

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

31st March 2024	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord He is Risen! – Alleluia, Alleluia!	
First Reading	Acts of the Apostles 10:34. 37-43 <i>We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.	
Second Reading	St Paul to the Colossians 3:1-4 <i>You must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Christ our Passover, has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord. Alleluia!	
Gospel	John 20: 1-9 <i>He must rise from the dead.</i>	
Saturday 30th March +	8.00pm	Easter Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection <i>(John & Kathleen Mullan RIP)</i>
Sunday 31st March +	10.30am	Mass – (Pro Populo)
	12 noon	Divine Mercy Novena
Easter Octave		
Monday 1st April <i>of Easter Octave</i>	7.00pm	Mass (Father John Taylor RIP)
	7.30pm	Divine Mercy Novena
Tuesday 2nd April <i>of Easter Octave</i>	10.00am	Mass - (Maureen Maloney Ints.)
	10.30am	Divine Mercy Novena
Wednesday 3rd April <i>of Easter Octave</i>	10.00am	Mass (Canon Anthony Dolan RIP)
	10.30am	Divine Mercy Novena
Thursday 4th April <i>of Easter Octave</i>	10.00am	Mass – (Ken Canfor RIP)
	10.30am	Divine Mercy Novena
Friday – 5th April <i>of Easter Octave</i>	10.00am	Service of Word & Communion
	10.30am	Divine Mercy Novena
Saturday – 6th April <i>of Easter Octave</i>	10.00am	Mass – (Hugh Mullholland RIP)
	10.30am	Divine Mercy Novena
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Low Sunday) Divine Mercy Sunday		
Saturday – 6th April +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday – 7th April +	10.30am	Mass – (Sonia van Reyk Ints.)



Fr David, Fr Patrick, Fr Malcolm,
Deacon Peter, the Sisters, and Denise wish you, your families, and friends a
very Blessed and Happy Easter. God bless you all!



Easter Offering - as is customary, the Easter Offering is your personal gift to our Parish Priest, Fr David. If you wish to contribute, please either put this in the planned giving envelope or a plain envelope and mark it 'Easter Offering' – if using online banking please insert 'Easter Fr David' in the description or you can use the Digital Collection Plate in the narthex. Thank you

Note from Fr David ... A sincere thank you from Fr David to everyone who worked so hard in so many ways to prepare our church for the worthy celebration of Holy Week and the sacred Triduum. God bless you all!



Altar Servers – we extend our sincere thanks to our team of Altar Servers who did such a splendid job throughout Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum. This is a wonderful Ministry of the Church for our young people (and not so young!) – if you would like to become an Altar Server or would like to know more of what is involved, please speak with Deacon Peter.

Note from Deacon Peter... Last Thursday at the Chrism Mass, Bishop David, together with other priests from the Diocese, renewed their priestly promises. I find this to be a very special moment in the Mass when we are reminded of the special part that our priests play in our daily lives as Co-workers with our Bishop. Here in our Parish, Fr David continues to be a very faithful and true shepherd of Christ and we are very blessed to have such a fine Parish Priest here in Olney – thank you so much Fr David for all that you do for us. We pray that you will be greatly blessed this Easter and always. As we bask in the joys of Easter, we hope and pray that you will find peace and time to rest (*and of course lots of Red Velvet Cake! plus time away from that 'wretched' Deacon!*) God bless you Fr David.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES - New envelopes are **now available** for collection in the porch. Anyone who no longer requires them or if you are new to the parish and would like a set please contact Denise.

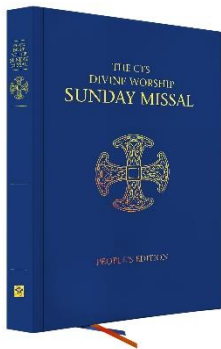
FIRST THURSDAY CLUB After considering history and literature of earlier centuries, our **First Thursday Discussion Club** on 4th April at 7.30 pm turns to church music of the twentieth century, looking at the distinguished musician, Sir Thomas Armstrong (1898 - 1994), who was born in Peterborough and who lived in retirement in Newton Blossomville, where he was active in choral music, and then in Olney. He kindly stepped in to play the organ for us at Our Lady's, Olney, for six months in the late 1980s, when he

was ninety years old. Anyone who came across Sir Thomas in our church or in the town of Olney or Newton Blossomville or beyond would be welcome to tell us their memories. Following the success of the a cappella rendition of *To Be A Pilgrim* at the end of our March meeting, we will conclude with an opportunity to learn and join in the descant Sir Thomas composed for *O Little Town of Bethlehem*. If that seems unseasonal, a theme of the hour, introduced by Simon Lee, will be The Road to Emmaus, of recognising divine gifts on our journey as a parish. Sir Thomas had been the Principal of the Royal Academy of Music but everyone who helps out in the parish has gifts for which we should be truly grateful.



First Holy Communion – Confirmation – please keep the young people of our parish who are preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation very much in your daily prayers. We are delighted to inform you that Bishop David will be visiting our parish on **Monday 22nd July at 7.00pm** to celebrate our Confirmation Mass – this will be a wonderful occasion for our **15**

Confirmandi, their families, friends and of course our parish community - more details to follow.



SUNDAY MISSAL/WEEKLY MISSAL – the Catholic Bishops of England & Wales have approved the use of a new translation of the Lectionary which is to be taken into use on the First Sunday of Advent this year (1st December). The new Lectionary will consist of four volumes (currently three volumes) – a revised Book of the Gospels will also be taken into use. The Catholic Truth Society (CTS) have been appointed as publishers but are yet to announce the price of the new books although they do say they are expected to cost ‘several hundred pounds.’ We will be arranging fund raising events in the

parish to enable us to purchase these new books – watch this space! In the meantime, if you are thinking of purchasing a Sunday Missal or Weekday Missal you are strongly advised to wait until the new books are published as the readings will be changing. We are expecting further details after Easter so we will keep you updated.



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 24th April at 2.00pm** in the parish hall. All welcome!

LORD TEACH US TO PRAY CONFLICT IN SYRIA – **Jean Khoury** is a well known speaker who helps Catholics to learn how to pray with the heart – with the whole self. He has founded the School of Mary as way of helping us to learn the basics of prayer and also the deeper journey that personal prayer leads us to – to union with God. This is something that is open to all Catholics. The following YouTube link will take you to the first of three talks Jean gave recently at the Catholic parish in Henley-on-Thames. It is well worth listening to: https://youtu.be/gUlogyNjGRo?si=XnHoIU_6cbtXXisU
I would hope that we can have him come to our parish to talk to us in the near future. The website of the School of Mary can be found at <https://schoolofmary.org>



Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song. ~Pope John Paul II

Reflection on today's Gospel reading ~ John 20:1-9
"They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we don't know where they have put him."



Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The

details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling - she assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen but she does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (*it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body*).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them.

Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, Our Lady Mother of God and Mother of the Church, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, pray for us all as we bask in the joys of Easter.

With our love and prayers, Fr David, Fr Patrick, and Deacon Peter