



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

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

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

SVP Contact: 07469 717760

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 10 th December 2023 Psalter Week 2 | Second Sunday of Advent Year of Mark (B) – Ferial Lectionary: Year II | |
| First Reading | Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 <i>Prepare a way for the Lord.</i> | |
| Responsorial Psalm | Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. | |
| Second Reading | 2 St Peter 3:8-14 <i>We are waiting for the new heavens and new earth.</i> | |
| Gospel Acclamation | Alleluia, Alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia! | |
| Gospel | Mark 1:1-8 <i>Make his paths straight.</i> | |
| Saturday 9 th December + | 5.45pm 6.30pm | Confession Vigil Mass - (For the Parish) |
| Sunday 10 th December + | 10.30am | Mass – (Brian Barrett RIP) |
| Monday 11 th December St Damasus I, Pope | | No Parish Mass today |
| Tuesday 12 th December Our Lady of Guadalupe | 10.00am | Mass – (Peter Needham RIP) |
| Wednesday 13 th December St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr | | No Parish Mass today |
| Thursday 14 th December St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor | | No Parish Mass today |
| Friday – 15 th December Second Friday of Advent | 10.30am | Requiem Mass – Fr Gerald Vann, RIP |
| Saturday – 16 th December Second Saturday of Advent | 10.00am 10.30am | Mass (Maurice Woodhouse RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions |
| THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE) | | |
| Saturday – 16 th December + | 5.45pm 6.30pm | Confession Vigil Mass - (For the Parish) |
| Sunday 17 th December + | 10.30am | Mass – (Edith Pilling RIP) |

Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £279.15

DCP – £15.00

Average Standing Orders: £553.00

Total: £875.32

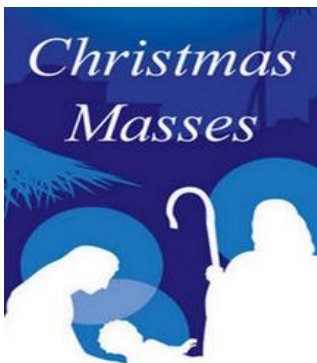
Missio Second Collection (Red Boxes) - £343.70 – *Special thanks from Maria Deery*



OUR PARISH CHRISTMAS CONCERT will take place this coming **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.



Christmas Penitential Service – a Penitential Service will be held here at Our Lady's on **Friday 22nd December at 7.00pm.** – it is hoped to have three priests available to hear Confessions in preparation for the Christmas Season.



| | |
|---|---------|
| 24 th December - Christmas Vigil Mass | 6.00pm |
| 24 th December – Mass During the Night | 9.00pm |
| 25 th December - Mass at Dawn | 8.00am |
| 25 th December – Mass during the day | 10.30am |



CAFOD PARISH APPEAL

Christmas Gift of Winter Survival Kit

In the countries of Ukraine, Syria and Afghanistan life is difficult after war, floods, and earthquakes. Displaced families are at risk from extreme harsh winter weather. A CAFOD Christmas Gift of a Winter Survival Kit costs £30 and with your help would provide blankets, warm clothing, fuel, and food. We thank you for your continued generosity. CAFOD Parish Group

Bishop David is releasing four Advent messages to coincide with the weekly themes of the Advent season Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Message for week one can be found at <https://youtu.be/hT3iebbbySDg?si=DcWo4ABCQrIBBA69>

Sacrament of Confirmation – Early in the new year, we are planning to begin preparing those young people who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation later in 2024. If you are yet to register your child for this, please let Deacon Peter know at the earliest opportunity – ideally, they should be in Year 8 or above. It is proposed to hold one session per month starting in January - each being no more than an hour long.



Digital Collection Plate (DCP) – For some time now we have made available a DCP in the church porch. This is a very easy way to make donations for the weekly offering; second collections; Mass intentions and any special appeals. You have total control of the device and can select the exact amount that you wish to pay – the system is totally secure. If you would like to make use of this but would first like further information than please speak to Toby Cooper who will happily discuss things with you.



CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION *Passing on the Faith*

The Most Rev Dr Michael Neary, Irish Archbishop, wrote:

I commend the Catholic Grandparents Association to you, having witnessed at first-hand the devotion displayed by all who attended the pilgrimages in Knock. There has never been as important a time in our history as now to strengthen family ties. Those ties are essential for the emotional and spiritual well-being of today's children and will be a source of joy to all, if built upon and nourished.

+ Michael Neary.

GOOD YOUTUBE PROGRAMMES TO WATCH *Tammy Peterson and Bishop Robert Barron* discuss the importance of prayer. It really is a must watch at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czgc6uB2-SI>

Bishop Barron gives a weekly sermon on YouTube. If you want to look at this week's reflection, please go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmscmwOTXtY>

URGENT: EMAIL MP CONCERNING EXTENSION OF ABORTION Pro-abortion MPs, Stella Creasy and Diana Johnson, have tabled two extreme abortion up to birth amendments in an attempt to hijack the Government's flagship Criminal Justice Bill. Both amendments propose removing offences that make it illegal to perform a self-abortion at any point right through to birth. Neither of the amendments outlines circumstances in which it would continue to be an offence to perform a self-abortion - the changes to the law would apply throughout all nine months of pregnancy and would not exclude sex-selective abortions.

Stella Creasy's amendment, if it became law, would also repeal Section 60 of the Offences Against the Person Act, which is currently used to make it illegal to hide the body of a dead newborn baby, including in circumstances when the baby has been killed through infanticide. These extreme changes to the law would likely lead to a tragic increase in the number of babies' lives being ended through late-term abortions performed at home, as well as the lives of many more women being endangered.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR MP. YOU CAN EMAIL YOUR MP USING THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE:
[https://righttolife.org.uk/abortionamendments?utm_source=SUBSCRIPTION+LIST&utm_campaign=a3f12c6189-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_11_30_07_47&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9297ae5f15-1ea2f81f6e-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D&ct=t\(\)](https://righttolife.org.uk/abortionamendments?utm_source=SUBSCRIPTION+LIST&utm_campaign=a3f12c6189-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_11_30_07_47&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9297ae5f15-1ea2f81f6e-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D&ct=t())



BISHOP DAVID'S MESSAGE FOR THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

In this second week of advent, we will reflect for a moment on the theme of peace. Of course, when we look around our world today, during these advent weeks, we see so much need for peace. We see peace needed in the wars that are taking place in the Ukraine and in the Holy Land. We see the need for peace in our communities, we recognise the need for peace within our families and perhaps we recognise too, the need for peace within ourselves as individuals.

As always, I would like to share with you a few words from the Advent scriptures. These are the words of the Prophet Isaiah used by the evangelist Luke to talk about the ministry of John, the son of Zechariah, the one who would be known as the Baptist. *“A voice cries in the wilderness. ‘Prepare a way for the lord, make his paths straight.’ Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill will be made low, winding waves will be straightened and rough roads made smooth and all mankind will see the salvation of God.”*

This is the peace that the Lord speaks of in his Word, it is a peace which begins when we are open and receptive to the Word of God, to the power of God, His Kingdom at work in our lives, and it involves some hard works. The prophet puts it in those beautiful and familiar terms, about hills being laid low and about valleys being filled in.

Sometimes when I am driving and see workmen on the motorway, it reminds me how challenging it is to keep that road straight that we use so often to get around the place. Then I look inside myself and I recognise that peace comes at a cost. Peace was won for us by our Lord's death on the cross and when we receive the grace of that cross into our lives, then we are at peace with almighty God.

So, let us pray for peace in our world and let us recognise that the journey towards worldwide peace, comes with that step of peace within ourselves. When we respond to the invitation of God to become peacemakers, not least, and first of all, within ourselves.

Bishop David Oakley
Bishop of Northampton

May Our Lady Help of Christians, Our Lady of Peace, Our Lady of Guadalupe, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Mary Vianney, St John Henry Newman, St Damasus, St Lucy, St John of the Cross, pray for us.

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