



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

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

Parish Priest: Fr David B Barrett

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Fr Patrick Hutton - Retired

Deacon: Rev Peter Griffin – 07850 499414

[deaconpeter.griffin@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:deaconpeter.griffin@northamptondiocese.org)

Parish Website: [www.ourladysolney.co.uk](http://www.ourladysolney.co.uk)

Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

[parish.olney@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:parish.olney@northamptondiocese.org)

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

Parish Safeguarding: Janet Goodland

[safeguarding.olney@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:safeguarding.olney@northamptondiocese.org)

SVP Contact: 07469 717760

31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023 Psalter Week 1	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph <b>THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS</b>		
First Reading	Book of Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6. 12-14 <i>He who fears the Lord respects his parents.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	<b>O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!</b>		
Second Reading	St Paul to the Colossians 3:12-21 <i>Family life in the Lord.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	<b>Alleluia, Alleluia! May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you. Alleluia!</b>		
Gospel	Luke 2.22-40 <i>The child grew, filled with wisdom.</i>		
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> December +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass - (For the Parish)	
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> December +	10.30am	Mass – (James Crilly RIP)	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> January Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God	10.00am	Mass – (Tony & Richard Roche RIP)	
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen – Bishops & Doctors	10.00am	Mass – (Kathleen & Stephen Walker Ints)	
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January The Most Holy Name of Jesus		No Parish Mass today	
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January Feria	10.00am	Service of Word & Communion	
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> January Feria	10.00am	Mass (Deceased members of the Griffin family)	
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> January Feria		No Parish Mass this morning	
The Epiphany of the Lord			
Saturday – 6th January +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (Philomena Nelligan Ints)	
Sunday – 7 <sup>th</sup> January +	10.30am	Mass – (Mary Torjussen Ints)	

## Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £369.19

DCP – £15.00

Average Standing Orders: £553.00

**Total: £937.19**



## THANK YOU

A huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way to prepare our church for the worthy celebration of Christmas in our Parish. Fr David and the team wish you, your families & friends a very blessed & peaceful New Year.

And thanks from Fr David to all for the generous Christmas collection.



**Altar Servers** – Many congratulations to Maya who received her Guild of St Stephen medal at the Mass of St Stephen on 26<sup>th</sup> December. We are very proud of all our Altar Servers, young & not so young, who perform such an important ministry at the Lord's Altar. If anyone would like to join our ever-growing team of Altar Servers please speak to Deacon Peter.



## Moveable Feasts 2024

Baptism of the Lord – 8<sup>th</sup> January  
Ash Wednesday – 14<sup>th</sup> February  
Easter Triduum – 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> March  
EASTER SUNDAY – 31<sup>st</sup> March  
Ascension of the Lord – 9<sup>th</sup> May  
Pentecost – 19<sup>th</sup> May  
Trinity Sunday – 26<sup>th</sup> May  
Corpus Christi – 2<sup>nd</sup> June  
Sacred Heart of Jesus – 7<sup>th</sup> June  
Christ the King – 24<sup>th</sup> November



## Mass Intentions

If you would like a Mass offered for a particular intention there are plenty of weekday dates free in January/February/March – the first available weekend dates are 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> April & 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> April. Anyone wanting a specific date, please give plenty of notice, especially if a weekend (quite a few weekend dates for 2024 have already gone). For all Mass Intentions please complete the envelopes that are available in the church and either place in the offertory basket or hand into Denise. It is essential if using the Digital Collection Plate that the envelope is also completed. Anyone donating via the website needs to email the details to Denise giving the Intention, number of Masses, donor's name, preferred date, amount of stipend and contact details. Whilst every effort is made to offer the Mass on your chosen date, there are occasions when this may need to be amended. Thank you.

**Someone asked for a Mass Intention on 13<sup>th</sup> December via the website, but we do not know who requested this. Can however requested this either call Denise on 01234 711212 or email [parish.olney@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:parish.olney@northamptondiocese.org)**



## CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION *Passing on the Faith*

### AN INVITATION TO GRANDPARENTS IN OUR PARISH:

Did you know that Jesus had grandparents? St Joachim and St Anne, Patrons of Grandparents, dedicated their only Child, Mary, conceived after years of fasting and prayer, to God.

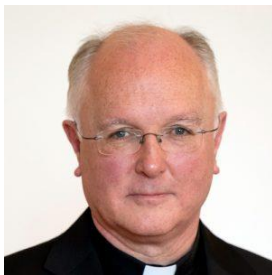
If you are interested in encouraging and supporting the vocation of grandparents to pass on their faith within their families and the Church, then please let Fr David know, with the intention of forming a branch of the Catholic Grandparents Association in our parish.



**Home & Hospital Visiting** - As people get elderly, we appreciate that it may be difficult for them to attend Mass. If you have an elderly family member who is not able to come to Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact the parish office on **01234 711212**. If any parishioner is expecting to be admitted to hospital for planned treatment, and would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, please contact Father David before you go in. Also, if you are admitted to hospital, please make the hospital admissions team aware that you are a Catholic, so that you can be offered the opportunity to receive Holy Communion.

