



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

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Parish Priest: Fr David B Barrett

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Fr Patrick Hutton - Retired

Deacon: Rev Peter Griffin – 07850 499414

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Parish Website: www.ourladysolney.co.uk

Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

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

Parish Safeguarding: Janet Goodland

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17 th December 2023 Psalter Week 3	Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Year of Mark (B) – Ferial Lectionary: Year II	
First Reading	Zephaniah 3:14-18 <i>The Lord will dance with shouts of joy as on a day of festival.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.	
Second Reading	St Paul to the Philippians 4:4-7 <i>The Lord is very near.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, Alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!	
Gospel	Luke 3:10-18 <i>What must we do?</i>	
Saturday 16 th December +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass - (For the Parish)
Sunday 17 th December +	10.30am	Mass – (Edith Pilling RIP)
Monday 18 th December <i>Third Monday of Advent</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Shaunagh Harte RIP)
Tuesday 19 th December <i>Third Tuesday of Advent</i>	10.00am	Mass – (Debbie Houghton Int.)
Wednesday 20 th December <i>Third Wednesday of Advent</i>		No Parish Mass today
Thursday 21 st December St Peter Canisius – Priest & Doctor	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass (Chas Harris RIP)
Friday – 22 nd December <i>Third Friday of Advent</i>	9.15am 10.00am 7.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (James Crilly RIP) Service of Reconciliation
Saturday – 23 rd December St John of Kanty, Priest	10.00am 10.30am	Mass (Joan Golding RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
Saturday – 23 rd December +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (Jean & Michael Griffin RIP)
Sunday 24 th December +	10.30am	Mass – (For the Parish)

Please save any used postage stamps for Denise

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES		
Sunday 24 th December +	6.00pm 9.00pm	Vigil Mass Mass During the Night
Monday 25 th December +	8.00am 10.30am	Mass at Dawn Mass During the Day
Tuesday 26 th December St Stephen	10.00am	Mass



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.

Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: **£347.90**

DCP – **£5.00**

Average Standing Orders: **£553.00**

Total: £905.90

REDEMPTORIS MATER HOUSE OF FORMATION IN LONDON invites you to a Carol Concert on Tuesday 19 December 19:00 Concert (about 1 hour) Followed by light refreshments at **Santa Francesca Cabrini Church, Woburn Road, Bedford.** These students for the priesthood attend Allen Hall seminary in London where Fr David teaches. If you would like to go, please email rmhf.lnd@gmail.com Please feel free to come along.



OUR PARISH CHRISTMAS CONCERT – Very many thanks to everyone involved in our Parish Christmas Concert which was held here last Friday evening. To our wonderful Parish Choir; the musicians, those who prepared our beautiful church; to those who prepared the seasonal refreshments and to everyone who attended either in person or via the 'live stream'

It truly was a joyous occasion as we prepare to welcome our Saviour Jesus Christ at Christmas. The proceeds from the concert will go to Willen Hospice.

Recycled Candles - These candles have been made using wax collected from old Church candles. They are available in the Parish Hall and all donations will be donated to Willen Hospice.

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.



As is customary, the Christmas Offertory is our gift to Father David to show our appreciation for everything that he does for our parish – we are truly blessed to have such a good shepherd watching over us. There are several ways in which you can choose to donate; by using the planned giving envelopes; the Digital Collection Plate; by standing order with a reference of Fr David; plain envelope clearly marked 'Fr David Christmas Offering' - if by cheque please make payable to **Our Lady Help of Christians.**



CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Passing on the Faith

How the association fulfils its mission:

- Promote and support the vocation of Grandparents
- Arrange Grandparent Pilgrimages
- Support Diocesan and parish Grandparents Groups
- Initiate Children's prayer Appeals
- Work with Schools and Parishes
- Provide resources
- Arrange Special Members Events
- Promote Grandparents Day, the feast of St Joachim and St Anne, 26th July

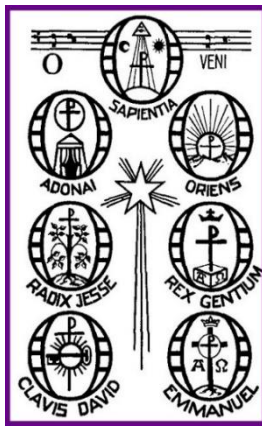
THANK YOU to everyone who donated to the recent **Caritas Love Christmas Campaign**. Twelve boxes of goodies have been collected and will be distributed by various charities to those in need in the Milton Keynes area.

