



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH - 01234 711212

Diocese of Northampton

Parish Priest: Fr David B Barrett

frdavid.barrett@northamptondiocese.org

Fr Patrick Hutton - Retired

Deacon: Rev Peter Griffin – 07850 499414

deaconpeter.griffin@northamptondiocese.org

Parish Website: www.ourladysolney.co.uk

Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

parish.olney@northamptondiocese.org

St Joseph's Convent – Sr Eileen Gorman DHS - 01234 711267

Parish Safeguarding: Janet Goodland

safeguarding.olney@northamptondiocese.org

29 th October 2023 Psalter Week 2	Thirtieth Sunday of the Year		
First Reading	Exodus 22:20-26 <i>If you are harsh with the widow, the orphan, my anger will flare against you.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	I love you, Lord, my strength.		
Second Reading	1 St Paul to the Thessalonians 1:5-10 <i>You broke with idolatry and became servants of God; you are now waiting for his Son.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, Alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Mathew 22:34-40 <i>You must love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.</i>		
Saturday 28th October +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass - (For the Parish)	
Sunday 29th October +	10.30am	Mass – (Brian Barrett RIP)	
Monday 30th October <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today	
Tuesday 31st October <i>Feria</i>	10.00am	Mass – (Holy Souls)	
Wednesday 1st November + ALL SAINTS – Solemnity & Holy Day	10.00am 7.00pm	Mass – (Charles Keeney RIP) Mass – (For the Parish)	
Thursday 2nd November ALL SOULS	10.00am 6.45pm	Mass – (Daisey Grinter RIP) Mass – (Canon Michael Griffiths RIP)	
Friday – 3rd November St Martin de Porres, Religious	12 noon	No Parish Mass Funeral Service – Charles Creed RIP	
Saturday – 4th November St Charles Borromeo, Bishop (Holy Souls – A-B)	10.00am 10.30am	Mass – (Malcolm Saw RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confession	
THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR			
Saturday – 4th November + (Holy Souls – C-D)	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)	
Sunday 5th November + (Holy Souls – E-F)	10.30am	Mass – (Ann O'Connor RIP)	

PLEASE PRAY THE ROSARY EVERY DAY FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD

Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £332.40

DCP – Nil

Average Standing Orders: £553.00

Total: £885.00

Second Collection next Sunday for the Bishop's Maintenance Fund

Tea and Coffee after Mass - Dates for your Diary - Please join us for tea/ coffee after Mass next Sunday morning (5th November). On 3rd December, the first Sunday of Advent, we will be serving festive sausage rolls and mince pies. Everyone will be welcome.



All Saints Day - Holy Day of Obligation

This coming **Wednesday 1st November**, we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints, when the Church celebrates all those who have reached the full glory of heaven. It is a Holy Day of Obligation which means that the Feast is so important to our Faith that we are to treat the day like a Sunday as far as we can and so we come to Mass.

There will be two Masses scheduled – **at 10.00am and 7.00pm**. Please do come along to celebrate the saints with the saints – since at every Mass heaven and earth unite and all the saints are present.

NOVEMBER – MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS



All Souls Day – 2nd November

On Thursday we celebrate All Souls Day when we especially pray for all who have died and who are not yet enjoying the Beatific Vision in heaven – but they are on their way in that place or process which we call Purgatory. We pray for all our loved ones especially today and throughout the month of November. All Souls Day is not a Holy Day of Obligation; however, we will have two Masses scheduled for parishioners to attend if they so wish. There will be Mass at **10.00am and again at 7.00pm**.



In Memoriam Mass Friday 17th November 12 Noon This Mass will be celebrated for our loved ones who have died from the beginning of COVID until now. All who have lost someone special will have their names read out and a candle lit in their memory. If you wish to bring a picture of your loved one to place by the candles that will be lit, please feel free to do so. Fr David, Deacon Peter and the SVP look forward to welcoming you to give thanks for their lives and to pray for the repose of their souls.

We also invite you to a light lunch in the Hall afterwards. We are happy to provide transport. It would be helpful to have an idea of the number of people attending. Please let us know by email at veronicatarrant@aol.com or by phone at 07469 717760, or in person to any member of the SVP.

✠ **Brian Barrett RIP – Monday 30th October** marks the first anniversary of when Fr David's father, Brian, was called home to the Lord. We continue to pray for the repose of his soul and offer our prayers for Fr David, his dear mum and to all his family during this time of sadness and reflection.



CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION

Passing on the Faith

“God wants young people to bring joy to the hearts of the elderly, as Mary did to Elizabeth, and gain wisdom from their experiences.”

