



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence
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Diocese of Northampton
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25th June 2023 Psalter Week 4	Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
First Reading	Jeremiah 20:10-13 <i>He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of evil men.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	In your great love, answer me, O God.	
Second Reading	St Paul to the Romans 5:12-15 <i>The gift considerably outweighed the fall</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!	
Gospel	Mathew 10:26-33 <i>Do not be afraid of those who kill the body.</i>	
Saturday 24th June +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 25th June +	10.30am	Mass – (Mary Redmond RIP)
Monday 26th June <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today
Tuesday 27th June St Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop & Doctor	10.00am	Mass - (Foundation Mass – Throckmorton family)
Wednesday 28th June St Irenaeus of Lyon – Bishop & Martyr - memoria	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass - (Shirley de Hoedt Int.)
Thursday 29th June + Ss PETER & PAUL, - Apostles – Solemnity & Holy Day of Obligation	9.15am 10.00am 7.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Fr Brian Leatherland RIP) Mass - (For the Parish)
Friday – 30th June First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church – op memoria	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass
Saturday – 1st July St Oliver Plunkett, Bishop & Martyr – Op memoria	10.00am 10.30am	Mass – (Sylvia Woodhouse RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR		
Saturday – 1st July +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 2nd July +	10.30am	Mass – (Mary Redmond RIP)

PLEASE NOTE: THIS COMING THURSDAY IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Second Collection This Weekend – Bishop David’s Mission Appeal
Next Weekend: Second Collection – ‘Peter’s Pence’

Many thanks for your continued Financial Support

Last Week’s Collection: **£231.00**

Card Reader: **Nil**

Average Weekly Standing Orders: **£239.00**

TOTAL: £470.00



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.

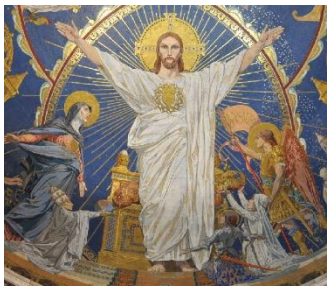


THE BECKET FESTIVAL - St Thomas Becket is the co-patron of our Diocese, and the Solemnity of the Translation of the Relics will be celebrated at the Cathedral on 7th July, followed throughout the day by Veneration of the Relic. On 8 July will be an Ecumenical walk including the ancient Holy Sepulchre 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 and will be celebrating Mass at the Cathedral at **11.00am on Friday 7th July**. You are very welcome to attend this Mass & if you are going can you please let Denise know by no later than Sunday 2nd July as the Cathedral would like some idea of the numbers.



Altar Servers – We are looking to recruit some young members of our parish to join our team of Altar Servers and are appealing especially to those who recently received their First Holy Communion. Altar Servers play a very important part in the Church’s Liturgy enabling us all, Priests, Deacons and the Laity to worthily celebrate the Mass. Full training will be given to you. If you are interested, please speak or contact either Fr David or Deacon Peter.

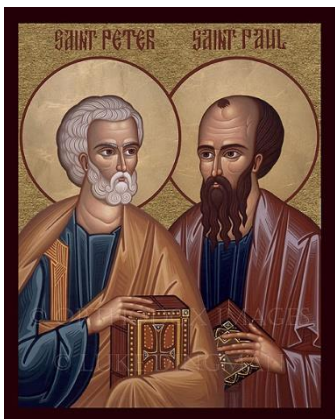


Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus June is the month specially dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. You will find a Litany dedicated to the Sacred Heart on the parish website. This devotion reminds us how in Jesus's Heart, the love of God has been made manifest: a love that atones for our sins, that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



Bishop Emeritus Rt Rev Peter Doyle
Ad multos annos

On Wednesday of this week, 28th June, we celebrate the ordination in 2005 of Mgr Peter Doyle as the 12th Bishop of Northampton. On this anniversary we thank God for the great love and care that Bishop Peter bestowed on our Diocese. Please do keep Bishop Emeritus Peter in your prayers thanking God for his continued ministry.



