



**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](mailto:frdavid.barrett@northamptondiocese.org)

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**

21 <sup>st</sup> January 2024 Psalter Week: 3		Third Sunday of the Year Sunday of the Word of God	
First Reading	Jonah 3:1-5. 10 <i>The people of Nineveh renounce their evil behaviour.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	Lord, make me know your ways.		
Second Reading	1 St Paul to the Corinthians 7:29-31 <i>The world as we know it is passing away.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, Alleluia! The kingdom of God is close at hand; believe the Good News. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Mark 1:14-20 <i>Repent and believe the Good News.</i>		
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> January +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass - (For the Parish)	
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> January +	10.30am	Mass – (Arthur & Kathleen McCarthy RIP)	
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January St Vincent, Deacon & Martyr		No Parish Mass today	
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January Feria	10.00am	Mass – (Leo & Margaret Roche RIP)	
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor		No Parish Mass today	
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January CONVERSION OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE	10.00am	Service of Word Communion	
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January Ss Timothy & Titus, Bishops	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Linda Hewitt RIP)	
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> January St Angela Merici, Virgin	10.00am 10.30am	Mass – (Patrick Cockings RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament With Rosary & Confessions	
Fourth Sunday of the Year			
Saturday – 27 <sup>th</sup> January +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)	
Sunday – 28 <sup>th</sup> January +	10.30am	Mass – (Geoffrey & Olga Ayles RIP)	

## Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £307.06

DCP – £10.00

Average Standing Orders: £553.00

**Total: £870.06**



### SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

- On the Feast of St Jerome in 2019, Pope Francis issued a 'Motu Proprio' instituting the **Sunday of the Word of God** - it is marked each year on the **Third Sunday of Ordinary Time**. The Holy Father proposed the idea at the conclusion of the Year of Mercy when he wrote of a desire to institute a "Sunday given over entirely to the Word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that

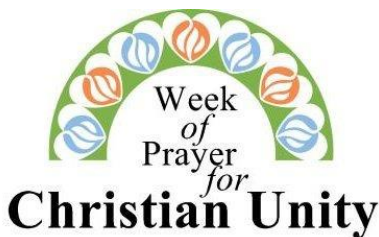
constant dialogue between the Lord and his people." On this day we are encouraged to celebrate the Word of God by the reading of the scriptures. We are blessed in our parish with having a good team of readers and we are asked to pray with them and for them on this special day. Reflecting on the importance of the Word of God, Bishop David said, "It is important for us to allow the Word of God to deepen these mysteries of faith within us to remind us that we are the Church. I have seen so often as a priest that God's word has the power to change lives."



We will beat  
leprosy together

Today, 600 people will be diagnosed with leprosy; 50 of those will be children. Over Three Million people across the globe are living with undiagnosed leprosy. Leprosy is not a disease of the past – it still very much exists today and is still destroying lives. The charity LEPRA is doing great work across the world but they need our prayers and support to continue with their lifesaving work. If you would like to know more about the work of LEPRA or offer your support, please see their website: <https://www.lepra.org.uk/>

## SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND FOR THE WORK OF LEPRA



### OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Began last Thursday and runs until this coming Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January. This year's theme is: '**You shall love the Lord your God – and neighbour as yourself**' (Luke 10:27). We are asked to pray for the unity of all our Christian brothers & sisters across the world – we think especially of the

entire Christian Community here within our parish.

*May they all be one. Father, may they be one in us, as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.*

John 17:21

**CLASSES FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION** Deacon Peter will begin leading Confirmation Preparation in February. The aim is to meet once a month on a Friday at 7.30pm here in the parish hall. The first meeting will begin on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. If there is any young person aged 12 and above who may want to be confirmed, please contact Deacon Peter either by phone (07850 499414) or by email [deaconpeter.griffin@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:deaconpeter.griffin@northamptondiocese.org)



## CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION

### *Passing on the Faith*

***“Have your grandchildren been baptized? Are you concerned about the spiritual life of your grandchildren? Is there anything you can do to help your grandchildren grow in the life of faith?”***

These are some of the concerns of Catholic grandparents, and in the Catholic Grandparents Association we find ways to address these questions when we meet together. Fr David wishes to start a branch of the Association here at Olney, at 2.00pm for one hour on the last Wednesday of every month beginning Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January. For more information, please speak to Fr David, or to Fr Patrick, who will lead the meetings.

**Diocesan Directory 2024** – We have a few copies of this years Diocesan Directory which includes the Ordo - £3.00. If you would like a copy, please contact Denise.

**Diocesan E-Newsletter** - Keep up to date with news and opportunities from across our diocese by signing up to receive updates straight into your inbox. Simply visit: - <https://northamptondiocese.org/signup>

**Brian Emmanuel** - who is part of the Caritas team in Northampton is taking part in the Water Aid Challenge. If anyone would like to donate, please go to: <https://wateraid.enthuse.com/pf/brian-emmanuel>.

