



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

28 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 Psalter Week: 4	Fourth Sunday of the Year Day of Prayer for Racial Justice	
First Reading	Deuteronomy 18:15-20 <i>I will raise up a prophet and I will put my words into his mouth.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	<b>O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.</b>	
Second Reading	1 St Paul to the Corinthians 7:32-35 <i>An unmarried woman can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	<b>Alleluia, Alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!</b>	
Gospel	Mark 1:21-28 <i>He taught them with authority.</i>	
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> January +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass - (For the Parish)
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> January +	10.30am	Mass – (Geoffrey & Olga Ayles RIP)
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January Feria		No Parish Mass today
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January Feria	10.00am	Mass – (Mary Guiry RIP)
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January St John Bosco, Priest		No Parish Mass today
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February Feria	6.45pm	Mass – (Northampton Street Pastors)
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (Candlemas)	10.00am 7.00pm	Mass – (Kath & Harrold Tilley RIP) Mass – (Bridget & Patrick Butler RIP)
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr St Ansgar, Bishop	10.00am 10.30am	Mass – (Fr David's Intentions) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament With Rosary & Confessions
Fifth Sunday of the Year		
Saturday – 3 <sup>rd</sup> February +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday – 4 <sup>th</sup> February +	10.30am	Mass – (Edward Follows – RIP)

**SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND FOR THE WORK OF LEPRA**

## Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £371.50

DCP – £35.00

Average Standing Orders: £553.00

**Total: £959.50**



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/>

**FIRST THURSDAY CLUB** meets again this coming Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 7.30pm, after the 6.45pm Mass. All are welcome. This time we will hear Fr David again talk about **Monasteries, Abbeys and Priors down through the centuries in our area**. Everyone will be welcome!



### THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (CANDLEMAS)

On **Friday** of this week, the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas Day, since the blessing and procession of candles is included in today's liturgy. According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the

Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is referred to as the "Purification of Mary." This is known as a "Christmas feast" since it points back to the Solemnity of Christmas. Many Catholics practice the tradition of keeping out the Nativity Crib or other Christmas decorations until this feast. **Mass will be celebrated here at 10.00am and 7.00pm: if you have any candles you would like to have blessed, please do bring them along.**



**Confirmation Preparation** – Deacon Peter will begin leading Confirmation Preparation this coming **Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 7.30pm** here in the parish hall. If there is any young person aged 12 and above who may want to be confirmed, please contact Deacon Peter – 07850 499414. Please keep our young people in your prayers as they journey towards the Sacrament of Confirmation.



**Our Parish SVP** invite you to **Afternoon Tea on Friday February 9th at 2.30pm**. It's been a long cold winter and we think it would be lovely to get together and enjoy a nice catch up with afternoon tea. We are very happy to provide transport or any other help that you might need. It would be helpful to have an idea of numbers we will leave a list at the back of the church or contact Veronica on 07469 717760 or [veronicatarrant@aol.com](mailto:veronicatarrant@aol.com)

We very much look forward to spending a nice afternoon with you.



## CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION

### *Passing on the Faith*

The first of our meetings of the Catholic Grandparents Association will take place here at Olney, at **2.00pm** for one hour **this coming Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January**. Fr Patrick, who will lead the meetings and everyone will be welcome.



**Northampton Street Pastors** – Are you called to serve people by caring, listening, helping? Come and find out more about what we do at our Open Evening in **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 at 7.30pm** – Salvation Army, 8 Tower Street, Northampton NN1 2SN. For further details: [northampton@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:northampton@streetpastors.org.uk)

If you don't want to join us on the streets, perhaps you could offer prayer for us, our work and the people we meet? You are still welcome to come to the meeting or just let us know that you are going to pray for us.



