

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

19 th November 2023 Psalter Week 1	Thirty-Third Sunday of the Year WORLD DAY OF THE POOR		
First Reading	Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20 30-31 <i>A perfect wife – who can find her?</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	O blessed are those who fear the Lord.		
Second Reading	1 St Paul to the Thessalonians 5:1-6 <i>Let not the Day of the Lord overtake you like a thief.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, Alleluia! Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Mathew 25:14-30 <i>You have been faithful in small things; come and join in your master's happiness.</i>		
Saturday 18 th November + (Holy Souls – N-O)	6.30pm	Vigil Mass - (For the Parish)	
Sunday 19 th November + (Holy Souls – P-Q-R)	10.30am	Mass – (David O'Connor RIP)	
Monday 20 th November St Edmund, King & Martyr – <i>op. mem.</i>		No Parish Mass today	
Tuesday 21 st November Presentation of the BVM - <i>memoria</i>	10.00am	Mass – (Joan Ayles RIP)	
Wednesday 22 nd November St Cecilia – <i>Virgin & Martyr - memoria</i>		No Parish Mass today	
Thursday 23 rd November Pope St Clement I – <i>Martyr – op. mem.</i> St Columbanus, <i>Abbott – op. mem.</i>	10.00am	Service of Word & Holy Communion	
Friday – 24 th November St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions – <i>Martyrs of Vietnam - memoria</i>	11.00am	Requiem Mass – Samantha Chapman RIP)	
Saturday – 25 th November St Alnoth, <i>Martyr – op. mem.</i> St Catherine of Alexandria – <i>Virgin & Martyr –</i>		No Parish Mass this morning	
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST UNIVERSAL KING			
Saturday – 26 th November + (Holy Souls – S-T)	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (Bernie Wogan RIP)	
Sunday 27 th November + (Holy Souls – U-V)	10.30am	Mass – (For the Parish)	

Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £287.90

DCP – £20.00

Average Standing Orders: £553.00

Total: £860.90



✠ In Memoriam Mass Friday 17th November –

Fr David & Deacon Peter would like to thank our parish SVP and everyone who helped in the preparation of this Mass held last Friday and to all those who attended or who joined us via the 'Live Stream'. It was a wonderful occasion where we were able to celebrate and pray for the many souls of our families & friends who returned home to the Lord during the period of 'lockdown' and beyond. A truly wonderful parish celebration. May they rest in peace.

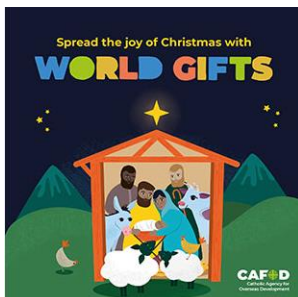


Fr David & Deacon Peter remain very grateful to everyone who 'signed up' to our parish 'Helping Hands' initiative on the theme of "Many hands make light work." There are already very positive signs of the work that is being done by a wide variety of individuals and groups

within the parish. One area that we are still looking for **additional volunteers is for the 'Offertory Counting' each week.** Hopefully we will attract sufficient volunteers to be able to draw up a weekly rota which would mean that the task would not be too arduous – a couple of people at a time. If you have already volunteered for this, we thank you and there is no need for you to let us know. If, however, you would like to add your name to the list please contact Deacon Peter on pfggriffin@hotmail.co.uk or Toby Cooper on toby.cooper1@me.com Thank you all in anticipation.



OUR PARISH CHRISTMAS CONCERT will take place on **Friday 15th December at 7.00pm** – an evening of carols, readings, and prayer. All will be welcome. The proceeds from the concert will go to Willen Hospice. If you would like to sing in the choir, then please do join them for their Choir Practice every Monday evening in the church at 7.30pm.



CAFOD ADVENT APPEAL – World Gifts – Our parish CAFOD group invite us to consider this year's Advent appeal where we can donate towards a Christmas Gift of Winter Survival Kit for those at risk in extreme harsh winter weather. Donation envelopes will be available after Mass on the weekend of 2nd/3rd December. Further details of the appeal can be found at: <https://cafod.org.uk/give/appeals/advent-appeal>



CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Passing on the Faith

Prayer by Grandchild. Age 7.

Dear Lord

I am blessed to have my grandma in my life. She is a gift from the heavens to me.

Lord, I love her dearly, when I am with my grandma my heart sings. Boom, Boom, Boom it goes.

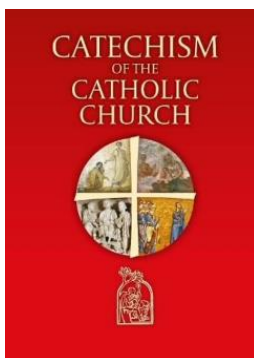
Please take care of my grandma, love her like I do. She is my guide in life, Lord, along with you. Amen.



St Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr – Wednesday 22nd November

The veneration of St Cecilia, in whose honour a basilica was erected at Rome in the fifth century, has extended far and wide because of the 'Passion of Saint Cecilia', which presented her as a perfect example of Christian womanhood who preserved her virginity and suffered martyrdom for the love of Christ. St Cecilia is of course the Patron of Musicians and so on this special feast we pray especially for our parish musicians and choir and for those who use their gift of music and singing to enhance the liturgy.

Online Advent Retreat - Mondays from **27th November, 7.30-8.30 pm**. The theme for the retreat is "Let the Wilderness Bloom!" Join Canon John Udris and Avril Baigent as they draw on the life of John the Baptist to explore themes of silence, solitude, dryness, and vulnerability, moving towards resilience, promise and hope. Join live on Monday evenings or access the recording at a more convenient time. Register here: <https://pastoralministryoffice.org/bloom/>



THE CATECHISM - LEARN ABOUT YOUR FAITH If you want to know more about your Faith, you will find the Catechism of the Catholic Church extremely helpful. It is longer than the old Penny Catechism and was produced in 1992 to help everyone in the Church to know and deepen their Faith more deeply. You can get it for about £15. It is over 700 pages long but you don't have to read it all at once! You can dip in and out or read it all the way through. You can look up online The Catholic Truth Society or find it on any services where you can buy books online.



TODAY IS SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY and is a day when we recall that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility – in our parishes and Church, in our schools and families, and in our society more widely. It follows on from Our Lord's teaching: "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven" (Matthew 18:10). By safeguarding we uphold the dignity of every human person, young and old, small and great. We learn to treat each other with respect. We come to the aid of those who are distressed or who have been

abused. We become bearers of the love and freedom which our heavenly Father has bestowed on us in Christ Jesus.

Reflection on the Sunday Readings

Proverbs 31:10-13.19-20.30-31 The gospel parable is about a man who is an astute administrator, and this first reading delicately pairs it with a woman who is a shrewd businesswoman, running her household and her cottage industry capably, wisely, and generously in reverence for the Lord. The Bible is often felt to be unduly male-oriented (an accusation often made also against the Church), but this was the normal state of society in biblical times. Nevertheless, a succession of remarkable women appears in the pages of the Old Testament; they are real partners to their husbands, and they often provide the motive force in the pursuit of the fulfilment of God's promises. In the New Testament too, besides Mary and Jesus' female followers in the gospels, we see Jesus valuing women. Particularly the playful scenes between Jesus and the Samaritan woman and the Canaanite (or Syro-Phoenician) woman spring to mind. In Saint Paul's letters and apostolate women play important roles, even leadership roles, working with Saint Paul to establish his communities – women like Chloe, Phoebe, Junia. Indeed, the first convert to Christianity in Europe was a woman, Lydia.

1 St Paul to the Thessalonians 5:1-6 - St Paul had obviously taught the new Christians at Thessalonica that Christ had conquered death, so that death had no more grasp on Christians. So, they were puzzled that Christians nevertheless died. Saint Paul explains in his letter to them that Christians who have died will be the first to rise up and join the returning Christ in his triumphant procession. Only after them will come those who are still alive. However, Saint Paul's principal stress is on the unpredictability of the Day of the Lord, that final day when the Lord will set right all injustice. It makes little difference whether I imagine meeting the Lord on the great Day of the Final Judgement, or meeting with the Lord personally at my own death. I know that it is very unlikely that I will be ready ("If only I had just a little more time to prepare!" is my constant excuse) and that I will not be in a fit state to face the glorious, pure wonder of divine love. The Day will come as unexpectedly as a thief in the night or the pains of childbirth, with that same finality and inescapability.

Mathew 25:14-30 It is encouraging to think of all the talents which friends and neighbours have and which I do not have. It is all part of the gifts of the Spirit, which Saint Paul sees as making up the whole Body of Christ. Everyone has a special contribution to make. As for me, it is extraordinary that God created me with all my twists, defects, fears and failures and it is precisely because of those boils, sores, abscesses that God loves me, helps me, and guides me to work out my salvation. And it is just possible that there may be friends who can think that God has given me talents which make a tiny contribution to the happiness and goodness of the world. In the longer version of this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus mentions a man with just one talent who hides it in the ground: the master calls him "wicked and lazy" and has him thrown out. Why is he so severely treated? This is surely someone who resolutely turns his (or her) back on the goodness she (or he) has received and refuses to work with it for the Lord's purposes or for anyone else's. Such a talent goes to waste and merely rusts and corrupts. If I know anyone like that, it is just worth asking whether, with infinite and patient kindness, I can help that person to release their talent and bring it to blossom.

May Our Lady Help of Christians, Our Lady of Peace, Our Lady of Walsingham, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Mary Vianney, St John Henry Newman, St Edmund, St Cecilia, Pope St Clement I, St Columbanus, St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions, St Alnoth, St Catherine of Alexandria, pray for us.

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