



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

18 th June 2023 Psalter Week 3	Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time DAY FOR LIFE	
First Reading	Exodus 19:2-6 <i>I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	We are his people: the sheep of his flock.	
Second Reading	St Paul to the Romans 5:6-11 <i>Now that we have been reconciled by the death of his Son, surely, we may count on being saved by the life of his Son.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord, I know them and they follow me. Alleluia!	
Gospel	John 6:51-58 <i>My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.</i>	
Saturday 17th June +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 18th June +	10.30am	Mass – (Sherine Winters RIP)
Monday 19th June The Dedication of the Cathedral - Feast		No Parish Mass today
Tuesday 20th June St Alban, Protomartyr of Britain – op mem	10.00am	Mass - (Judy Ashford RIP)
Wednesday 21st June St Aloysius Gonzaga – Religious - memoria		No Parish Mass today
Thursday 22nd June Ss John Fisher & Thomas More, Martyrs – feast <i>Day of Prayer for the persecuted & oppressed</i>	9.30am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Service of Word & Communion
Friday – 23rd June St Etheldreda, - Abbess – op memoria	9.30am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Service of Word & Communion
Saturday – 24th June Nativity of St John the Baptist - Solemnity	10.00am	Mass – (Sylvia Woodhouse RIP)
TWELFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR		
Saturday – 24th June +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 25th June +	10.30am	Mass – (Mary Redmond RIP)

Second Collection This Weekend – ‘Day for Life’
Second Collection Next Weekend – Bishop David’s Mission Appeal

Many thanks for your continued Financial Support

Last Week's Collection: **£552.50**

Card Reader: **£25.00**

Average Weekly Standing Orders: **£239.00**

TOTAL: £816.50

DAY FOR LIFE 2023 – Sunday 18th June - The Church teaches that life is to be nurtured from conception to natural death; and Day for Life is celebrated on the third Sunday of June each year. This year's theme is 'Listen to Her' focussing on all who are touched by post-abortion trauma. Often the voices of women who have had an abortion are silent. The hope is that this will help break this silence and offer further opportunities for healing and reconciliation. There will be a special collection this weekend to assist those who have been affected by abortion.



Mass Intentions – if you would like a Mass said for a particular intention can you please use one of the envelopes provided at the back of the church and either put into the offertory basket or put through the letterbox. If a donation is made via the website details will need to be emailed to: parish.olney@northamptondioces.org Please note we are currently fully booked until 2nd August so please think several months ahead if you would like a Mass for a particular date.



BISHOP'S MISSION APPEAL The Mission Appeal is a second collection taking **next weekend - 24th/25th June**. It is hoped that this annual appeal will become part of the calendar in our diocese to support the key areas of mission activity and priestly needs whilst sharing our missionary vision as we grow together. The appeal has two key aims:

- To share the vision of our mission
- To raise funds to strengthen the mission activity across our

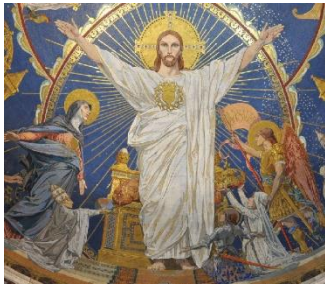
diocese. This year's theme is **'Go and Make Disciples of All Nations.'** Your generous gift will enable the continuation of projects designed to bring more people into deeper relationship with Jesus through our four key areas of mission; youth ministry, social action, catholic education, and outreach. Please pray for the success of the appeal using the appeal prayer found on the webpage: www.northamptondiocese.org/appeal.

Please pray for the mission of our Church in Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and that part of Berkshire north of the River Thames. Please also take a giving envelope with you as you leave the church and return it next week.



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.



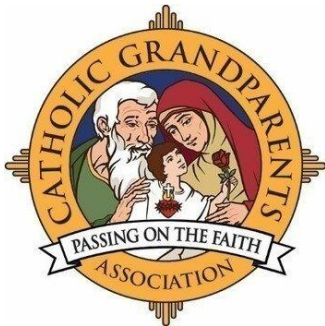
Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus June is the month specially dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. You will find a Litany dedicated to the Sacred Heart on the parish website. This devotion reminds us how in Jesus's Heart, the love of God has been made manifest: a love that atones for our sins, that 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.



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



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/>



Reflection on the Nativity of St John the Baptist - For many people, including the evangelists Matthew and Mark, St John the Baptist is more easily remembered in connection with his death when his severed head was delivered on a platter to King Herod. But today the Church celebrates the life of John through his nativity – the only other saint apart from Our Blessed Lady whose birthday is kept by the Church as a solemnity. This is because John's birth, like that of Our Lady, signalled the end of the Old Testament era and the beginning of the new covenant between God and His people in the person of Jesus Christ.

From the beginning the story of John assumes various similarities with previous Old Testament texts. For example, in St Luke's Gospel we are told that John was born of elderly parents who many had considered to have been forgotten by God on account of their childlessness. His birth comes as a vindication of Zachariah and Elizabeth's trust in God expressed in the child's own name – John, meaning “God is gracious” – we are told that his parents were going to name him Zechariah after his father but his mother spoke up, ‘No, he is to be called John.’ His own father asked for a writing tablet and wrote, ‘His name is John’. This echoes the time when the angels told Mary that she would bear a son and she must name him, ‘Jesus’. It can be said that both Jesus and John were born to unsuspecting parents by the pure will of God.

St John the Baptist holds a special place of honour in the Church; he is acknowledged as the last of the prophets – standing, as he did, on the watershed between the Old and New Testaments but more importantly he is the precursor; the forerunner; the one who went ahead to prepare the way for Jesus and His Kingdom. Indeed, the gospel describes him as a “man sent by God... who came as a witness to testify to the light so that all might believe through him.” John's example of faith should inspire all of us to prepare the way for the Lord in our world – to be the ones sent by God as witnesses to the light so that all might believe through us – there needs to be something of ‘John’ in each and every one of us.

This is all the more true now than ever before – in the secular world in which we live, we don't have to look far to witness that so many people do not know God at all and many that profess to know Him do little, or indeed anything, to be the true heralds of the gospel message as John was. Our vocation then, like John's, is to challenge the injustice in our times, to subvert those popular customs that distract from God, to embrace the Christian life to which we are all called and to point people towards Jesus Christ – the only source of true life.

May Our Lady Help of Christians, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Henry Newman, St Alban, St Aloysius, Ss John Fisher, St Thomas More, St Etheldreda, St John the Baptist pray for us.

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