### **Thanksgiving Prayers after Holy Communion and Mass**

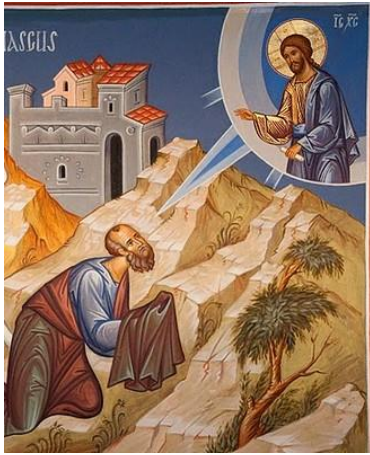
*Prayer of Saint Thomas Aquinas*

I give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
who have been pleased to nourish me, a sinner and your unworthy servant,  
with the precious Body and Blood of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ:  
this through no merits of mine, but due solely to the graciousness of your mercy.  
And I pray that this Holy Communion may not be for me an offense to be punished,  
but a saving plea for forgiveness.  
May it be for me the armour of faith, and the shield of good will.  
May it cancel my faults, destroy concupiscence and carnal passion,  
increase charity and patience, humility and obedience and all the virtues,  
may it be a firm defence against the snares of all my enemies, both visible and invisible,  
the complete calming of my impulses, both of the flesh and of the spirit,  
a firm adherence to you, the one true God, and the joyful completion of my life's  
course.  
And I beseech you to lead me, a sinner, to that banquet beyond all telling,  
where with your Son and the Holy Spirit you are the true light of your Saints,  
fullness of satisfied desire, eternal gladness, consummate delight and perfect  
happiness. Through Christ our Lord.

*Prayer of Saint Ignatius of Loyola*

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty.  
Accept the whole of my memory, my understanding, and my will.  
Whatever I have or possess, it was you who gave it to me;  
I restore it to you in full, and I surrender it completely to the guidance of your will.  
Give me only your love and your grace: that is enough for me. Amen.

From Fr David's desk....



In 2008 Pope Benedict XVI gave a beautiful reflection for the Feast of St Paul's Conversion. Below is the final part of it, which is very beautiful:

This turning point in Paul's life, this transformation of his whole being was not the fruit of a psychological process, of a maturation or intellectual and moral development. Rather it came from the outside: it was not the fruit of his thought but of his encounter with Jesus Christ. In this sense it was not simply a conversion, a development of his "ego", but rather a death and a resurrection for Paul himself. One existence died and another, new one was born with the

Risen Christ. There is no other way in which to explain this renewal of Paul. None of the psychological analyses can clarify or solve the problem. This event alone, this powerful encounter with Christ, is the key to understanding what had happened: death and resurrection, renewal on the part of the One who had shown himself and had spoken to him. In this deeper sense we can and we must speak of conversion. This encounter is a real renewal that changed all his parameters. Now he could say that what had been essential and fundamental for him earlier had become "refuse" for him; it was no longer "gain" but loss, because henceforth the only thing that counted for him was life in Christ. Nevertheless, we must not think that Paul was thus closed in a blind event. The contrary is true because the Risen Christ is the light of truth, the light of God himself.

This expanded his heart and made it open to all. At this moment he did not lose all that was good and true in his life, in his heritage, but he understood wisdom, truth, the depth of the law and of the prophets in a new way and in a new way made them his own. At the same time, his reasoning was open to pagan wisdom. Being open to Christ with all his heart, he had become capable of an ample dialogue with everyone, he had become capable of making himself everything to everyone. Thus, he could truly be the Apostle to the Gentiles.

Turning now to ourselves, let us ask what this means for us. It means that for us to Christianity is not a new philosophy or a new morality. We are only Christians if we encounter Christ. Of course, he does not show himself to us in this overwhelming, luminous way, as he did to Paul to make him the Apostle to all peoples. But we too can encounter Christ in reading Sacred Scripture, in prayer, in the liturgical life of the Church. We can touch Christ's Heart and feel him touching ours. Only in this personal relationship with Christ, only in this encounter with the Risen One do we truly become Christians. And in this way our reason opens, all Christ's wisdom opens as do all the riches of truth.

Therefore, let us pray the Lord to illumine us, to grant us an encounter with his presence in our world, and thus to grant us a lively faith, an open heart and great love for all, which can renew the world.

May Our Lady Help of Christians, Our Lady of Peace, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Mary Vianney, St John Henry Newman, St Agnes, St Vincent, St Francis de Sales, St Paul, Ss Timothy & Titus, St Angela Merica, pray for us.

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