SS PETER & PAUL **Reflection by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI**

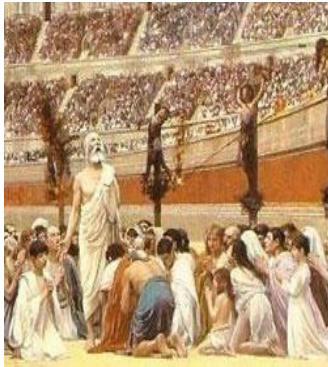
The aim of the Church's mission is a humanity that has itself become a living glorification of God, the true worship that God expects: this is the profound meaning of catholicity...

Like Paul, Peter also came to Rome, the city that was the place of convergence of all peoples and which precisely because of this could become the first of all expressions of the universality of the Gospel. Undertaking the journey from Jerusalem to Rome, Peter surely felt himself guided by the voices of the prophets, by the faith and by the prayer of Israel...

The great psalm of the Passion, Psalm 22, whose first verse *"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"* Jesus pronounced on the cross ended with the vision: *"All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him"* – Ps 22:28

When Peter and Paul came to Rome the Lord, who invoked that psalm on the cross, was risen. This victory of God would now have to be proclaimed to all peoples, thus fulfilling the promise with which the psalm concluded...

The unity of men in their multiplicity became possible because God, this one God of heaven and earth, showed himself to us; because the essential truth of our life, of our "from where?" and "to where?", became visible when he showed himself to us and in Jesus Christ made us see his face, himself. This truth of the essence of our being, of our living and our dying, truth that by God was made visible, unites us and makes us become brothers. Catholicity and unity go together. And unity has a content: the faith that the Apostles transmitted to us on behalf of Christ."



First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church - These early Christians were the first persecuted in mass by the emperor Nero in the year 64 A.D., before the martyrdom of Saints Peter and Paul. Nero was widely believed to have caused the fire that burned down much of Rome in that same year. He blamed the fire on Christians and put them to death, many by crucifixion, being fed to the wild animals in the circus, or by being tied to posts and lit up as human torches.

These Holy martyrs were called the “Disciples of the Apostles” and their firmness in the face of their gruesome deaths were a powerful testimony that led to many conversions in the early Roman Church. These were all early Christians in Rome within a dozen or so years after the death of Jesus, though they were not the converts of the “Apostle of the Gentiles” Romans 15:20. Paul had not yet visited them at the time he wrote his great letter in 57-58 A.D.

There was a large Jewish population in Rome. Probably as a result of Controversy between Jews and Jewish Christians, the Emperor expelled all Jews from Rome in 49-50 A.D. Historians tell us that the expulsion was due to disturbances in the city, “Caused by certain Christians”. It is believed that many came back after the emperor’s death in 54 A.D., because Paul’s letter was addressed to a Church with members from Jewish and Gentile backgrounds.

In July of 64 A.D., more than half of Rome was destroyed by fire. Rumour blamed the tragedy on Nero, who wanted to enlarge his palace. He shifted the blame by accusing the Christians. According to the Historian Tacitus, many Christians were put to death because of their “hatred of the human race”. Peter and Paul were probably among the victims of this time. Eventually Nero was threatened by an army revolt and condemned to death by the senate, and committed suicide in 68 A.D. at the age of 31 because of these, the first of Christian martyrs being falsely blamed.

Wherever the Good News of Jesus was preached, it met the same opposition as Jesus did, and many of those who began to follow him shared his sufferings and death. Notice how no human force could stop the Spirit unleashed upon the world through the Christians? They only became stronger witnesses to the faith. Pope Clement I, third successor of St. Peter writes, *“It was through envy and jealousy that the greatest and most upright pillars of the church were persecuted and struggled unto death... First of all, Peter whom because of unreasonable jealousy suffered not merely once or twice, but many times, and, having thus given his witness, went to the place of glory that he deserved. It was through jealousy and conflict that Paul showed the way to the prize for perseverance. He was put in chains seven times, sent into exile, and stoned; a herald both in the east and the west, he achieved a noble fame by his faith.”* We too, can follow the examples of the Great Saints that have gone before us, paving the way of our faith that has stood the many centuries of time.

May Our Lady Help of Christians, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Henry Newman, St Cadoc, St Cyril of Alexandria, St Irenaeus, Ss Peter & Paul, the First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church, St Oliver Plunkett pray for us.

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