



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

Fr Patrick Hutton - Retired

Deacon: Rev Peter Griffin – 07850 499414

deaconpeter.griffin@northamptondiocese.org

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

safeguarding.olney@northamptondiocese.org

SVP Contact: 07469 717760

4 th February 2024 Psalter Week: 1		Fifth Sunday of the Year Day of Prayer for Racial Justice	
First Reading	Job 7:1-4. 6-7 <i>Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted		
Second Reading	1 St Paul to the Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23 <i>I should be punished if I did not preach the Gospel.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Mark 1:29-39 <i>He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.</i>		
Saturday 3 rd February +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass - (For the Parish)	
Sunday 4 th February +	10.30am	Mass – (Edward Follows – RIP)	
Monday 5 th February St Agatha – Virgin, Martyr		No Parish Mass today	
Tuesday 6 th February Ss Paul Miki & Companions – Martyrs	10.00am	Mass – (Fr Don Breen RIP)	
Wednesday 7 th February Feria		No Parish Mass today	
Thursday 8 th February St Jerome Emiliani – Priest St Josephine Bakhita - Virgin	10.00am	Service of Word & Communion	
Friday 9 th February Feria	2.00pm	Mass – (Tom (Chas) Harris RIP)	
Saturday 10 th February St Scholastica - Virgin	10.00am 10.30am	Mass – (Mary Torjussen birthday Int. & Ronald Torjussen RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament With Rosary & Confessions	
Sixth Sunday of the Year			
Saturday – 10 th February +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)	
Sunday – 11 th February +	10.30am	Mass – (Sharonne van Reyk RIP)	

PLEASE NOTE: MASS ON FRIDAY THIS WEEK WILL BE AT 2.00pm

Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £430.42

DCP – £55.00

Average Standing Orders: £553.00

Total: £1,038.42

White Flower Appeal: £311.14



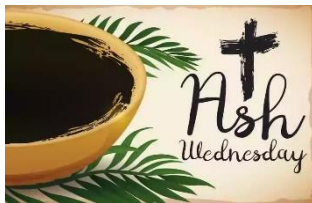
Our Parish SVP invite you to **Afternoon Tea this Friday February 9th at 2.30pm – following the Mass at 2.00pm.** It's been a long cold winter and we think it would be lovely to get together and enjoy a nice catch up with afternoon tea. We are very happy to provide transport or any other help that you 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

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 took place here at Olney last Wednesday. it was a good opportunity to pray, relax and chat about things that were important for all present. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 28th February at 2.00pm. Everyone is welcome!



ASH WEDNESDAY – will be on **Wednesday 14th February.** As is usual, Mass will be celebrated here at Our Lady's at **10am and 7pm** with the distribution of ashes at both Masses. Whilst not a Holy Day of Obligation it remains a most fitting way to begin our Lenten Journey.



Something special for Lent: 'Laudato Si' Study Group

Pope Francis's ground-breaking encyclical letter 'Laudato Si', written in 2015 and addressed to the whole world, is subtitled 'Care for our Common Home' and explores what is happening to God's creation, our environment. If you would like to learn more about it and be part of a discussion group that will meet initially on **Tuesday 20 February, the first Tuesday in Lent, at 7.30 pm** in the parish hall, please add your name to the Sign-Up sheet in the church porch (narthex) or email graham-ryan@sky.com. Everyone is welcome.

ROSARY GATHERING IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES will be held out side Christ the Cornerstone church, 300 Saxon Gate West, Milton Keynes on Monday 12th February at 6.00pm All will be welcome



Sacramental Preparation

Please do keep the young people of parish who are preparing themselves for the Sacraments of Reconciliation; Holy Communion and Confirmation very much in your daily prayers asking the Holy Spirit to guide and protect them.



Thursday 8th February 2024 Day of Prayer for Victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

St Josephine Bakhita (1869-1947) patron saint of victims of slavery and of Sudan. Prayer to St Josephine:

St Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement you found true redemption and, in your encounter with

Christ and His Church.

St Josephine, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery. Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. For all those enslaved, including those who are victims of forced labour, human trafficking, and the survivors, give us the courage and strength to reach out and provide a voice and comfort. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds, may they see you, Sr Josephine, as an example of hope & faith. Amen



Light up Lent! 29th February – 7th 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 1st 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 16th February 2024

CROSSING THE TIBER – ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT BECOMING A CATHOLIC This very useful website has been set up to answer questions from those who want to know more about the Catholic Faith and are searching for answers, searching for the truth. The website gives relational, non-judgmental answer to the questions many give and is an opportunity for dialogue. Please do pass on the link to anyone you know who might be interested: <https://www.crossthetiber.org/>



Sunday Readings Reflection

Job 7:1-4. 6-7

In the whole three-year cycle, there are only two Sunday readings from the moving and tragic Book of Job. The Book describes the problem of sickness and suffering at its most acute: why should I suffer? Job has lost everything - wealth, family, health. He sits on a rubbish-heap, scratching his sores with a broken pot. In this passage from chapter 7 he gives a painful picture of the sick person's frustration - the slow and pointless passage of time, the crazy, distorted imaginings. He feels that God is oppressing him, but yet clings to God as his one hope of release. Undeserved sickness and death are worrying for anyone who believes in a loving God. On the natural plane, sickness is a reminder that things are out of order and could get worse. To the believer it is a reminder that this brilliant, complicated, sophisticated creation cannot continue developing for ever, but must return to God in God's own good time. As Jeremiah explains, the pot cannot complain to the potter, "Why did you make me like this?" But could not a loving God have made something so that it never went wrong.

1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23

As we work through this letter to the Christians of Corinth, we find Paul reflecting on his own task. His teaching is firm enough. Under the compulsion of his divine call, he has no choice but to teach the truth. Yet in his desire to win the Corinthians for Christ, he is sensitive to the needs of all people. Here he has just been giving a ruling on whether it is allowed to eat food which has been dedicated to pagan gods. His first point is that, as these gods do not exist, dedication to them does not affect the food. But his most important point is that you must not upset other people's consciences. In other words, the overriding principle is to be sensitive and caring towards the needs of each person. If we are anxious to do the right thing, we can often be quite hard about acting 'on principle', trampling on the feelings of others without regard for their own sincerely-held beliefs. For Paul the highest principle in his treatment of people is always love.

St Mark 1:29-39

The snippets gathered in the gospel reading give us a sample of Jesus' activity at Capernaum - healing and prayer. The first incident, the healing of the relative of his friend and follower Simon Peter, reminds us that Jesus does respond if we pray for the needs of our nearest and dearest. Then the summary of his evening activity shows his concern to bring healing and wholeness. Any Christian will desire to follow his example: we can harm or heal those around us in so many ways. It does not need to be a miracle! A greeting, a look, a smile, a touch can bring the peace of Christ to someone in desperate need of reassurance - and no less can these actions harm and wound. But the third little story, of Jesus going off to pray in the early morning, shows that the well-spring of all his activity was his union with God whom he called his Father. We cannot say what Jesus' prayer was, any more than I can say what your prayer is, but the confident communication between Father and Son must have been the source of his strength and compassion.

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 Agatha, St Paul Miki & Companions, St Jerome Emiliani, St Josephine Bakhita, St Scholastica, pray for us.

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