**'Amazed & Afraid – Catholicism Part 1'** – Join Bishop Robert Barron as he addresses some of the most controversial questions about the life and identity of Jesus Christ and travels through the mysterious and sacred places of the Holy Land of Israel and the eternal city of Rome.

<https://youtu.be/EUrUTWYMz1c?si=oUJbUyoWGGV6HJFh>



**Diocese of Clifton** - please keep Canon Christopher Whitehead, a priest of the Diocese of Clifton, in your thoughts and prayer. The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has appointed Canon Christopher as the tenth Bishop of Plymouth. His Episcopal Ordination will take place in Plymouth on the 22nd February 2024.

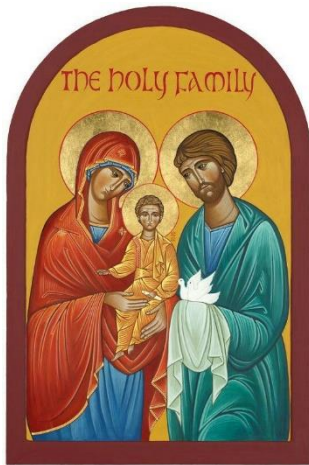
**THE ANNUAL WHITE FLOWER APPEAL AND COLLECTION** will be held on 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> January. We are grateful to Julia Scott for agreeing to give a short talk to explain the work of SPUC (The Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child), helping to promote a Pro Life culture in times where, as Pope Francis says, human beings are treated as disposable – a throwaway culture

**JOURNEY FROM SECULAR JUDAISM TO EASTERN ORTHODOXY TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH** Join Matt Frad on his popular Pints with Aquinas YouTube channel to hear the story of Gideon Lazar and his journey from a secular way of life to the Catholic Faith. One important inspiration was Our Lady of Fatima. To see the full interview, use the following link:

[https://www.youtube.com/live/uMo2VVsDU7A?si=eOY2Ssc\\_kiRCLIHZ](https://www.youtube.com/live/uMo2VVsDU7A?si=eOY2Ssc_kiRCLIHZ)



## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



It is right and fitting that soon after the great event of History, Christ's incarnation, that we should turn our minds to the natural occurrences which this Birth initiated, Christ becoming part of a human family, and Mary, though human, being the Mother of God. These two things, so familiar, motherhood and family, are beautiful points of meditation for us, when we contemplate the reality of these mysteries ... God as a child raised by human parents, and God as an infant, nurtured and fed at the breast of a human mother. Blessed John Henry Newman aids us in our meditation: *"When, for our sakes, the Son came on earth and took our flesh, yet He would not live without the sympathy of others. For thirty years He lived with Mary and Joseph and thus formed a shadow of the Heavenly Trinity on earth. O the perfection of that sympathy which existed between the three! Not a look of one, but the other two understood, as expressed, better than if expressed in a thousand words—nay more than understood, accepted, echoed, corroborated. It was like three instruments absolutely in tune which all vibrate when one vibrates, and vibrate either one and the same note, or in perfect harmony."*

Cardinal Newman then reminds us that this unity on earth is an image of the eternal divine unity of the three divine Persons: *"Sympathy may be called an eternal law, for it is signified or rather transcendently and archetypically fulfilled in the ineffable mutual love of the Divine Trinity. God, though infinitely One, has ever been Three... The devil only is barren and lonely, shut up in himself—and his servants also."*

Each family on earth should reflect in some way the unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. To be part of a human family is the opposite of being alone. It is to be a part of a whole. Due to pride and selfishness, however, so many families are divided. The Holy Family teaches us the humility and love that should permeate every home.

Perhaps our own human families are more occasions of suffering, than of joy; nevertheless, Newman teaches us that we too may take part in the Holy Family's sympathy, of their shared feelings, of their love. What an eternal joy! To so strive to conform ourselves to this family, that we become more holy, for Mary is our Mother too. Considering that this is in large measure the fruit of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Newman prays to Mary: *"O Holy Mother, stand by me now at Mass time, when Christ comes to me, as thou didst minister to Thy infant Lord—as Thou didst hang upon His words when He grew up, as Thou wast found under His cross. Stand by me, Holy Mother, that I may gain somewhat of thy purity, thy innocence, thy faith, and He may be the one object of my love and my adoration, as He was of thine."* In this Octave of the Nativity of Christ which includes the feast of the Holy Family, and closes with the solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, let us try to conform our hearts and minds to Jesus, Mary and Joseph so that we may become worthy members of this Holy Family, and that we may be pleasing to Mary, our Mother, the Mother of God. Let us think of some specific trait that we need to acquire or increase to live in sympathy with Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Fr David, Fr Malcolm, Fr Patrick, Deacon Peter,  
Denise and the Sisters  
wish you and your loved ones a truly Blessed and Peaceful New Year