



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

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6 th August 2023 Psalter Week 2		Transfiguration of the Lord	
First Reading	Daniel 7:9-10. 13-14 <i>His robe was white as snow.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	The Lord is king, most high above all the earth.		
Second Reading	2 St Peter 1:16-19 <i>We heard this ourselves, spoken from heaven</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, Alleluia! This is my Son, the Beloved, he enjoys my favour; listen to him. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Mathew 17: 1-9 <i>His face shone like the sun.</i>		
Saturday 5 th August +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass - (Fr John Fowler RIP – 1 st anniversary)	
Sunday 6 th August +	10.30am	Mass – (Fr John Fowler RIP)	
Monday 7 th August Pope St Sixtus II & Companions – Martyrs St Cajetan, Priest – op mem.		No Parish Mass today	
Tuesday 8 th August St Dominic – Priest - memoria	10.00am	Mass - (Foundation Mass – Throckmorton family)	
Wednesday 9 th August ST TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS - feast		No Parish Mass today	
Thursday 10 th August ST LAWRENCE, Deacon & Martyr – feast Secondary Patron of our Parish	10.00am	Mass – (Dan Solymari – Recovery)	
Friday – 11 th August St Clare, Virgin - memoria		No Parish Mass today	
Saturday – 12 th August St Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious – op mem.		No Parish Morning Mass	
NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR			
Saturday – 12 th August +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (For the parish)	
Sunday 13 th August +	10.30am	Mass – (Paula Medlicott RIP)	

On Thursday we will celebrating the feast of St Lawrence, Secondary Patron of our Parish – Mass will be at 10.00am

Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: **£449.50**

DCP – £30.00

Average Standing Orders: **£239.00**

Total: £718.50

Many thanks for your continued financial support

Collection Counters - Thank you to those who have volunteered to help count the weekly collection. We are still low on numbers so if you think you can help, please contact Denise.

Welcome – This weekend we offer a warm welcome to Fr Bernard Barrett who will be celebrating the 6.30pm Vigil Mass with us & to Canon John Koenig who will be celebrating our 10.30am Sunday Mass with us. We are very grateful for their support.



Thank -you – Fr David would like to say a huge thank you to everyone in the parish who, last Sunday, helped him to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of his priestly ordination. It was a wonderful celebration of the Mass with refreshments in the hall afterwards. He thanks you all for your prayers & good wishes on such a special occasion. He feels truly blessed to be serving in such a wonderful parish. God bless you all. A reminder that, as this special anniversary fell during the summer holidays, we are planning to have a Parish Celebration on **Friday 8th September** (the feast of the Nativity of the BVM) with Mass at 7.00pm followed by refreshments in the hall. Everyone is welcome.

Special Collection – we are holding a special collection for Fr David to mark his anniversary. You can donate in one of two ways – either by placing your offering in one of the special envelopes marked ‘Fr David’ that are available in the porch and put this into the collection basket - please make any cheques payable to ‘Our Lady Help of Christians’. Alternatively, you can make an offering on the Digital Collection Plate in the porch. We hope to make a presentation to Fr David on 8th September. Thank you.



Mary Meal's - If anyone has any foreign coins/notes or old UK coins/notes that they are looking to dispose of there is a box at the back of the church for your donations. Alternatively, there are envelopes that you can take away and return to the church by the end of September. All donations will be given to the Mary's Meals representative when he visits the parish on 30th September/1st October. Thank you

Terry Quinn has an excellent YouTube channel – he is someone who has returned to his Catholic Faith. Check out his channel. In this talk he gives clear teaching about how we can understand Mary as the New Eve – it is very much recommended:

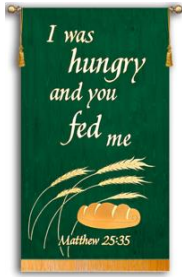
<https://youtu.be/UmjoYGsaaQg>



Sponsored Bike Ride for Baby Basics

Anne Kearns, a parishioner from Wolverton and Stony Stratford, is doing a sponsored bike ride around our Diocese in August. The money will go to Baby Basics, a charity in Milton

Keynes which helps young families who are going through financial hardships, helping to provide all the basics – prams, cots, bedding, clothes, toys, baby food/formula – that help the family in raising their babies and young children. If you would like to sponsor Anna's Bike Ride, you will find some envelopes at the back of church – please do pick one up and return it to church when you can. Many thanks.



