

Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

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Diocese of Northampton

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11 th June 2023 Psalter Week 2		The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ Corpus Christi	
First Reading	Deuteronomy 8:2-3. 14-16 <i>He fed you with manna which neither you nor your fathers had known.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!		
Second Reading	1 St Paul to the Corinthians 10:16-17 <i>That there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! I am the living bread which has come down from heaven, says the Lord. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever. Alleluia!		
Gospel	John 6:51-58 <i>My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.</i>		
Saturday 10th June +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (Eileen Barrett Int.)	
Sunday 11th June +	10.30am	Mass – (For the Parish)	
Monday 12th June <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today	
Tuesday 13th June St Anthony of Padua, Priest & Doctor – memoria	10.00am	Mass - (Rose Dean Int.)	
Wednesday 14th June <i>Feria</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Hugh Mulholland RIP)	
Thursday 15th June <i>Feria</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Fr Paul Hardy RIP)	
Friday – 16th June THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS - Solemnity	10.00am	Mass – (Fr Edmund Worthy RIP)	
Saturday – 17th June The Immaculate Heart of Mary - memoria		No Parish Mass morning today	
ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Ordinary Time – Year of Matthew (A) – Ferial Lectionary: Year 1			
Saturday – 17th June +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)	
Sunday 18th June +	10.30am	Mass – (Sherine Winters RIP)	

Many thanks for your continued Financial Support

Last Week's Collection: £367.50

Card Reader: £15.00

Average Weekly Standing Orders: £239.00

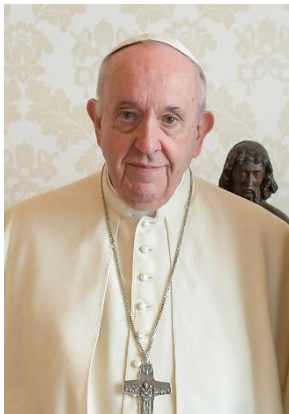
TOTAL: £621.50

Sale of Plants (Terry Askew) - £175.00

Second Collection Next Weekend – 'Day for Life'



First Holy Communion – Many congratulations to Patrick, Savannah, Sophie, Matilda, Jimmy, Johnny, Frank, Catherine, Scarlett, Joseph, Ezekiel & Robbie who have received their First Holy Communion either last Sunday or yesterday (Saturday). Please do keep our young people, their families, and friends, in your thoughts and prayers at this very special time in their lives.



Pope Francis – please continue to pray for our Holy Father, Pope Francis, as he recovers from recent abdominal surgery.

O God, shepherd, and ruler of all the faithful, look favourably on your servant Francis, whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd; Grant, we pray, that by word and example he may be of service to those over whom he presides so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care, he may come to everlasting life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Helping Hands

Helping Hands Sunday – will be held on **Sunday 25th June** after the morning Mass on the theme of “*Many hands make light work.*” The idea is to see if people would be willing to volunteer to help in one area of parish life so that everyone is involved; at the same time, by having many people involved, no-one will have to do too much, as we know we all have busy lives. This is especially important since Fr David will be working 3 days a week at Allen Hall Seminary in London from September.



Diocesan Assembly The Bishop has been preparing the Diocese for its Diocesan Assembly which will be held on 15th July. It will reflect on what arose from the listening last year so that the Diocese as a whole can discern the way forward. **If you would like to attend the Assembly as a parish delegate, please contact Fr David as soon as possible.** The working parties will present their main findings and recommendations, and there will be time for

small group conversation. Before this a series of webinars will report the findings. These are open to everyone so that feedback can be heard from as many people as possible. 12th June, Women's Ministry; 19th June: Life of the Priest; 26th June: Resourcing a Missionary Diocese; 3rd July: Reaching the Marginalised; 10th July: Lay engagement in decision making

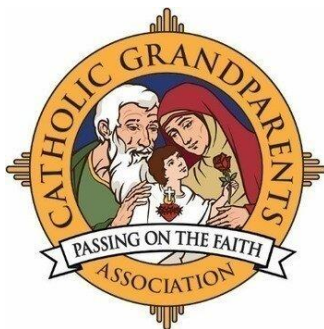
Register here for the link: https://assembly_webinars.eventbrite.co.uk

CAFOD: UPDATE ON THE CONFLICT IN SUDAN - Violent conflict continues in Sudan and thousands of people are running out of food, water, and medicine. Working as part of the Caritas network, your previous donations to CAFOD are enabling our teams to provide practical help to families who have escaped to neighbouring countries, including South Sudan. Please join Pope Francis in praying for peace in Sudan. Find out more on the CAFOD website: <https://cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/sudan-conflict>

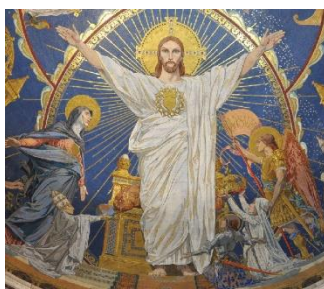


THE BECKET FESTIVAL - St Thomas Becket is the co-patron of our Diocese, and the Solemnity of the Translation of the Relics will be celebrated at the Cathedral on 7th July, followed throughout the day by Veneration of the Relic. On 8 July will be an Ecumenical walk including the ancient Holy Sepulchre 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.

