



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

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Parish Website: www.ourladysolney.co.uk

Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

parish.olney@northamptondiocese.org

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

Parish Safeguarding: Janet Goodland

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7 th January 2024	The Epiphany of the Lord THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS	
First Reading	Prophet Isaiah 60:1-6 <i>Above you the glory of the Lord appears.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.	
Second Reading	St Paul to the Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6 <i>It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, Alleluia! We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage. Alleluia!	
Gospel	Matthew 2:1-12 <i>We saw his star and have come to do the king homage.</i>	
Saturday 6 th January +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass - (Philomena Nelligan Ints)
Sunday 7 th January +	10.30am	Mass – (Mary Torjussen Ints)
Monday 8 th January THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD		No Parish Mass today
Christmastide Ends Tuesday is the first week of Ordinary Time – Psalter Week 1 Weekday Lectionary: Year 2		
Tuesday 9 th January Feria	10.00am	Mass – (Throckmorton family - Foundation Mass)
Wednesday 10 th January Feria		No Parish Mass today
Thursday 11 th January Feria	6.45pm	Mass – (Frank & Peggy Cockings RIP)
Friday 12 th January St Aelred of Rievaulx - Abbott	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Mary & Patrick Fitzgerald RIP)
Saturday 13 th January St Hilary of Poitiers	10.00am 10.30am	Mass – (Michael Griffin RIP – Anniv.) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament With Rosary & Confessions
<i>Second Sunday of the Year</i>		
Saturday – 13 th January +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday – 14 th January +	10.30am	Mass – (Robin Adnitt RIP)

TEA/COFFEE & REFRESHMENTS AFTER 10.30am MASS THIS SUNDAY

Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £317.33

DCP – £45.00

Average Standing Orders: £553.00

Total: £915.33



Tea and Coffee after Mass – The Parish Social Committee warmly invite you to join them for tea/coffee and refreshments after Mass **this Sunday**. This is a great opportunity to meet other people, particularly if you are new to the parish. Everyone is welcome.

First Thursday Club – The next talk will be **this Thursday 11th at 7.30pm after the 6.45pm Mass**. This week Fr David will offer Part 2 of the history of the Throckmorton family. Everyone welcome.

THE ANNUAL WHITE FLOWER APPEAL AND COLLECTION will be held **next weekend - 13th/14th 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

Thank You!

Mary's Meals would like to thank everyone in the parish for their wonderful generosity in response to our Foreign Currency initiative. It raised **£176.21** which means Mary's Meals will be able to feed 8 children one good meal every school day for a whole year because of your support. Please continue to pray for the work of Mary's Meals. God bless you all.



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 13th/14th April & 27th/28th 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 13th 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



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.

News from the Diocese

Pope's Prayer Intention for January - For the Gift of Diversity in the Church

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church. A video of the Popes prayer intention can be viewed

here: https://youtu.be/joEvaTVtyPI?si=0HX2TDhVvIr_P5Ps

The text of the video can be read in English

here <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2024/01/02/240102b.html>

Mission Northampton - The Secrets of St Paul is a 10-week online course beginning on Wednesday 10th January and finishing on Wednesday 20th March. Participants will have an opportunity to reflect on the life of St Paul as a model missionary disciple. For more information visit www.northamptondiocese.org/courses or call 01604 434362



2024: Year of Prayer – As you will be aware, this year is designated a year of prayer in preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025. At the press conference back in May last year, the pro-prefect for the Dicastery for Evangelisation, H.E. Msgr. Rino Fisichella to introduce the year of prayer said the following: “2024, at the request of Pope Francis, will be dedicated to Prayer. The Church is setting out toward the Jubilee with the intention of

promoting the centrality of Prayer, personal and communal.” As part of our offering to support the year of prayer across our diocese, there are many opportunities being offered this year (and next).



Reflection on the Epiphany of the Lord

Sometimes waiting for a feast or solemnity in the Church's Liturgical Year can feel like waiting for a bus, you wait a long time for one and then we seem to be engulfed in them. It has only been a little short of a fortnight since we welcomed the newly born Jesus into our lives at Christmas and since then we've celebrated The Holy Family; St Stephen; St John of the Cross; The Holy Innocents; St Thomas Beckett; Mary Mother of God and now today The Epiphany of the Lord. So much for us to celebrate in such a relatively short period of time that there can be a real danger that we do not fully immerse ourselves into each celebration in the way that we should.

For many people, the Christmas Season can be a very busy time in their lives – shopping to complete, gifts to buy, cards to write and deliver, homes to prepare to welcome family and friends barely time for us to draw breath let alone to ponder the great mysteries of our faith. Together with the feast of the Epiphany and the following two Sundays, our Gospel readings reveal three of the great '**Epiphanies of Christ**' – the arrival of the Wise Men at Bethlehem, the Baptism of the Lord and the wedding feast at Cana - all of these revelations come to us before Jesus fully begins his ministry.

Reflecting on the Epiphany, I am drawn to the role of the star that guided the three wise men to where they would find Christ. This should remind us of the importance of praying to God to be given that '**inner star**' in our lives – the light of faith – a light that will draw us ever closer to God and to one another – a light that will strengthen our faith in God not simply as something that merely remains on our lips to which we give assent but something that will fundamentally change our lives.

The events in detailed in St Matthew's Gospel on the Epiphany remind us that there is a *real* need for us to '**go to Christ**' and to make our act of faith in Him. But we should not come to Him empty handed – we must come bearing gifts. **Our gift of Gold:** the talents that each of us have been blessed with, the opportunities that have been given to us to strengthen our faith and to be heralds of that faith to those in our lives. **Our gift of Frankincense:** that symbol of worship of God which has to be a fundamental part of our lives – day by day to spend time with God in prayer. And finally, **our gift of Myrrh:** the offering of our lives entirely to God – to be prepared and ready to leave this world when He calls us; to live our lives building up the kingdom of God.

As we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord – when Christ revealed Himself to the world but more significantly to each one of us, we are reminded that it is because of God's great love for us, that we all have it within ourselves to recognise Christ as the Son of God; to recognise His great love for us and to respond with our love for Him by what we say and what we do.

The Christmas story is littered with acts of giving – the giving of Christ to us from God; Mary's giving of herself in response to God's call; the self-giving of Joseph to Mary in a time of great testing; the giving of the lamb to the newly born infant Jesus by the poor Shepherds; the giving of lavish gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh by the wise men – but what of us? What is our gift?

Do we perhaps spend far too much time in our lives worrying about things that we cannot change?

Deacon Peter

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 Aelred, St Hilary pray for us.

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