

*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**

<b>10<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b> <b>Psalter Week: 4</b>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year B)</i> <i>Laetare</i>		
<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23</b> <i>The wrath and mercy of God are revealed in the exile and in the release of his people.</i>		
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!</b>		
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>St Paul to the Ephesians 2:4-10</b> <i>You who were dead through your sins have been saved through grace.</i>		
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	<b>Glory and praise to you, O Christ! God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son; everyone who believes in him has eternal life. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!</b>		
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>John 3:14-21</b> <i>God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved.</i>		
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March +</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Vigil Mass - (Bernie Wogan RIP)</b>	
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Michael Tarrant RIP)</b>	
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Lent Feria</i>		<b>No Parish Mass</b>	
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Lent Feria</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass – (Bernie Wogan RIP)</b>	
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Lent Feria</i>		<b>No Parish Mass</b>	
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Lent Feria</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass – (Canon Vincent Burrowes RIP)</b>	
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Lent Feria</i>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> <b>Mass – (Fr David's Intentions)</b>	
<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Lent Feria</i>	<b>10.00am</b> <b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Sr Maria Coffey Int.)</b> <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> <b>With Rosary &amp; Confessions</b>	
<i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>			
<b>Saturday – 16<sup>th</sup> March +</b>	<b>5.45pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Confession</b> <b>Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)</b>	
<b>Sunday – 17<sup>th</sup> March +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (RoseAnn &amp; Tom Kiely RIP)</b>	

**Fr David will offer Mass for the Parish for this weekend on Monday at Allen Hall Seminary in London**

## Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £429.05

DCP – £35.00

Average Standing Orders: £464.00

**Total: £928.05**



© Dianne Minnar - SANCTUS SACRED IMAGES

### Stations of the Cross

Throughout Lent we will be praying the 'Stations of the Cross' each **Friday** afternoon at **2.30pm** here at Our Lady's – please do come if you can.

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY** - Our parish continues to provide very meaningful generosity to those people struggling in far off corners of the world. We have a wonderful **£693.50** to send to Liberia. Thank you for your continued support.  
CAFOD Parish Group



### Something special for Lent: 'Laudato Si' Study Group

Our parish study group on Pope Francis's encyclical letter 'Laudato Si', written to encourage care for God's creation, our environment. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm** in the parish hall. If you were unable to make previous meetings you will still be very welcome to attend. Copies of 'Laudato Si' can be downloaded from the CAFOD website or purchased from the CTS. – <https://www.ctsbooks.org/>

**TRAINING FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION** - To complete training for giving out Holy Communion at Mass and to the sick, we will have a final training session **next Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 11.30am**, aiming to end by 1.00pm.



### SVP – ST PATRICK'S DAY

Everyone is invited to a special St Patrick's Day Coffee (with a bit of a kick) after the 10.30am Mass **next Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March** to celebrate the feast of St Patrick and to say thank you from the SVP for your continued support in a variety of ways. Your help enables us to both continue our work and to expand into other areas as the need arises.

Thanks to the anonymous donor who donates to us and others too who give so generously of their time and financial help. We now use some of the food you donate to the Food Bank to help a local family in need – this is very much appreciated. We look forward to seeing you on St Patrick's Day

**CALLING ALL MEN IN THE PARISH** – The Choir needs you! The choir needs to have a few more male voices to help with the singing this Easter. If you would like to help, then come to the choir practices which are taking place on Mondays at 7.30pm in the church.

**NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH – 10<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March** – The Novena is wonderful and powerful way of praying over nine days and the Mill Hill Missionaries have provided us with leaflets for the Novena leading up to the Solemnity of St Joseph on 19<sup>th</sup> March. These are available in the porch.

**MASS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES** – The next Mass for people with disabilities and their families is being held **next Sunday at 3.00pm – Sacred Heart Church, Luton.**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent – Gospel Reflection John 3.14-21** - Throughout our time in the desert this Lent, Bishop David will accompany us each week with a short reflection on the Sunday's Gospel. You can view/listen to this via the Diocesan website: <https://northamptondiocese.org/>



## Parish Social Committee

**Lenten Breakfast** - On **Friday 15th March** the Social Committee will be hosting a Lenten Breakfast after the 10:00 am Mass - please do join us for a light breakfast and raffle. All proceeds will go to Mary's Meals a global charity that aims to provide nutritious meals for children in an educational setting. Everyone welcome. Please fill in the sheet at the back of church just so we have an idea of numbers. Transport can be arranged. For those unable to make the breakfast raffle tickets will be available to purchase in advance.