We have been notified that His Excellency, The Most Reverend Miguel Maury Buendia, Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain will visit our diocese from **Thursday 6th July - Saturday 8th July**. This will coincide with the Becket Festival, our diocesan Mass for the Translation of the Relics of St Thomas Becket, and the opening of the Saint Thomas Centre. We will keep you informed of these once arrangements have been finalised.



National Grandparents Pilgrimage to Walsingham the Twentieth Anniversary National Pilgrimage to Walsingham will be held at the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk on **Sunday 23rd July**. The Principal Celebrant will be our own Bishop David who will lead the pilgrimage and the celebration of the third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Further information can be found the website: <https://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org/>



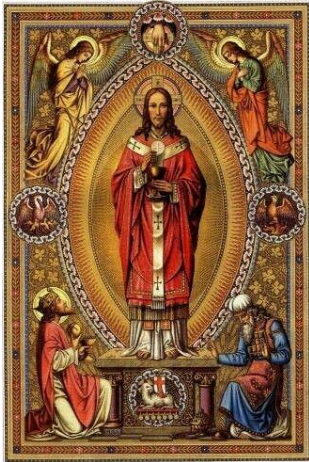
Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus June is the month specially dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. You will find a Litany dedicated to the Sacred Heart on the website. This devotion reminds us how in Jesus's Heart, the love of God has been made manifest: a love that atones for our sins, that reaches out with healing, that longs to bring peace to our hearts and to the world, a love that suffers with us in our sufferings, a love that transforms our crosses into offerings of love which save souls and atones for sins and spreads the victory of God's grace throughout the world. Please do think about praying the Litany every day this month.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary - The memoria of The Immaculate Heart of Mary always follows the day after the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the liturgical calendar. The heart of Mary and the heart of her Son are united in their love for one another and for the world. These two feasts are related spring celebrations of the overflowing love of God, manifested in the Son, Jesus Christ, and through the very human love of his Blessed Mother.



This devotion to Mary and to Jesus was highlighted in the 19th century by St. Catherine Laboure, following an inspiration from Mary to create the "Miraculous Medal of Our Lady of Graces," known more frequently just as the "Miraculous Medal," and worn by Catholics all over the world. In

the Gospel of the finding of Jesus in the Temple by his parents after three days, when he was missing, the concern of a mother comes through in Mary's question, "Son, why have you done this to us?" Although she did not understand Jesus' response about being about God's work in his Father's house at the time, the Gospel said she "kept these things in her heart." Sometimes we have to reflect on an experience to truly understand its meaning for our lives!



Reflection on Corpus Christi - In Mark's Gospel, he tells us that "as they were eating, he took some bread, and when he had said the blessing, he broke it and gave it to them. 'Take it, he said, this is my body'. Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them, and all drank from it, and he said to them, 'this is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.'" This was his Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity – **the real presence**; and it is ours today and every day. Christ is truly present in the Church and in the Eucharist. As a community, we gather in worship to be nourished by both the Word of God and the Body and Blood of Christ. These are the emphases that form the heart of the sacrament of the Eucharist

for us. The catechism tells us that in the Eucharist we receive the 'food that makes us live forever in Jesus Christ.' Furthermore, the Eucharist is not the end in itself for it must be for us the stimulus to action. It is a great challenge for us not to be just 'Sunday Catholics' but to acknowledge the unbreakable bond that exists between our faith and our daily life, both intertwined.

Here in our church, we can see the Sanctuary lamp gently burning its reassuring light telling us that all is well – Christ is present with us. That Sanctuary lamp is kept burning always as a visible sign of Christ's presence in our lives – not just here in our church and in our convent next door but in Churches and Chapels; Monasteries and Convents all over the world – telling Christians everywhere that Christ is real; Christ is ever present. In the Eucharist, at our beckoning, Christ comes into our lives in a very real and positive way - but this is not a mere fleeting visit – a reassuring 'I'm still here' sort of visit – but a desire for us to want Christ in our lives for every minute.

As we gaze at the Sanctuary lamp, we may ponder how wonderful it would be if, wherever we went in our daily lives, we could look up at any time and see that reassuring light flickering away reminding us that Christ is ever present. But surely our faith tells us that we do have such a 'lamp' - it is there if we look hard enough.

God is everywhere and in everything. When we see something beautiful; a sunset; a running stream; the waves of the sea coming ashore; the autumn leaves dropping gently to the ground; the early morning dew; the sharp frosty mornings; the swirling meadows – these are powerful reminders of God's presence. But when we talk about the *real* presence, Christ's sacramental presence, that is a very important concept. Through the actions of the priest in *persona Christi* the bread and wine offered up become the body and blood of Jesus Christ – that same gift given by Him to the apostles is given by Him to us. Each time we receive Christ in the Eucharist we are inviting Him into our lives – we want Him to be with us and He very much wants us to be with Him but Christ will never force Himself upon us – He requires an invitation from us.

The late Bishop Michael Evans of East Anglia once wrote, "If we really understood the Good News of Jesus Christ – the Good News of salvation, and if we were to fully grasp the truth that the Eucharist is the making present here and now of all that Jesus Christ has achieved for us – if that were so – **we would need no urging to come to Mass**".

Deacon Peter

May Our Lady Help of Christians, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Henry Newman, St Barnabas, St Anthony of Padua, pray for us.

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