



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.ourladyolney.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

5th November 2023 Psalter Week 3		Thirty-First Sunday of the Year	
First Reading	Malachi 1:14-2:2. 8-10 <i>You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.		
Second Reading	1 St Paul to the Thessalonians 2:7-9.13 <i>We were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our lives as well.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, Alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Mathew 23:1-12 <i>They do not practice what they preach.</i>		
Saturday 4th November + (Holy Souls – A-B)	6.30pm	Vigil Mass - (For the Parish)	
Sunday 5th November + (Holy Souls – C-D)	10.30am	Mass – (Ann O'Connor RIP)	
Monday 6th November <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today	
Tuesday 7th November St Willibrord – Bishop	10.00am	Mass – (Sr Mary Hanrahan RIP)	
Wednesday 8th November Bl John Duns Scotus – Religious		No Parish Mass today	
Thursday 9th November Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	10.00am	Service of Word & Holy Communion	
Friday – 10th November St Leo the Great – Pope & Doctor (Holy Souls E-F)	10.00am	Mass - (John Bourke RIP)	
Saturday – 11th November St Martin of Tours - Bishop		No Parish Mass this morning	
THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR			
Saturday – 11th November + (Holy Souls – G-H)	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (Anthony Bagg RIP)	
Sunday 12th November + (Holy Souls – I-J-K)	9.30am	Mass – (For the Parish)	

DATE FOR THE DIARY – CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

7.00PM FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER

Second Collection this weekend for the Bishop's Maintenance Fund

Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £332.40

DCP – Nil

Average Standing Orders: £553.00

Total: £885.00

Second Collection next Sunday for Sick & Retired Priests

Tea and Coffee after Mass - Please join us for tea/ coffee after Mass this Sunday. On 3rd December, the first Sunday of Advent, we will be serving festive sausage rolls and mince pies. Everyone will be welcome.



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.

✠ **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.



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.

World Day of the Poor - Pope Francis has declared **Sunday 19th November 2023** to be the seventh World Day of the Poor, with the theme of **"Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor"**.



Sacrament of Confirmation – we are soon to begin our parish preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation next year. If you are in **School Year 8** or above, or you know of someone who is, and would like to begin preparation for this Sacrament, please give your details to Denise - 01234 711212 or ourladysolney@btconnect.com. If you are an adult & have not yet been Confirmed but wish to know more about what is involved in preparing for the Sacrament then please contact Deacon Peter – 07850 499414



CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Passing on the Faith

Our main aim is to help Grandparents pass on the Faith to the next generation and to sustain and support them in their own Faith. We are a worldwide group, united by a belief in the importance of the vocation of Grandparents. We assist Grandparents in providing a crucial link for passing on the Faith.

JP2 Network for Counsellors and Therapists The JP2 Network is a community that is open to all counsellors, psychotherapists and psychologist who are interested in exploring issues of faith with a particular focus on working with Catholic Clergy. The JP2 Directory helps clergy find counsellors and pastoral accompaniers and is open to members of the Network who are in private practice or working in an agency that supports our work, a member of a professional accountable body and who holds the relevant public liability and professional indemnity insurances.

If you are a counsellor/psychotherapist or psychologist and would like to join the JP2 Directory and be part of the Network covering the Diocese of Northampton, please get in contact the Northampton JP2 Network Co-ordinator, Fr David Barrett, at frdavid.barrett@northamptondiocese.org For more details, please see <https://jp2directory.org>

Mass for Deceased Clergy - On **Tuesday 21st November at 11.30am** in the Cathedral, Northampton. Bishop David will celebrate Mass for the deceased clergy of our diocese. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments will follow the Mass in the St Thomas Centre

Preparing for Advent - Wednesday 22nd November at 7.30pm is the latest in a series of online zoom sessions exploring the upcoming Lectionary Readings and sessions of the liturgical year. To book email deaconpeter.collins@northamptondiocese.org

Mass of Thanksgiving for Donors is an opportunity to show gratitude for all those who have offered to our mission this year, through prayers, time, or a financial gift. Mass will be at **11.00am on 25th November at Northampton Cathedral**. You are very welcome to attend.

