



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence
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Diocese of Northampton
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17th September 2023 Psalter Week	Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel) Sunday	
First Reading	Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7 <i>Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.	
Second Reading	St Paul to the Romans 14:7-9 <i>Alive or dead we belong to the Lord.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, Alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!	
Gospel	Mathew 18:21-35 <i>I do not tell you to forgive seven times, but seventy-seven times.</i>	
Saturday 16th September +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass - (Fr Brian Leatherland RIP)
Sunday 17th September +	10.30am	Mass – (For the Parish)
Monday 18th September <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today
Tuesday 19th September St Theodore of Canterbury, Bishop St Januarius, Bishop & Martyr	10.00am	Mass – (Steve & Vera Wheeler RIP)
Wednesday 20th September St Andrew Kim Tae-gon & Companions – <i>Martyrs - memoria</i>		No Parish Mass today
Thursday 21st September ST MATTHEW – Apostle & Evangelist - <i>feast</i>	10.00am	Service of Word & Holy Communion
Friday – 22nd September <i>Feria</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Tom Mulkerrins Ints)
Saturday – 23rd September St Pio of Pietrelcina, Priest - memoria	10.00am 10.30- 11.30am	Mass – (The Holy Souls) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament With Rosary & Confession
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR		
Saturday – 23rd September +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 24th September +	10.30am	Mass – (Margaet Cleaver Int.)

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND – EVAGELII GAUDIUM
FIRST WEEKEND OF PARISH MASS COUNT

Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £252.50

DCP – £10.00

Average Standing Orders: £553.00

Total: £815.50

Many thanks for your continued financial support



Reverend Father Brian Leatherland, RIP

This weekend (Saturday, 16th September), we mark the 'Years Mind' when dear Fr Brian was called home to the Lord. Please do continue pray for the repose of the soul of this much-loved priest and friend; and pray also for Sally, Rebeka, James and all the family. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

Requiescat in pace



Evangelii Gaudium – Preparing for the Jubilee Year in Faith and Prayer

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday calls us to be joyous in proclaiming our faith. "Evangelii Gaudium" is Latin for "Joy of the Gospel." The day supports the work carried out by the Mission Directorate on behalf of the Bishops' Conference. A key focus of work for the next few years is responding to Pope Francis' calling of a

Jubilee Year in 2025 with the theme **Pilgrims of Hope**. The Holy Father has invited the whole Church to prepare for the Jubilee in the two years prior through:

- **Reflecting on the four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council in 2023.**
- **Deepening our prayer life, with a special focus on the Lord's Prayer, in 2024.**

To support the Church in England and Wales in this important initiative the Mission Directorate has produced a series of videos on the four Constitutions which reflect on the Liturgy, the Word of God, the Church and on its role in the modern world. Further information:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/evangelii-gaudium-sunday>



SVP RETREAT - We welcome SVP members from our parish and from Bedford for their annual SVP retreat **next Saturday 23rd September**. It begins at 3.00pm in the church and there will be opportunities for prayer, reflection, and confession, ending with the parish Mass at 6.30pm.

Message from Veronica - Thanks a million for your huge

support last September when we appealed for both new members and financial help.

Your response was amazing. Each one of our new members have brought their own individual qualities and has put a spring in the step of our Conference. They have enabled us to do a great deal more and has enhanced the work that we do in the parish. The full financial report is on the noticeboard. With your generosity we were able to support all our good causes nationally & internationally eg: baby feeding in Ethiopia etc and locally to help a young family caught up in the cost-of-living crisis who really had nothing to go into their new home. Our aim is to be an integral part of the parish. Together we can continue to thrive. We would be delighted to hear from you if you have any suggestions or you would like to be a member feel free to contact any of us or email:

veronicatarrant@aol.com or call Veronica on **07469 717760**

First Holy Communion - Classes will start 5th November. If you have a child in Year 2 or above and you would like them to make their 1st Holy Communion, please contact Denise – ourladysolney@btconnect.com or call her on 01234 711212 for a registration form. Further details will be announced later.
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

News from the Diocese

Diocesan Youth Mass – This will be celebrated by Bishop David on **Sunday 22nd October at 5.00pm** at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Luton LU1 3AG. A further Diocesan Youth Mass will again be celebrated by Bishop David on **Sunday 14th January 2024 6.30pm** at St Augustine's Church, Milton Keynes, MK13 7PL. If you would like to attend either/both celebrations please contact: www.nymo.org/youthmass/

Foundation Governors - would you be able to help your local Catholic school by becoming a school governor? Bishop David is looking for volunteers to join local schools. No experience is necessary, but if you are a retired teacher or currently teaching in a non-Catholic school and have time to spare, we would love to hear from you. Contact Debbie on 01604 953369 or see poster for details.

