



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

16 th July 2023 Psalter Week 3		Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
First Reading	Isaiah 55:10-11 <i>The rain makes the earth give growth.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.		
Second Reading	St Paul to the Romans 8:18-23 <i>The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, Speak, Lord, your servant is listening; you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia! Alleluia!		
Gospel	Mathew 13:1-23 <i>A sower went out to sow.</i>		
Saturday 15th July +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Sydney Wogan RIP)	
Sunday 16th July +	10.30am	Mass – (For the Parish)	
Monday 17th July <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today	
Tuesday 18th July St Edburga of Bicester, Religious – op mem	10.00am	Mass - (Judy Ashford RIP)	
Wednesday 19th July <i>Feria</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass - (Maeve Cribbin RIP)	
Thursday 20th July St Apollinaris, Bishop & Martyr – op mem	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Tom Moore RIP)	
Friday – 21st July St Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest & Doctor	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Patricia Hill RIP)	
Saturday – 22nd July ST MARY MAGDALENE, Penitent - feast	10.00am 10.30am	Mass – (Fr Edmund Worthy RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions	
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR			
Saturday – 22nd July +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (Deceased members of the Wogan family – Anne, Michael, Vincent, Molly)	
Sunday 23rd July +	10.30am	Mass – (For the Parish)	

NB – Mass on Thursday will be at 10.00am, not 7.00pm

Many thanks for your continued financial support

Last Week's Collection: **£302.80**

Card Reader: **£25.00**

Average Weekly Standing Orders: **£239.00**

TOTAL: £566.80

Tea and Coffee after 10.00am Mass every Tuesday – all are welcome!



Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood

God our Father, you give us the Sacraments as signs and instruments of your love and mercy. Draw from amongst your disciples in the Diocese of Northampton men who are willing to generously serve your Church as priests, to minister to your people and to proclaim the Gospel to all. Through Christ our Lord, Amen

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, patroness of our diocese, pray for us

St John Vianney, patron of priests, pray for us

Message from the Social Committee- Dates for your Diary

On **Sunday 30th July**, you are invited to celebratory drinks in the garden after the 10.30am Mass to mark the 30th anniversary of Fr. David's Priestly Ordination. As this special anniversary is during the summer holiday season, we are also planning to have a Parish Celebration on **Friday 8th September** after the **7.00pm Mass** – **(Please note change of date/time)** so that we can more fully celebrate with Fr. David. We really hope you will be able to join us. Everyone is welcome so please save the dates.



Invitation from St Peter & St Paul Parish Church, Olney

As part of the ongoing Amazing Grace 250 celebrations, we are offering free tea & cake and a chance to look around the parish church of St Peter & St Paul, on this **Sunday 16th July, from 3pm until 5pm**. Everyone welcome!



If you are new to our parish - please know that you are very welcome. To be sure that we have your details, can you please contact our Parish Secretary, Denise, either by telephone: **01234 711212** or email: ourladysolney@btconnect.com.



Mission Northampton have two courses coming up in September

James - Discerning God's Will - A weekly course online for 7 weeks beginning in September 2023.

Further information can be found at:

<https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/james-discerning-gods-will-autumn-2023/>

Encounter - Princes Risborough - Saturday 30th September - A Day Retreat to help people encounter the person of Jesus. Further information can be found at:

<https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/encounter-princesrisborough/>

Women of Grace - is a Catholic apostolate which began in 2003 - as a 'not-for-profit' corporation. The mission of Women of Grace is to transform the world one woman at a time by affirming women in their dignity and vocation as daughters of God and in their gift of authentic femininity through ongoing spiritual formation. Exploring all aspects of the "feminine genius," Women of Grace promotes the dignity of woman, the gift of true womanhood, woman's fundamental call and mission in the world, and presents the Blessed Virgin Mary as the exemplar of all women. Further information can be found on the Women in Church website: <https://www.womenofgrace.com/>



Bishop David shares his homily from the Feast of the Translation of the Relics of Saint Thomas Becket – Northampton Cathedral, Friday 7th July 2023:

There is a question we might all ponder as we celebrate the memory of St Thomas of Canterbury, Patron of Pastoral Clergy in England and Wales, a Patron of the Diocese of Northampton. What does this only surviving son of a draper's merchant from Cheapside, aspiring courtier, bureaucrat and judge, warrior, one-time chancellor of England, only lately taking matters of faith seriously when he became Archbishop of Canterbury,

have to teach us gathered here together in Northampton today?