Churches Together in Olney are organising an Outdoor Nativity for **10th December** at Guinea Orchard at 2pm and 3pm. If you would like to be involved, they are looking for stewards or you would like to be a shepherd, king etc please contact Denise in the first instance.

Caritas Northampton have launched the Love Christmas Campaign. Our parish is pleased to be taking part in the diocese Love Christmas Campaign 2023. Over the last two years many parishes and schools have taken part and so have been able to distribute 1450 Bags of Kindness containing gifts and toys for 3300 individuals. Importantly these all go to those in need local to where the donations are made. With the continuing cost of living crisis and even more help being required we are hoping to support many more individuals and groups including families, the elderly, those who are lonely and isolated, children from broken homes, children in care and young carers. Suggested gifts are toys (new), colouring books, games, Chocolates, biscuits, socks, gloves, scarves, aftershave. In fact, whatever you think a child, young family or elderly person would like to receive.

From Fr David's desk....

In Spe Salvi (47-48), Pope Benedict XVI meditates on Purgatory and the importance of praying for the dead:

Some recent theologians are of the opinion that the fire [of Purgatory] which both burns and saves is Christ himself, the Judge and Saviour. The encounter with him is the decisive act of judgement. Before his gaze all falsehood melts away. This encounter with him, as it burns us, transforms, and frees us, **allowing us to become truly ourselves**. All that we build during our lives can prove to be mere straw, pure bluster, and it collapses. Yet in the pain of this encounter, when the impurity and sickness of our lives become evident to us, there lies salvation. His gaze, the touch of his heart heals us through an undeniably painful transformation “as through fire.” But it is **a blessed pain**, in which the holy power of his love sears through us like a flame, enabling us to become totally ourselves and thus totally of God.

A further point must be mentioned here, because it is important for the practice of Christian hope. Early Jewish thought includes the idea that one can help the deceased in their intermediate state **through prayer** (see for example 2 Macc 12:38-45; first century BC). The equivalent practice was readily adopted by Christians and is common to the Eastern and Western Church. The souls of the departed can, however, receive “solace and refreshment” through the Eucharist, prayer, and almsgiving. The belief that love can reach into the afterlife, that reciprocal giving and receiving is possible, in which **our affection for one another continues beyond the limits of death**—this has been a fundamental conviction of Christianity throughout the ages and it remains a source of comfort today. Who would not feel the need to convey to their departed loved ones a sign of kindness, a gesture of gratitude or even a request for pardon? Now a further question arises: if “Purgatory” is simply purification through fire in the encounter with the Lord, Judge and Saviour, how can a third person intervene, even if he or she is particularly close to the other? When we ask such a question, we should recall that **no man is an island**, entire of itself. Our lives are involved with one another, through innumerable interactions they are linked together. **No one lives alone. No one sins alone. No one is saved alone.** The lives of others continually spill over into mine: in what I think, say, do and achieve. And conversely, my life spills over into that of others: for better and for worse. So, my prayer for another is not something extraneous to that person, something external, not even after death. In the interconnectedness of Being, my gratitude to the other—my prayer for him—can play a small part in his purification. And for that there is no need to convert earthly time into God’s time: in the communion of souls’ **simple terrestrial time is superseded**. It is never too late to touch the heart of another, nor is it ever in vain. In this way we further clarify an important element of the Christian concept of hope. **Our hope is always essentially also hope for others**; only thus is it truly hope for me too. As Christians, we should never limit ourselves to asking: how can I save myself? We should also ask: what can I do in order that others may be saved and that for them to the star of hope may rise? Then I will have done my utmost for my own personal salvation as well.

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 Willibrord, Bl John Duns Scotus, St Leo the Great, St Martin of Tours, pray for us.

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