CAN YOU HELP PLEASE? - My name is Lola Robinson; I am a third-year music student at Oxford Brookes University and I am asking for volunteers from your parish to help with my dissertation. The title of my dissertation is **“How did The Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) Impact the Practices of the Catholic Church and what were the resulting Changes in the Musical Repertoire, Styles and Participation within the Church and Mass”**. The Second Vatican Council held between 1962-1965 was a significant event in the Catholic Church. It aimed to modernize various aspects of the Church, including the liturgy of the Mass. In my study I will be looking at how the Second Vatican Council affected small town catholic churches in the diocese of Northampton. I will be conducting interviews with members of your parish to get an understanding of the changes that were made at the time (e.g. church architecture, organs, use of the vernacular, congregation participation etc.), and how these were perceived by those who witnessed them. Each interview will last no longer than 2 hours and the interviews will be audio recorded only with the interviewees permission and will be used in anonymised quotations within the dissertation write up. The interviews themselves will contain both open and closed questions asking the interviewee about what they remember of the key aspects of the changes happening locally after the Second Vatican Council at the time. If you can help Lola with this request then please let either Fr David or Deacon Peter know at the earliest opportunity.



Pope Francis calls for UN talks to be a "turning point" in the climate crisis. You can read the Pope's message on the link below, and find details for writing to your MP.

https://cafod.org.uk/news/campaigning-news/cop28-pope-francis-message-delivered-at-climate-talks?j=522261&sfmc_sub=28670042&l=52_HTML&u=8088800&mid=500009474&jb=11&utm_source=the%20catholic%20agency%20for%20overseas%20development%20



Advent is a beautiful season in the Church's life. But you may not notice that it has two parts to it. The first part runs up to and includes 16th December – these are the ordinary days of Advent but from 17th December there is an Octave of days which leads right up to Christmas Eve. Advent changes gear and this is shown in several ways.

Firstly, the Gospel readings at Mass: in the first period they are taken from various places in the Gospel, dealing first with the future Second Coming of Christ and then various ways in which we approach Christ, and finally in the middle of the 2nd Week of Advent they change gear again and all mention John the Baptist in one way or another. Then, from 17th December, the Gospel readings are taken from the Infancy Narratives of either Matthew's or Luke's Gospel, going up to the point before Jesus is born in Bethlehem. So, 17th December marks a change in gear: we increase the sense of expectation for celebrating the Lord's Nativity: our salvation is at hand – and when we say that we mean Jesus is at hand, because the names *Jesus* means *God saves*.

Secondly, from 17th December we begin the **Great O Antiphons**. These are recited before and after the *Magnificat* at Evening Prayer (Vespers) every day from 17th December. They are also used for the *Alleluia* verse before the Gospel at every Mass during the Octave. They take their name from the fact that each one begins with the exclamation *O!* There follows a title inspired by the Old Testament which is applied to Christ. There is a different one each day and they each help us understand the many sides of the salvation which Jesus is. We call on Jesus under these different titles to come and save us in all the many ways we need to be saved. They are as follows:

17th December: O Sapientia: O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.

18th December: O Adonai: O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai Mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.

19th December: O Radix Jesse: O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

20th December: O Clavis David: O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of Heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.

21st December: O Oriens: O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

22nd December: O Rex Gentium: O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.

23rd December: O Emmanuel: O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Saviour of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God. The hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* is based on these antiphons and is properly sung during this period.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

With our love and prayers – Fr David, Fr Patrick & Deacon Peter