



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

23 rd July 2023 Psalter Week 4		Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
First Reading	Wisdom 12:13. 16-19 <i>After sin you will grant repentance</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	O Lord, you are good and forgiving.		
Second Reading	St Paul to the Romans 8:26-27 <i>The Spirit expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, Alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Mathew 13:24-43 <i>Let them both grow till the harvest.</i>		
Saturday 22 nd July +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass - (Deceased members of the Wogan family – Anne, Michael, Vincent, Molly, Bernie)	
Sunday 23 rd July +	10.30am	Mass – (For the Parish)	
Monday 24 th July St Sharbel Makhluf - Priest		No Parish Mass today	
Tuesday 25 th July ST JAMES, Apostle - feast	10.00am	Mass - (Judy Ashford RIP)	
Wednesday 26 th July Ss Joachim & Anne – parents of the BVM - memoria	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass - (Molly & Bernie Wogan RIP)	
Thursday 27 th July Feria	6.15pm 7.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Ann Harris – Int.)	
Friday – 28 th July Feria	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Honor Mulholland Int.)	
Saturday – 29 th July Ss Martha, Mary & Lazarus - memoria	10.00am 10.30am	Mass – (Fr Paul Hardy RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession	
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR			
Saturday – 29 th July +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)	
Sunday 30 th July +	10.30am	Mass – (Fr David's Int. – 30 th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination)	

Many thanks for your continued financial support

Last Week's Collection: **£359.20**
Card Reader: **£10.00**
Average Weekly Standing Orders: **£239.00**
TOTAL: £608.20

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

Next Sunday - 30th July after the 10.30am Mass you are invited to celebratory drinks in the garden 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.



Mass Intentions – if you would like a Mass said for a particular intention and use the Card Reader can you please complete one of the Mass Intention envelopes at the time the donation is made.



As our schools, colleges & universities break up for the summer holidays, we pray especially for our young people & their families. We pray that they will continue to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in their faith and in the lives more generally - **Enjoy the Summer!**

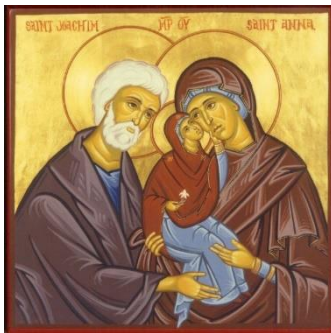
Olney Baptist Church – Over the summer holidays starting Saturday 22nd July, the front garden of the Baptist Church will be hosting some activities to get you thinking – please see the poster in the porch.



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.



UNIVERSALIS APP - One way to follow the readings and the Office, the Prayer of the Church, is to get the Universalis App. You will need a smart phone or a tablet and you get the app from the App store. It is a one-off payment of £9.99 but has the readings for weekdays and Sundays, the complete cycles with the Mass prayers, it has the full Office (Office of Readings morning, evening, midday night prayer). Visit <https://universalis.com/> for an overview of the App.



Ss Joachim & Anne - Parents of the BVM

An old tradition going back to the second century gives these names to the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The veneration of St Anne dates from the sixth century in the East and spread throughout the West in the tenth century; that of St Joachim is more recent.



St James, Apostle

Born at Bethsaida, the son of Zebedee and the brother of the apostle John. He was present when Christ performed the more important miracles. He was killed by King Herod about the year 4 and is venerated especially at Compostella in Spain where there is a magnificent church dedicated in his honour



Thought for the Week: But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled by many things but one thing is necessary; Mary has chosen the good portion which will not be taken from her.

Luke 10:41-42

Reflection on this Sunday's Readings

Wisdom 12:13.16-19

The Book of Wisdom was written in Greek, shortly before the birth of Jesus, for the Greek-speaking Jews of Alexandria. Much of it concerns the harsh treatment of the Hebrews in Egypt before the Exodus under Moses. Here the author has moved on to describe luridly the depravity of the inhabitants of Canaan before the Israelites arrived in the Holy Land. Nevertheless, God cared for them and treated them with leniency, giving them opportunity for repentance. This has two lessons for the readers of the Book: firstly, they too must pardon the sinner and be kindly with God's own kindness. Secondly, God always gives a chance to repent of sins and follies, and this applies to us too. This leniency is a sign of God's strength because leniency and generosity can be signs of strength rather than of weakness (it is, for example, the stronger person who has the courage to apologize first). The reading is appointed by the Church to be read today in order to pair with the Gospel reading and this suggests the following possible reading of the Parable of the Wheat and the Darnel: the owner of the field leaves the darnel in place till harvest, that is, till the final judgment, thus leaving the wicked a chance to repent.

Romans 8:26-27

These words are an encouraging confirmation by Paul that, when we pray, our own prayers are supplemented by the Spirit of Christ praying within us. What does this mean? Is Paul referring to praying in tongues, which certainly occurred in his Corinthian community? He himself says that he had the gift of tongues also, though he did not frequently exercise it. However, Paul's meaning is surely wider than this. If we pray to praise the glory of God and give thanks for God's kindness to us, human language and human intention may not be adequate but are supercharged by the Spirit. Our prayer of repentance, likewise, can never be adequate of itself (without the support of the Spirit). It is the same with our protestations of loyalty and commitment. What about our prayer of petition? We pray desperately for a fine evening for the barbeque (or for rain for the garden) and then we do not get what we ask for. But perhaps the Spirit deepens these somewhat selfish prayers into a profound desire to be brought nearer to God and so allowing Him to grant whatever is truly best for us and those for whom we care! 'The prayers that the Spirit makes for God's holy people are always in accordance with the mind of God' – they go beyond our petty and ephemeral requests, because Christ is praying within us.

St Matthew 13:24-30

The Gospel of Matthew gathers together a whole set of pictures which Jesus used to describe the society of God's servants which he was intent on setting up. Matthew calls it 'the Kingdom of Heaven.' Jews avoided bandying around the name of 'God,' so Matthew calls it by the place where God is enthroned, Heaven. The first picture, the wheat, and the darnel, shows that in some of those called the good seed has been overlaid by weed. In its early growth this weed, the inedible darnel, is incredibly difficult for a non-farmer to distinguish from good barley. No more can we presume to sort out who is seeking God and who is not; it is dangerous to despise or to dismiss anyone at all. The explanation given by Matthew constitutes a warning that the harvest, the judgment, will come in the end.

May Our Lady Help of Christians, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Henry Newman, St. Sharbel, St James, Ss Joachim & Anne, Ss Martha, Mary & Lazarus, pray for us.
With our love and prayers to you all - Fr David, Fr Patrick & Deacon Peter