 Psalter Week 3	Seventh Sunday of Easter	
First Reading	Acts of the Apostles 1:12-14 <i>All joined in continuous prayer</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living	
Second Reading	1 St Peter 4:13-16 <i>It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord; I will come back to you and your hearts will be full of joy Alleluia!	
Gospel	John 17: 1-11 <i>Father glorify your Son.</i>	
Saturday 20 th May +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 21 st May +	10.30am 12.30pm	Mass – (McCarthy Family Int.) Baptism - Rodrigues
Monday 22 nd May St Rita of Cascia, Religious – op mem		No Parish Mass today
Tuesday 23 rd May Feria	10.00am	Mass - (Judy Ashford RIP)
Wednesday 24 th May Patronal Solemnity of Our Lady Help of Christians	9.30am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Charlie Rogers RIP)
Thursday 25 th May St Bede the Venerable, Priest, Doctor - memoria	6.30pm 7.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Eileen Barrett Recovery)
Friday – 26 th May St Philip Neri, Priest – memoria	9.30am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Judy Ashford RIP)
Saturday – 27 th May ST AUGUSTINE – APOSTLE OF ENGLAND Feast	10.00am 10.30am	Mass – (Hugh Mulholland RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
PENTECOST Veni, Sancte Spiritus		
Saturday – 27 th May +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 28 th May+	10.30am	Mass – (John Kent RIP)

THIS WEEKEND - SECOND COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC USE OF THE MEDIA

Last Week's Collection: **£401.00**
Card Reader: **£15.00**
Average Weekly Standing Orders: **£239.00**
TOTAL: £655.00
Priest Training Fund: £323.00
Coronation 'Cup Cake' Candles: £37.00

Thank You!

Thank You – we are very grateful to Terry Askew who recently put to use some of the old church candle stubs by melting them down and producing some Coronation 'Cup Cake' which would made available to parishioners in time for the Coronation of King Charles III. Your generous donations for these amounted to £38.00 – many thanks!

Terry will be holding a Plant Sale after Mass next weekend

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/>



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.**



Did you know that Church teaching says that we should not only support those in poverty but also tackle the root causes of poverty? Pope Benedict XVI said that “Love — caritas — is an extraordinary force which leads people to opt for courageous and generous engagement in the field of justice and peace.” For decades CAFOD has spoken out against injustice. To find out more please go to:

<https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/latest-campaigns>



THE BECKET FESTIVAL - St Thomas Becket is the co-patron of our Diocese, and the Solemnity of the Translation of the Relics will be celebrated at the Cathedral on 7th July, followed throughout the day by Veneration of the Relic. On 8 July will be an Ecumenical walk including the ancient Holy Sepulchre Church, Becket’s well and St Peter’s Church. On 9th July in the afternoon Dr Judith Champ will deliver the Becket Lecture, after which Vespers of St Thomas will be celebrated. Full details will be available nearer the time.

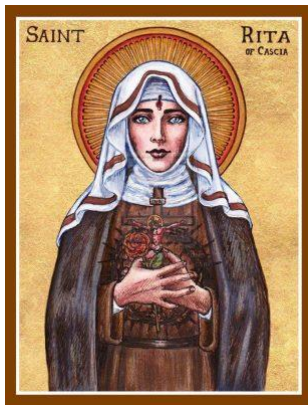
Olney United Reformed Church – Rev. Derek Hopkins is retiring at the end of May after 40 years. We are grateful to him for his friendship towards us Catholics here in Olney. He has been a valued colleague as well in our Clergy Fraternal Meetings. I will attend the celebration service next Saturday 27th May at the URC. Please do keep him and his family in your prayers. – Fr David

Amazing Grace - As part of the programme of events to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the writing of the hymn Amazing Grace by the Rev John Newton in Olney, pupils and staff of St Vincent's, Liverpool will be spending two days in Olney. On the evening of 14th June, the pupils will be leading on an event in the parish church of St Peter & St Paul to which the Principal, Dr John Patterson, would like to extend an invitation to Our Lady and St Lawrence.

St Peter and Paul, Olney - Do you have a heart for prayer and would like to join with other Christians in the town to pray for Olney? If so, why not come along on the first and third Thursday of the month at St Peter and St Paul at 11.30am

Thought for the week: Be at peace with your own soul, then heaven and earth will be at peace with you.

St Rita of Cascia



St Rita of Cascia

Rita Lotti gave birth to her first son at the age of twelve. Fortunately, the child was not born out of wedlock. Rita's husband had been chosen for her by her parents, and they married when she was twelve. Throughout eighteen years of marriage, Rita endured her husband's insults, physical abuse, and infidelity until the loathful man was stabbed to death by one of his many enemies. Rita pardoned her husband's killers and impeded her two sons from avenging their father's death. Marriage ends with death, so Rita was free after her husband's passing to satisfy a holy desire of her youth and entered an Augustinian convent. The leadership of the local Augustinians was reluctant to admit Rita, however, because she was not a virgin. Despite wide precedence for widows entering religious life, Rita was compelled to wait several years before receiving the habit. Rita was a model nun who lived to the fullest the spiritual requirements of her age. She was obedient, generously served the sick of the convent, and shared her wisdom of human nature, especially regarding marital distress, with the lay women who sought her out. Sister Rita was also devoted to prayer and meditated so deeply on the Passion of our Lord that she experienced a mini-stigmata. Instead of open wounds in her hands oozing blood, as Saint Francis and Saint Padre Pio displayed, a small wound appeared on Rita's forehead. It was as if a thorn from Christ's crown had penetrated the tightly wrapped flesh on her skull. There was no thorn visible, of course, just as no nails or spears pierced the bodies of other stigmatists. Rita's wound refused to heal for several years. The unique statue, or image, showing a nun with a thorn stuck in her forehead is Saint Rita, making her one of the most easily identifiable people on the calendar of Catholic saints.

After Saint Rita died of natural causes, her body did not deteriorate. She was placed in an ornate tomb, her extraordinary holiness was attested to in writing, and healing miracles were petitioned for and soon granted through her intercession. These many cures led to Rita's beatification in 1626 and her canonization in 1900. Leathery black skin still covers Saint Rita's habited body as she peacefully reposes in a glass coffin in her shrine in Cascia, Italy. She is invoked as a kind of female Saint Jude, a patroness of impossible causes, particularly those related to the difficult vocation of marriage. Saint Rita was both a physical and a spiritual mother. She was a spouse of Christ—a perfect man, and of her husband—a flawed man. She knew intimately the vocation both to religious and to married life, giving her a certain status, or credibility, with both consecrated and married women, which few other saints enjoy. Rita's dual vocation has given her a dual attraction, which is likely the cause of her fame and the continued devotion to her so many centuries after her death. In many ways, her life in the convent was not remarkable, except for the stigmata. There were surely many other nuns in Rita's era and region whose virtue and prayerfulness stood out. Yet for reasons known to God alone and which are therefore sufficient, this nun, among so many others who brimmed with holiness, is still visited in her shrine, still invoked, and still thanked for the favours that she continues to rain down from her place in heaven.

May Our Lady Help of Christians, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Henry Newman St Bede, St Philip Neri, St Augustine 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