Pope Francis: Message for the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 2023

Plant Sale - The plant sale last week-end has raised a very impressive **£93.50** so far for Mary's Meals. Thanks to everyone who supported this. Terry has some plants left (lists in the Porch). If you need any items, please email him terry.askew@aol.co.uk and he will bring your requests to Church if you let him know when you are likely to be there.

Thank you from Mary's Meals - Mary's Meals would like to thank everyone in the parish for their wonderful generosity. We spoke at the beginning of October at each Mass and were delighted by the total given – £395. This will feed 20 children one good meal every school day for a whole year. Please continue to pray for the work of Mary's Meals. God bless you all.

First Thursday Club – Our first meeting was a lovely success. Many thanks to Simon Lee for organising the event and for leading our first talk. It was good to see so many there. Many thanks for those who helped with tea and coffee and other goodies. The next talk will be **this Thursday 2nd November at 7.30pm** – As it takes place a few days before Guy Fawkes Night, the theme of Simon's talk will be: **The Gunpowder Plot, Catholics, Northamptonshire & Olney 1605-1777.**



Remembrance Sunday 12th November

Please note that on **Sunday 12th November**, Mass will be changed to begin at **9.30am** for that day only. This will allow those who wish to join in with the town's Remembrance Sunday Commemoration.



Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion - a training session will be held here in the church on **Saturday 18th November from 11.30am to 1.30pm**. If anyone signed up on the Helping Hands Sunday to help in distributing the Lord's Body and Blood or to bring Holy Communion to the sick, please do come to this. If you are just interested in finding out more, you will be most welcome. A training session for Readers will be arranged early in the new year.



Date for your Diary - Christmas 2023 marks the 800th anniversary of the first crib, created by St Francis of Assisi. To celebrate we plan to hold a Crib Festival in the parish in December during the Season of Advent – date yet to be finalised. This will be an opportunity for parishioners, young & old, to display individual cribs with a short description of its history and why it is special to the owner; or you can create a brand-new crib. Further information will follow.

Conflict in the Middle East - You will be aware of the terrible conflict in Israel and Gaza. It is easy to feel helpless from such a distance. CAFOD have produced three ways we can respond: prayer, donating and sending a message to our Foreign Secretary. Find out more on <https://cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/israeli-palestinian-crisis-how-you-can-help>

Reflection on All Saints and All Souls

All Saints - Who are we? St. John answers that beautifully in our second reading today: *"We are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed, we shall be like him..."*

The Solemnity of All Saints today reminds us of who we are and what a bright future can be ours. As we celebrate all the saints, both those canonized and those who are unknown to us, we are joyful that they have reached the goal of life, heaven. They remind us to keep our sights fixed high, to remember who we are and the glorious possibility that God offers each and every one of us.

The saints encourage us in our own struggles because, like us, they also endured immense hardships, but they grew from strength to strength, they matured in the Lord as they grew in years. We also see this journey of growth in the great people of the Bible. We could think of Abraham whom Genesis tells us pretended his wife was his sister because he was afraid, but Abraham grew to become our father in faith. Moses had a speech impediment and had murdered and protested against being called by God but he led his people to the Promised Land. In the Gospels Peter is impulsive and doesn't want the Lord to suffer but in Acts he is totally transformed and considers it an honour to suffer for the Lord. Interestingly in Acts even Peter's shadow is a source of healing, something which is not said of Jesus in the Gospels. Obviously, Peter's Formation Adviser was out of this world!

All Souls - After judgment three choices await us: hell, purgatory or heaven; hell, for those who have rejected God, heaven for those who die as saints and purgatory for everybody else. We would all like to go immediately to heaven when we die but we need to ask ourselves, are we living in such a way that we will die as saints? Would it be more realistic for us to expect to spend some time in purgatory being purified? Only perfect love can see God face to face, so in purgatory we are purified that we may see God face to face. On the solemnity of the Holy Souls, we especially pray for all the souls who are still in purgatory undergoing purification and growing in love before they are ready to see God face to face in heaven. It is out of our belief in purgatory that the commemoration of the Holy Souls springs for if we didn't believe in purgatory the commemoration of the Holy Souls and our prayers for them would not make sense.

We believe that God is all merciful and that Jesus' passion, death and resurrection saved us but that does not excuse us from being purified. Jesus has saved us but we still need to make amends for the sins that we have committed and we need to be purified. This expiation for sin must be made either in this life or the next. During life we receive many opportunities to expiate sin through the sacraments and through our sufferings but after death any unexpiated sin needs to be purified. This is what Purgatory is, purification for unexpiated sin, being healed of the negative effects of sin which do not leave us totally open to grace.

May Our Lady Help of Christians, Our Lady of the Rosary, Our Lady of Peace, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Mary Vianney, St John Henry Newman, St Martin de Porres, St Winifred, St Charles Borromeo and all of the Saints, pray for us.

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