



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence
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Diocese of Northampton
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3rd September 2023 Psalter Week 2	Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year	
First Reading	Jeremiah 20:7-9 <i>The Word of the Lord has meant insult for me.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.	
Second Reading	St Paul to the Romans 12:1-2 <i>Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice.</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 16: 21-27 <i>If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself.</i>	
Saturday 2nd September +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass - (Fr Kevin Mullan RIP)
Sunday 3rd September +	10.30am	Mass – (For the Parish)
Monday 4th September St Cuthbert, Bishop op. mem.	9.00am	Mass – (Canon Brian Frost RIP)
Tuesday 5th September Bl Willim Brown, Martyr – op. mem.	10.00am	Mass – (Margaret Cleaver Int.)
Wednesday 6th September <i>Feria</i>	7.00pm	Mass - (Sr Claire – Int)
Thursday 7th September <i>Feria</i>	10.00am	Service of Word & Holy Communion
Friday – 8th September NATIVITY OF THE BVM - Feast	7.00pm	Mass – (Fr David's Intentions)
Saturday – 9th September St Peter Claver, Priest – op. mem.	10.00am	Mass – (Sylvia Woodhouse RIP)
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR		
Saturday – 9th September +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 10th September +	10.30am	Mass – (Adolph Weber RIP)

NOTE – MASS ON WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY THIS WEEK WILL BE AT 7.00PM
NO EXPOSITION AND ROSARY AFTER SATURDAY MORNING MASS ON 9TH
THERE IS MASS THIS MONDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER AT 9.00AM

Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £420.00

DCP – £22.50

Average Standing Orders: £553.00

Total: £995.50

Many thanks for your continued financial support

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.

PLEASE RETURN ANY DONATIONS NO LATER THAN THIS SUNDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER

Message from the Social Committee - We are looking forward to seeing everyone at Fr. David's Ordination anniversary Mass on **Friday 8th September at 7.00pm**. To assist with planning for the reception afterwards please could you put your name on the list in the porch. We hope to enjoy a finger buffet in the Parish Room. If you can it would be great if you could bring a plate of ready-to-eat, bite size food, sweet or savoury and/or a bottle that we can all share. For more details see the noticeboard. Thank you.

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 – ourlady@btconnect.com or call her on 01234 711212 for a registration form. Further details will be announced later.



New Academic Year - As the new academic year begins for those at School, College, or University we wish our young people every success and hold them in our prayers. These past few months have been enormously challenging for our students and we hope and pray that things will significantly improve in the months ahead.

CAFOD Supporters Event - Come and hear about CAFOD's work in Pakistan our Harvest focus country. **Saturday 9th September** St Teresa's Hall. 40 Warwick Rd Beaconsfield HP9 2PL or St Augustine Church, , Milton Keynes MK13 7PL. Both are from 10.30am-1.30pm (coffee/tea from 10.00am with a simple lunch from 1.30pm). Please book your place by ringing 01494 863777 or email: northampton@cafod.org.uk



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/

Mission Northampton - An online course will be starting **13th September** between 7.30pm & 9.00pm on the subject – '**James - Discerning God's Will**'. To register your place or for further information please go to:

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



St Peter Claver SJ – Priest - was born to a prosperous family in Verdu, Spain, and earned his first degree in Barcelona. He entered the Jesuits in 1601. When he was in Majorca studying philosophy, Claver was encouraged by Alphonsus Rodriguez, the saintly doorkeeper of the college, to go to the missions in America. Claver listened, and in 1610 he landed in Cartagena, Colombia. After completing his studies in Bogotá, Peter was ordained in Cartagena in 1616. Cartagena was one of two ports where slaves from Africa arrived to be sold in South America. Between the years 1616 and 1650, Peter Claver worked daily to minister to the needs of the 10,000 slaves who arrived each year. When a ship

arrived, Peter first begged for fruits, biscuits, or sweets to bring to the slaves. He then went on board with translators to bring his gifts as well as his skills as a doctor and teacher. Claver entered the holds of the ships and would not leave until every person received a measure of care. Peter gave short instruction in the Catholic faith and baptized as many as he could. In this way he could prevail on the slave owners to give humane treatment to fellow Christians. Peter Claver baptized more than 300,000 slaves by 1651, when he was sickened by the plague.