**Penance Service for Holy Week** – as part of our parish preparations for the great feast of Easter, there will be a Penitential Service here at Our Lady's on **Wednesday evening 27<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm** - Fr David has invited three other priests to join him and encourages us all to avail ourselves of this great sacrament of grace and forgiveness.



## CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION *Passing on the Faith*

**Many thanks to all who came to our last meeting and to those who helped provide tea and coffee. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00pm in the parish hall.**

**SAFEGUARDING REPORT PUBLISHED** - In November 2023, our diocese was the focus of a Safeguarding audit undertaken by the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency. The key findings of this audit are that the Diocese of Northampton is at the overall grading of Comprehensive Assurance at this time. Exemplary practice was seen in respect of the compassionate and innovative ways in which the Diocese seeks to engage with, and support, victim-survivors. This was a planned audit in line with recommendations presented in the final report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, ICCSA published in 2022. Bishop David is encouraging us all to read the Executive Summary – you can view this under the 'News & Press' tab on the diocesan website: <https://northamptondiocese.org/>

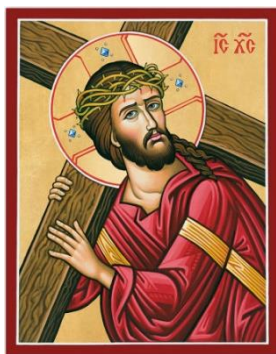
## WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN TO PRAY AS THE EARLY CHRISTIANS PRAYED?

If so, you can make use of a free online course of talks by David Torkington. David has been for many years writing about the deeper kind of prayer which is available to all believers – contemplative prayer. This was the prayer of Jesus Himself and of all the early Christians. Why not try the course of talks and see – “Come and see,” says Jesus in the Gospel of St John. You will find the talks at the following:

<https://essentialistpress.com/prayer-to-contemplation-series/>



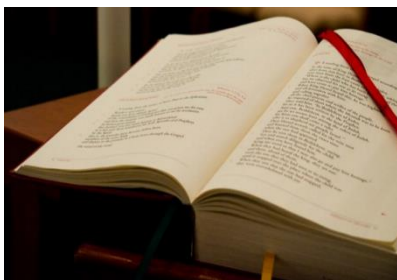
*Thought for the Week:* Our Father! Let us repeat this prayer often during Lent; let us repeat it with deep emotion. By calling God “Our Father,” we will better realise that we are his children and feel that we are brothers and sisters of one another. **Pope St John Paul II**



### Lenten Prayer for Sundays

Take some time to pray this each Sunday of Lent either on your own or as a family. Use it to recommit to having your best Lent ever through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving:

**Heavenly Father, as I enter another week of my Lenten journey, guide me to the path that leads to you. Fill my heart with gratitude, patience, strength, and peace as I strive to become the best-version-of-myself, honestly admitting my shortcomings and sins. As I renew my resolve each day to become a better person, let me hear your voice in the deepest reaches of my heart. Give me rest in you and help me to accept others, showing them your great love instead of casting judgment. Stay with me through the busy days this week and remind me that when I need comfort, solitude, wisdom, or guidance, I can always turn to you. Help me develop discipline and generosity through fasting and almsgiving, and come closer to you through prayer this Lent. Amen.**



### Gospel Reflection - St John 3:14-21

After Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus comes this reflection on Nicodemus' visit. Is it Jesus' reflection or the evangelists? The text does not make it clear.

Throughout the gospel of John people are coming to Jesus and judging themselves by their reactions to Jesus. The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to

the Son. In his turn the Son does not judge, but we judge ourselves by our reaction to him. So, at the wedding at Cana the disciples believe in him and see his glory.

In the Temple the Jews refuse belief and are condemned. Then comes Nicodemus in secret and in fear. At this point he is sitting on the fence, afraid of the Pharisees - but by the time of the burial he has decided for Jesus. After Nicodemus the Samaritan woman approaches Jesus. Cheeky and unbelieving at first, she is won over by Jesus' playful persistence. And so on - the Jews on one side, the man healed at the Pool of Bethzatha on the other: the Jews on one side, the man blind from birth on the other.

The decision is ours too.

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, pray for us.

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