There is no doubt, Northampton was not a happy place for Thomas Becket. King Henry II had planned things that way. When Thomas rode into town on Wednesday 7th October 1164 his plight was desperate. The great council had gathered at the Castle the day before. This was to be a state trial. Because of the humiliating mix-up, Thomas' chamber in the castle was occupied and the archbishop had to seek lodging at the nearby priory of St Andrew. This probably saved his life at that point. What is certain, Thomas saw which way the wind was blowing. An hour before dawn, some few days after arriving here, Thomas Becket fled Northampton. When Henry of Winchester knocked on the priory door to enquire after the archbishop's health, his chamberlain put things this way, 'He is doing rather well, since he left late last night in a hurry and no one knows where he has gone.' King Henry saw things somewhat differently. He barked, *Nondum finivimus cum isto*, 'We've not finished with this wretched fellow yet.' and as we know, he certainly had not. The Archbishop of Canterbury returned to England after some time in exile on the Continent. And on Tuesday 29th December 1170, Thomas Becket was murdered by four knights from the court of Henry II.

So, what may we learn from this extraordinary man? In many respects, our patron saint is quite a modern character. Beginning his life in modest circumstances, he made the most of opportunities which came his way. He bettered himself and was bettered. But his social advancement was not always a virtuous progress. What would the words of the Gospel, we have just shared together, mean for the first forty-two years of Thomas Becket's life? Not very much it would seem. Lowly born, he had moved socially well beyond the merchants of Cheapside. But then, he never quite fitted into the elite of the nobility, many of whom despised him. And let us put things this way, if he lived today, he would make a most interesting subject for psychoanalysis.

Thomas lived in an age when the scholastics taught, grace builds upon nature. But the nature here was complex indeed. Burdened with an awareness of what had not been done well, he found freedom through the grace which was generously offered him by the Lord. Through grace, he was moved from the ranks of those who lord it over others to one who served at the table of the Lord and stood faithfully by his heavenly Master. Things were done differently in those days. Ordained priest on June 2nd 1162, Thomas was consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury on the following day. The grace of office began to work its blessing soon afterwards. There were still signs of the old Thomas, even towards the end. But nature had been transformed. He had triumphed through the blood of the Lamb, before his blood was spilt over the stones of his own cathedral. We may not be called upon to finish things in this fashion. Nevertheless, that same grace also flows to us. And from the same source, the blood of our Saviour on the Cross. So there is no need for discouragement. We too can find healing and saving grace in the Lord's infinite love for us.

The second lesson we may learn from St Thomas Becket is more challenging. Historians will argue over the conflict between king and archbishop, about who was in the right and who was wrong. We should beware an inappropriate simplification of these things, and hindsight is always a great teacher. What we might reflect upon though, is the relationship of the disciple of Christ and the officers of civil governance in any age. The word martyr means witness. And we too are called to bear witness to the truths of the faith, handed on to us from the apostles. In the midst of his song, the psalmist hints at the shadow side of repose and rest, the realities of the valley of darkness in which we are sometimes called to walk.

We must stand up for what is right. As the apostle Paul witnesses in his own life, the mystery of Christ amongst us may sometimes invite suffering on our part. We must be prepared to deliver God's message, whether it is acceptable or not. We may come to know what it means to become overwhelmed by the love of Christ rather than our own weaknesses. Aware of his own frailties in this world, our patron saint now intercedes for us when we seek what is needed graciously to build the Kingdom of God in our society. In this regard, it is not our destiny to flee Northampton today. Rather, we must stand firm and strive to build a diocese, ever focused on justice and truth.

St Thomas Becket, Pray for us.

Thought for the Week: It is dangerous for men in power, if no-one dares to tell them when they go wrong.

St Thomas Becket

May Our Lady Help of Christians, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Henry Newman, St. Edburga, St Apollinaris, St Lawrence of Brindisi, St Mary Magdalene pray for us.

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