In the last years of his life Peter was too ill to leave his room. The ex-slave who was hired to care for him treated him cruelly, not feeding him many days, and never bathing him. Claver never complained. He was convinced that he deserved this treatment.

In 1654 Peter was anointed with the oil of the Sacrament of the Sick. When Cartagenians heard the news, they crowded into his room to see him for the last time. They treated Peter Claver's room as a shrine, and stripped it of everything but his bedclothes for mementos. Claver died September 7, 1654.

St. Peter Claver SJ was a member of the Society of Jesus and is the patron of African missions and of interracial justice, due to his work with slaves in Colombia. He was canonized in 1888.

Thought for the week: "We must speak to them with our hands before we speak to them with our lips."

St Peter Claver SJ

Reflections on the Sunday Readings

Jeremiah 20:7-9 - As we saw some weeks ago (in the first reading of the 12th Sunday of the Year), Jeremiah had a tough time, telling the citizens of Jerusalem that their city was to be besieged and destroyed, and that they themselves were to be dragged into exile. He tried to evade his duty of announcing this dire message, but the Lord gave him no peace, no matter how much he attempted to drive the message from his mind. So, God overpowers or 'seduces' the prophet and compels him to proclaim the message. Jeremiah almost has a sort of love-hate relationship with the Lord. In the same way, Saint Paul says he has no choice but to proclaim the message of Christ. In the gospel reading Saint Peter suggests to Jesus that he should avoid the way of suffering, and Jesus refuses to take any escape-route. In all these cases the natural human tendency to take the easier path crashes headlong into the brick wall of God's will. We are always slow to accept the way of suffering. In the gospel, each time Jesus teaches that he can achieve his glory only through suffering, the disciples seem to refuse to listen.

Romans 12:1-2 - Saint Paul has concluded his account of the saving work of Christ and its consequences for Israel. Now he goes on to detail some of its implications for the Christian life. The overall banner-headline is that Christian behaviour must be totally different from that of the world, for the Christian is a new creation with a new set of values. Two aspects are most striking in this introductory passage, first the novelty, second the motivation. In chapter 8 on the Spirit, Saint Paul repeatedly stresses that not only Christians, but the whole of creation is straining to be set free from slavery to corruption. The presence of the Spirit of Christ makes all things new; it is a totally new world. In today's passage again he stresses the renewing of our minds. Secondly, Saint Paul emphasises that the motivation comes from within; it is a matter no longer of the external compulsion of the Law, but of inner compulsion, for the Christian has become a living sacrifice, dedicated to God with mind transformed, discerning personally the will of God, and acting upon this discernment. This is Christian personal responsibility; we must 'discern for ourselves what is the will of God.'

Saint Matthew 16:21-27 - What a turn-around! Last Sunday Saint Peter was being congratulated on at last realising the Jesus was the Christ. He was promised the keys and authority to make decisions valid in heaven. Now Jesus shoos him away and tells him that he is Satan, the Tempter. Why the change? Jesus had told Saint Peter that his role as Christ Messiah was to suffer and die in order to achieve his purpose, and Saint Peter shied away from it. What is that particular soft option which you find it so easy to take? What is the difficult task Christ is asking of you, and you are avoiding? We are no better than his first disciples! It happens twice more in the gospel that Jesus foretells his passion and each time the disciples simply fail to understand. Each time Jesus puts it bluntly that you cannot be a Christian without following Jesus in carrying a Cross. We see people suffering the whole time, physical disabilities, breakdown of relationships, heartless treatment from others, financial worries – and then we grouse at a twinge of pain or a hurtful word. Carry the Cross behind Jesus? Yes, of course I will, but if you don't mind, I will just take that section which is well padded and fits my shoulder nicely. No point in unnecessary splinters in my neck.

May Our Lady Help of Christians, Mary Mother of the Church, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Henry Newman, St John Mary Vianney, St Cuthbert, Bl William Brown, St Peter Claver, pray for us.

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