Milton Keynes Foodbank – we are all very much aware of the current cost of living crisis that is affecting so many people – these difficult times are particularly challenging for those individuals and families less fortunate than many of us. With the increased demands placed on the Foodbank, supplies are running very low. If you wish to make any donations please deposit them in the box by the Presbytery door – this is emptied daily and the goods taken to Milton Keynes Foodbank each

week. We continue to be ever grateful for the tremendous support that you have given to the Foodbank over many years: thank you very much.



St Lawrence – Deacon & Martyr

Lawrence was a deacon of the Church of Rome and died in the persecution of Valerian four days after Pope Saint Sixtus II and his four fellow deacons. Before his death St. Lawrence remarked; *“At last I am finished; you may now take from me and eat!”* He then turned to God in prayer saying, *“I thank You, O Lord; that I am permitted to enter Your portals.”* He was buried on the Via Tiburtina at the Campo Verano near to where Constantine the Great built a basilica. He has been venerated throughout the Church from the fourth century. You will know that St Lawrence is the Secondary Patron of our parish.

Prayer of St Lawrence

O Generous patron of the Church's poor, St. Lawrence, pray to the One God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that all the poor of the Church in need in every corner of the world may feel the effect of the love of their brothers and sisters who seek to help them.

Deliver the Church from the greed and envy of the powerful and protect her rights and property so that she may serve the needy in freedom, giving them good things for soul and body. May we come some day with all those whom we helped on earth to the bright mansions of heaven where we will enjoy the riches of God's house and the company of the Saviour who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.



Transfiguration of the Lord

Amid the disciples' fears, Christ reveals Himself to them in a tiny glimpse of what the resurrection will be like. This brief vision of Christ, in His glory, was given to Peter, James and John, in order to strengthen the trails of their faith which the sufferings and crucifixion of their beloved master would bring on them. All of us, I am sure, long to have a glimpse of Christ in our everyday lives – maybe to reassure us of God's presence, maybe to remind us of what awaits us in heaven or perhaps to strengthen our weak faith.

What do we know of the glory of God when we have never seen him with our own eyes or heard His voice with our ears?

The reality is, of course, that there are real glimpses of God all around us each day of our lives – all that we need to do is look for them and recognise them for what they really are. We can see Christ in the hungry, the poor, the homeless, the disadvantaged – we can see Him in those whom we love, our families, our friends – we can see Him in the beauty of the world around us, in the sunset or sunrise, in the trees and rivers, the flowers and plants, in our homes and of course here in our church – in the sacraments, in our devotions, especially in the Mass – all of these are full of the richness and beauty of Christ.

There are two potentialities within each of us – the potential for good and the potential for evil. We are capable of hatred, bitterness, greed, envy and the like. These are ugly things and bring out the worst in us – they corrupt our hearts and minds and draw us away from God. Whereas our potential for good makes us capable of love, joy, patience, kindness, compassion – these are beautiful things and bring out the best in us. They purify our hearts and minds and draw us ever closer to God. Goodness transfigures us.

Mount Tabor and Calvary are linked in the Gospel and are linked also in life. We long for the experience of transfiguration, to stand alongside Peter, James, and John to see God revealed in Jesus Christ. We want to be like Moses and catch a glimpse of His glory. We want to be like Elijah, to hear God in the sound of stillness. But the magnificence of Christ transfigured on Mount Tabor is to be found veiled in the garden at Gethsemane and on Calvary. The glory of God, not now seen directly by our eyes, is just as real and present when Christ experiences His agony in the garden – for in this agony of Christ all mankind was involved. The passion of Jesus Christ is for all time and all people. Tabor and Calvary, in their different ways, reveal the true face of Christ who is the Son of God for, as we know, there was to be a further revelation when the crucified Christ became the risen Christ.

The vision of God transfigured in His Son, Jesus Christ, gave His disciples the hope to carry them through the journey of Christ's passion – we too are given this same hope today to carry us through the events of Christ's passion - remembering that Christ died for all mankind.

In His love for us, God allows us to taste on earth the joys of the world to come. In between, however, we must travel in the darkness of faith.

May Our Lady Help of Christians, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Henry Newman, Pope St Sixtus II & Companions, St Cajetan, St Teresa of the Cross, St Clare, St Jane Frances de Chantal, pray for us.

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