### Light up Lent! 29<sup>th</sup> February – 7<sup>th</sup> March

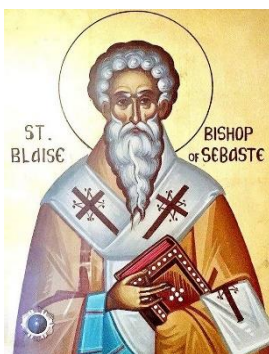
Light up Lent is a week of accompanied prayer, a retreat in everyday life. Begin or deepen your prayer life, get to know the Scriptures better and above all grow in faith and in love for the Lord who loves you. With one-one support each day for a week via Zoom from an experience's prayer guide. The

first webinar is **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 7.30pm until 8.30pm.**

<https://pastoralministryoffice.org/event/lightuplent/>

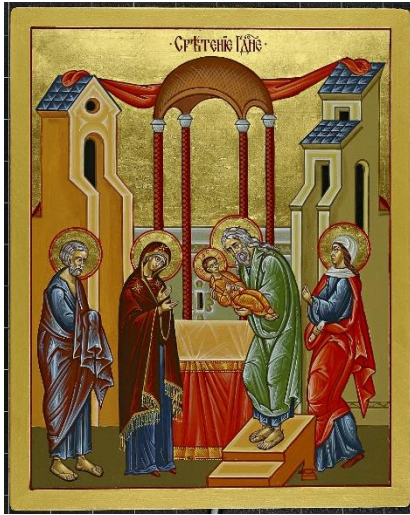
**Vacancy - Northampton Diocese** are currently recruiting for a Pastoral Development Worker to help our pastoral areas identify mission and community needs and to work with local groups. The role will be 37.5 hours per week on a three-year fixed term contract which will involve weekend and evening work. More information and an application form can be found by visiting <https://northamptondiocese.org/jobs/>  
**Closing date 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

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



**St Blaise** - was Bishop of Sivas in Armenia in the fourth century. In the Middle Ages veneration of him spread throughout the Church. Bishop Blaise was martyred in Sebastea, Armenia, in 316. The legendary Acts of St. Blaise were written 400 years later. According to them Blaise was a good bishop, working hard to encourage the spiritual and physical health of his people. Armenia. Legend has it that as the hunters hauled Blaise off to prison, a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blaise's command the child was able to cough up the bone.

From Fr David's desk....



For the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) on 2<sup>nd</sup> February this week, we have the following beautiful sermon by St Sophronius of Jerusalem (560-638): Born in Damascus, Sophronius was an ascetic and monk until 634 when he became Patriarch of Jerusalem. His homily here captures some of the main themes of this lovely Feast. Even if we cannot be at church today, perhaps we can light candles at home to celebrate this Feast and ask that the Light which is Christ shines more brightly in our hearts, our homes, our parish, the whole Church, and the world.

In honour of the divine mystery that we celebrate today, let us all hasten to meet Christ. Everyone should be eager to join the procession and to carry a light.

Our lighted candles are a sign of the divine splendour of the one who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brilliance of his eternal light. Our candles also show how bright our souls should be when we go to meet Christ. The Mother of God, the most pure Virgin, carried the true light in her arms and brought him to those who lay in darkness. We too should carry a light for all to see and reflect the radiance of the true light as we hasten to meet him.

The light has come and has shone upon a world enveloped in shadows; the Dayspring from on high has visited us and given light to those who lived in darkness. This, then, is our feast, and we join in procession with lighted candles to reveal the light that has shone upon us and the glory that is yet to come to us through him. So let us hasten all together to meet our God. The true light has come, the light that enlightens every man who is born into this world. Let all of us, my brethren, be enlightened and made radiant by this light. Let all of us share in its splendour, and be so filled with it that no one remains in the darkness. Let us be shining ourselves as we go together to meet and to receive with the aged Simeon the light whose brilliance is eternal. Rejoicing with Simeon, let us sing a hymn of thanksgiving to God, the Father of the light, who sent the true light to dispel the darkness and to give us all a share in his splendour.

Through Simeon's eyes we too have seen the salvation of God which he prepared for all the nations and revealed as the glory of the new Israel, which is ourselves. As Simeon was released from the bonds of this life when he had seen Christ, so we too were at once freed from our old state of sinfulness. By faith we too embraced Christ, the salvation of God the Father, as he came to us from Bethlehem. Gentiles before, we have now become the people of God. Our eyes have seen God incarnate, and because we have seen him present among us and have mentally received him into our arms, we are called the new Israel. Never shall we forget this presence; every year we keep a feast in his honour.

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 Vincent de Paul, St Thomas Aquinas, St John Bosco, St Blaise, St Ansgar pray for us.

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