



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

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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

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

Parish Safeguarding: Janet Goodland

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3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2023 Psalter Week 1		First Sunday of Advent Year of Mark (B) – Ferial Lectionary: Year II	
First Reading	Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8 <i>Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.		
Second Reading	1 St Paul to the Corinthians 1:3-9 <i>We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, Alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Mark 13:33-37 <i>Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming.</i>		
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass - (For the Parish)	
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December +	10.30am	Mass – (Alexander Roberts RIP)	
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December St John Damascene, Priest & Doctor		No Parish Mass today	
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December St Birinus, Bishop	10.00am	Mass – (Padraig Murray RIP)	
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December St Nicholas, Bishop	10.00am	Service of Word & Holy Communion	
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor	6.45pm	Mass – (Charles Keeney RIP)	
Friday – 8 <sup>th</sup> December IMMACULATE COCEPTION OF BVM Principal Patron of the Diocese	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Charlie Creed RIP)	
Saturday – 9 <sup>th</sup> December St John Diego Coalhtlatzin	10.00am 10.30am	Mass (Mike Stewart Int) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions	
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
Saturday – 9 <sup>th</sup> December +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)	
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> December +	10.30am	Mass – (Brian Barrett RIP)	

**Note: Service of Word & Communion on Wednesday this week**

## Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £317.32

DCP – £5.00

Average Standing Orders: £553.00

**Total: £875.32**

## CHRISTMAS CARDS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE PORCH



**Seasonal Tea/Coffee** – you are all very warmly invited to join us in the parish hall after this weekend's Sunday Mass (3<sup>rd</sup> December) the first Sunday of Advent. We will be serving festive sausage rolls and mince pies. Everyone will be welcome.

**Caritas Northampton** have launched the Love Christmas Campaign and our parish is pleased to be taking part. Bags of Kindness containing gifts and toys go to those in need local to where the donations are made: 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.

**Please leave any donations in the porch – last day: Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

**First Thursday Club** – The next talk will be **this Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm**. Fr David will focus on **The Throckmorton's of Weston Underwood and Moving from Recusancy and Mission to the Parish in Olney**. All are welcome to attend.

## Immaculate Conception of the BVM: Chief Patron of our Diocese



On Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, we celebrate this wonderful solemnity, that Mary, whose conception was brought about in the normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain—that is what “immaculate” means: without stain. When we meditate on the Immaculate Conception, we might ponder the angel Gabriel when he greeted Mary with the beautiful words “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you” (Luke 1:28). Today we pray especially for Bishop David, Bishop Emeritus Peter, for the Priests, Deacons, Religious and people of our Diocese: *Mary, Immaculate Virgin, our Mother, chief patron of our Diocese, we praise and honour you and give ourselves to you. Protect us from all harm and pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.*

Bishop David will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral at 7.00pm that day. All are welcome or you watch via the ‘live stream’ – <https://northamptoncathedral.org/>

**Coffee Evening In aid of Daylight Centre, Wellingborough and Project 16:15, Northampton** who take food and essentials directly to Street Homeless. All are welcome to this coffee evening on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 4pm - 8pm at 11 Stoney Piece Close, Bozeat. NN297NS.

**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL IN OLNEY THIS SATURDAY & SUNDAY 11.00am-4.00pm & OUTDOOR NATIVITY SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> December 2.00pm and 3.00pm**  
For more details, see posters in the porch.



## CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION

### *Passing on the Faith*

A message from the founder of the Catholic Grandparents Association.

Dear Grandparents

By becoming a member of the Catholic Grandparents Association you will be part of a worldwide association who together strengthen our families, our Church and our society. Membership is open to all who support the aims and values of the Catholic Grandparents Association. If you are a great-aunt or great-uncle, for example, you are a 'grandparent at heart', and are similarly called to join us.

Passing on the faith is by far the most important job you will ever have. There has never been a more important time in history to strengthen our families and our faith. We owe it to our Grandchildren. The family needs you. Society needs you. We need you. May St Joachim and St Anne, Parents of Mary and Grandparents of Jesus, bless all our families.

Catherine Wiley

*Grandparent, and founder of the Catholic Grandparents Association*



## 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. Donation envelopes will be available **this**

**weekend** and may be returned the following week. We thank you for your continued generosity. CAFOD Parish Group



**OUR PARISH CHRISTMAS CONCERT** will take place on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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/hT3iebbySDg?si=DcWo4ABCQrIBBA69>

**Mass for People with Disabilities** and their families will be on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00pm** at Sacred Heart Church, Stopsley, Luton LU2 9AY Access to the church is 'step free' and there is ample parking.



**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.

**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 FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT**

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

In this first week of the advent season, I wish to consider the theme of 'Hope.' Let me share with you some words from the

Prophet Isaiah, "*Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.*"

I love the words of the prophets because they speak to us so eloquently of what hope involves. They looked forward to a time they could not imagine in their own life experience. They looked forward to a time when God would do something new, then the Lord would renew and refresh his people. I think that pinpoints the meaning of hope, we do not hope in ourselves or what the human race can achieve by its own effort. Hope is rooted in what God will do. Hope is founded upon the concept of salvation history that the Lord has made promises to his people and he will fulfil them. And so, you may imagine that God has already fulfilled his promises by sending his beloved Son, the word made flesh, Jesus.

However, some of God's promises still remain to be fulfilled. Jesus has promised that he will come again at the end of time, in glory he will return in majesty and the whole of creation will recognize him. There is a tremendous amount of Hope involved in that promise. Some days when we look around our world, its darkness, and its shadows, we simply cannot imagine a day of glory that the scriptures speak to us of. And yet that is the meaning of Hope.

Maranatha, come Lord Jesus, come, and make the wastelands blossom and you come and let the desert sing for joy.

Sincerely,

Bishop David Oakley

Bishop of Northampton

May Our Lady Help of Christians, Our Lady of Peace, Mary Immaculate, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Mary Vianney, St John Henry Newman, St Francis Xavier, St John Damascene, St Birinus, St Nicholas, St Ambrose, St Juan Diego, pray for us.

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