Mass for those with Disabilities - Bishop David will preside at a Mass for those with disabilities, their carers, families, and friends on **Sunday 8th October at 3.00pm** in the Cathedral. For more details see poster in porch.

Mass for Marriage and Family Life - The annual Mass for Married Couples will take place on **Saturday 30th September at 12noon** at Northampton Cathedral. Bishop David will celebrate Mass and give his pastoral blessing to those couples celebrating significant milestones in their marriage ie: 1,10,15,20,25,30,40,50 years etc. if you know anyone who is celebrating such a milestone, please contact Sam at mfl@northamptondiocese.org or **07824 386804 before 24th September**. All are very welcome to attend and there will be light refreshments in the St Thomas Centre after Mass.

Thought for the Week

“We cannot forget that evangelisation is first and foremost about preaching the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus Christ or who have always rejected him. Many of these are quietly seeking God, led by a yearning to see his face... Christians have the duty to proclaim the Gospel without excluding anyone.”

Evangelii Gaudium, §14

Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7 - It is some months since we had a reading from this wise old scribe. He was on the staff of the Temple at Jerusalem (or at any rate moved in these circles), and clearly had the greatest love and respect for the Temple and the Law of God. He gathered together and reflected on the wisdom of the ancients, aware all the time that the Lord God is the source of all true wisdom. Most of his proverbial wisdom accords with that elusive quality, common sense, but it is none the worse or less important for that! Here he already looks forward to the message of today's gospel parable: the quality of God which we know best is the divine mercy and forgiveness. The very meaning of the divine name revealed to Moses on Sinai is 'God of mercy and compassion', and this echoes again and again down the scriptures. We are made in the image of God, and our glory is to imitate in our own poor, human way, this forgiveness at the heart of God. Once we see love and forgiveness as our divine mode of living, our whole relationship with other people changes. The last few lines of the reading give us a good, common-sense summary of the foolishness of quarrelling.

Romans 14:7-9 - The context of this wonderful statement of St Paul is the moral exhortation to the Roman Christians towards the end of his letter. St Paul has been insisting that no one should tamper with the conscience of another. He has been discussing a particular problem of the time, whether eating meat which had once been offered to idols implicated the eater in idol-worship. He states his own opinion, but will not force it on anyone else. For St Paul, to be living with Christ's life gives every Christian a dignity, a trustworthiness, and a freedom ultimately to make his or her own decision. It is a delicate balance: St Paul gives his opinion, which means that we must listen to the voice of the Church and its teachers. At the same time, he realises the presence of the Spirit of Christ, guiding every individual Christian who is genuinely living for the Lord. To a modern believer this raises a host of questions. Have I really listened? Am I being simply stubborn, deceiving myself into avoiding truths which I find inconvenient? What is the voice of the Church? Whatever the answers, St Paul's confidence in the guidance of the Spirit shows the dignity of the Christian and the respect with which the Christian must be honoured.

St Matthew 18:21-35 - This is a favourite theme of St Matthew, continuing and concluding Jesus' teaching that forgiveness is the life's-blood of any Christian community. We cannot live together without upsetting one another, unwittingly, or even deliberately. So, forgiveness is the vital step. So important is this matter of forgiveness that two consecutive Sunday gospels are devoted to it. It expands and stresses our petition in the Lord's Prayer, 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive others.' The importance of this petition was already underlined by Matthew; it is the only petition of the Lord's Prayer to which he adds at the end a confirmatory saying of Jesus. Like so many of Matthew's parables, this one about a king and his servants revolves round contrasting characters, the 'goodie' and the 'baddie' (wedding-guests and guest without a wedding-garment; the two who use their talents and the one who hides it; the girls with and without oil for their lamps; the sheep and the goats; and here, the generous king and the ungenerous servant). There is also a contrast between the two sums of money which is deliberately fantastic: the first slave owes the equivalent of millions of dollars, a sum no private person could ever repay, let alone a slave; it is more than a year's tax for a whole province. The second owes the couple of months' wages of a casual labourer

May Our Lady Help of Christians, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Henry Newman, St Theodore, St Januarius, St Andrew Kim Tae-gon & Companions, St Matthew, St Pio pray for us.

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