



## 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

Third Sunday of Lent (Year B)		
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024</b> <b>Psalter Week: 3</b>		
<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Exodus 20:1-17</b> The Law was given through Moses	
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.</b>	
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>1 St Paul to the Corinthians 1:22-25</b> Here we are preaching a crucified Christ, an obstacle to men, but to those who are called, the wisdom of God.	
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	<b>Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord, whoever believes in me will never die. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!</b>	
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>John 2:13-25</b> Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.	
<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March +</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Vigil Mass - (For the Parish)</b>
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Lynda Ferguson RIP)</b>
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>St Casimir - Confessor</b>		<b>No Parish Mass</b>
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Lent Feria</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass – (Foundation Mass – Throckmorton Family)</b>
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Lent Feria</b>		<b>No Parish Mass</b>
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Ss Perpetua &amp; Felicity - Martyrs</b>	<b>6.45pm</b>	<b>Mass – (James Leahy Ints.)</b>
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>St John of God - Religious</b>	<b>9.15am 10.00am</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Thanksgiving for Olney Parish)</b>
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>St Frances of Rome, Religious</b>	<b>10.00am 10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (David Beadle RIP &amp; Maureen Beadle Ints.) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament With Rosary &amp; Confessions</b>
<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent - Laetare</b>		
<b>Saturday – 9<sup>th</sup> March +</b>	<b>5.45pm 6.30pm</b>	<b>Confession Vigil Mass – (Bernie Wogan RIP)</b>
<b>Sunday – 10<sup>th</sup> March +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Michael Tarrant RIP)</b>

## Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £343.41

DCP – £20.00

Average Standing Orders: £464.00

Total: £827.41



© Dianne Minnaar 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.

**Third Sunday of Lent – Gospel Reflection John 2:13-25** - 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/>



### 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 5<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 on **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 on **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.

**THE FIRST THURSDAY DISCUSSION CLUB** meets this coming week on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, at 7.30pm** after Mass which starts at 6.45pm. **Simon Lee** will lead a discussion of **John Bunyan**, another great writer from this area, about 100 years before John Newton and William Cowper, and a little further away, although still in what is now our diocese of Northampton. He was born in Elstow, Bedford, in 1628, served for three years in the army in Newport Pagnell, spent twelve years in Bedford County Gaol while imprisoned for his preaching, and published his most famous work, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, in 1678. It is not complimentary about Catholicism but, in the run-up to the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth, what do we have in common with, and what can we learn from, this Great Dissenter, Non-Conformist and Puritan preacher?



## CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION Passing on the Faith

Many thanks to all who came last Wednesday 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.**



Dates  
for your Diary

## 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.

**Bring and Share Lunch** - This year's bring and share lunch will be on **Sunday September 8th** after 10:30 Mass to celebrate the birthday of Our Lady. Please save the date. More details nearer the time.

**MASS INTENTIONS** – If you would like a Mass said for a particular intention please contact Denise – there are available dates during April.



## Return to Our Lady

The world grapples with a great disease. A war rages in Europe. A new invasion of Palestine threatens to unsettle the Middle East. Theological confusion darkens the hearts of the faithful. A bishop writes: "Unless the hand of God intervenes directly... all will be lost." The year is 1531: God does intervene. Almost 500 hundred years ago the world faced many of the same problems as it does today. Back then, through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, God intervened.

Cardinal Raymond Burke from America is embarking on a nine-month novena to the Virgin Mary to intercede "against the pressing crisis of our age" – and he is calling on Catholics around the world to join him. The Novena will commence in March and conclude on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. You can see more about this by going to: <https://novena.cardinalburke.com/>

**Peace of Mind** – another You Tube video that is well worth a visit can be found on:

<https://youtu.be/ZI5Ri-MNKVI?si=KM1t8SSncEyvzxOIQ>



**Thought for the Week:** "Almost always when we talk about prayer, we are thinking of something that we do. Prayer is essentially what God does, how God addresses us, how God looks at us... not something we are doing to God... giving to God, but what God is doing for us"

Sr Ruth Burrows – Quidenham Carmel, Norfolk

### Third Sunday of Lent – Gospel Reflection

St John 2:13-25

According to St John, this scene took place at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, on the first of Jesus' four visits to Jerusalem.

At each subsequent visit the Temple authorities lay in wait for Jesus, increasingly keen to eliminate him, but unable to do so till his Hour had come. The other gospels place both this incident and all other scenes of Jesus in Jerusalem as the final climax of Jesus' ministry. Whichever is correct, the incident is the basic cause of Jesus' arrest and his tortured death.

By his action Jesus had demonstrated that the worship carried out in the Temple had become vain in God's eyes owing to its lack of integrity and must be superseded. To the Temple authorities this was intolerable, and he must be removed. Again, Jesus demanded a complete reversal of standards.

His puzzling saying about building the Temple anew in his body was at last understood by his disciples after his resurrection when they realised it meant the Temple that was his Body, the Church. The material building which had been the centre of worship was no longer important.

Henceforth all worship would take place in any place, but within the Christian community. The community - or the Church - was now the place of sanctification and of prayer to God.

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 Casimir, Ss Perpetua & Felicity, St John of God, St Frances of Rome pray for us.

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