



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

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

Christus surrexit vere, alleluia

14 th April 2024 Psalter Week 3	Third Sunday of Easter	
First Reading	Acts of the Apostles 3.13-15. 17-19 <i>You killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.	
Second Reading	St John 2: 1-5 <i>He is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us. Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us. Alleluia!	
Gospel	Luke 24:35-48 <i>So, you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead.</i>	
Saturday 13th April +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday 14th April +	10.30am	Mass – (Charlie Creed RIP)
Monday 15th April <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today
Tuesday 16th April <i>Feria</i>	10.00am	Mass - (Mary O'Sullivan RIP)
Wednesday 17th April <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today
Thursday 18th April <i>Feria</i>	9.00am	Service of Word & Communion
Friday – 19th April <i>Feria</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Eileen Barrett Ints.)
Saturday – 20th April <i>Feria</i>	10.00am 11.30am	Mass – (Deceased DHS Associates RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament With Rosary & Confessions
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER		
Saturday – 20th April +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday – 21st April +	10.30am	Mass – (Family & Friends of the Ayles family – Ints.)

NB Service of Word & Holy Communion on Thursday will be at 9.00am

Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £500.47

DCP – £30.00

Average Standing Orders: £464.00

Total: £994.47

Second Collection Next Weekend for the Priest Training Fund

Judy Ashford RIP – we are very grateful to David & his family for the very generous donation to the parish of Judy's piano – an instrument on which she composed many pieces of wonderful music not least a Mass setting that we regularly use in the celebration of Mass here. We continue to hold Judy in our love and prayers.

Are you new to our Parish? – if you have recently moved into our parish could you please contact our Parish Secretary, Denise, in order that she can register your details.



Gardeners Diary

Terry has again been very busy throughout the autumn & winter months cultivating seeds & plants to adorn our gardens and patios this spring/summer. You are invited to share in the fruits of his labours by supporting the two plant sales that he has organized after the Sunday

Mass on the following dates:

April 28th - sale of over-wintered, garden ready, perennial summer flowering plants

May 26th - Annual spring sale of summer bedding plants.



Northampton

All donations to **Northampton Street Pastors** - Street Pastors are Christian volunteers from local churches (including our own Church) who provide care, support, and help to people using Northampton Town Centre on Friday and Saturday nights.



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 and will explore, "How well do we know our grandchildren?" All welcome!

Diocesan Life in the Spirit Seminars – 16th April – 24th May 2024

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Northampton Diocese team are organizing a series of talks & discussions to be held in the Cathedral with 'live streaming' to selected hubs across the diocese. Further information & registration can be found by going to:

<https://northamptondiocese.org/life-in-the-spirit-seminars-2024/>

SVP HEALING MASS will take place on **Saturday 18th May 18 at 12.00pm (noon)**. It is an opportunity to pray for healing and, for those who need it, to receive the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. It will be followed by lunch afterwards. Everyone will be very welcome.



Altar Servers – amongst the many blessings in our parish are our team of Altar Servers who do such a splendid job serving Our Lord at His Altar. This is a wonderful Ministry of the Church for our young people (and not so young!) and we would like to increase the size of our team. If you would like to become an Altar Server or would like to know more of what is involved, please speak with Deacon Peter.



Parish Choir – we are truly blessed in our parish to have such a dedicated group of parishioners who form our Parish Choir – their contribution greatly enhances the celebration of the Liturgy. If you would like to join the Choir or find out what is involved, please do speak with Nick, Eva or any choir member – you will be made very welcome. The choir are particularly looking to enrol more male voices into the choir. As St Augustine once wrote – ‘He who sings prays twice’



Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham – 8th June 2024 -

Bishop David will be leading the annual diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham this year. Walsingham is renowned as one of the most important Marian pilgrimage sites in the United Kingdom, with a history dating back to the 11th century. The pilgrimage to Walsingham is a way for Catholics to express their devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and seek her intercession. There is no need to book with the Catholic Shrine or the Diocese of Northampton for this pilgrimage. The Walsingham Pilgrimage Director is Deacon Michael Fleming and he can be contacted on deaconmichael.flemming@northamptondiocese.org

Faith Summer Break 2024
 11-15 yrs
 Monday 12th - Thursday 15th August
 St Mary's School, Ascot, SL5 9JF.
 Faith Movement is a Catholic charity helping children grow in faith and friendship.
 Inspiring talks, discussion, daily Mass and prayer, football, activities & a trip to THORPE PARK!
 Cost = £200 inc. accommodation, meals, sports, crafts, games, coach & Thorpe Park entry.
 Spending money required for tuck shop & Thorpe Park.
 Booking Deadline - 26th July '24!
 See www.faith.org.uk

Faith Summer Break 2024 – An exciting conference for young people (11yrs – 15yrs) is being organised by ‘Faith Movement’ a Catholic Charity helping children to grow in faith and friendship. This is being held at **St Mary’s School, Ascot** – a Roman Catholic independent school. The dates are **Monday 12th August – Thursday 15th August. Inspiring Talks – discussion – daily Mass and Prayer – fun activities plus a trip to Thorpe Park.** The cost is £200 which includes accommodation, meals, sports, crafts, games plus coach

and entry to Thorpe Park. **Booking Deadline: 26th July 2024.** This is a good opportunity to attend a very organised and good conference for our young people. Further information available on: www.faith.org.uk

Thought for the week - Even on the cross He did not hide Himself from sight; rather, He made all creation witness to the presence of its Maker.

St Athanasius of Alexandria

SUNDAY READING REFLECTIONS

Acts 3:13-15. 17-19 - This reading is the final section of Peter's speech to the people of Jerusalem after Pentecost, when he is explaining to the crowds the significance of the first miracle worked by the apostles in the power of the Spirit. Like all the speeches in Acts, it is not a word-For-word, tape-recorded report, but is a sample of Peter's preaching to the people. He lays the blame for Jesus' rejection squarely on them, but shows that it was just as scripture had foretold. All of the speeches end with an invitation to repent. This does not mean simply to get all weepy about past sins, thinking 'how dreadful and wicked I have been'. It means that the listeners (and this includes us) must change our ways and adopt God's system of values (as fully revealed by the Risen Christ). To convert means that, whereas before I was going in one direction, now I turn round and go in another. Then the way I look at the world becomes different: I see things from a different angle – from God's, from Christ's angle. This sort of conversion does not so much look at the past with regret as look at the future with confidence. It is the new determination that allows God to wipe out our sins.

1 John 2:1-5 - This second reading advances a step further beyond the first. The first is about conversion, the second about blotting out former failures. Jesus Christ is our Advocate with the Father, 'standing at the right hand of the Father', because he takes our sins away. How does he do this? By his act of obedience on the Cross, Jesus wipes out the disobedience of Adam, that is, of all humanity. Adam (which is the Hebrew word meaning 'man') is the figure of all humanity, and Adam's sin is the symbol of all human sin, a sort of 'prequel' of all sin, an act of turning away from God, of independence and disobedience. On the Cross, Jesus was perfectly united to the Father, in an act of utter obedience in love, to which the Father in love responds, with a renewal of love for all humanity. For us, too, it is true that if we know God, if we have any appreciation of God and any personal bond to God, we cannot but obey him. God's commands are not arbitrary, but are the way of keeping close to him. By the command of love God reveals himself and invites us to be like him.

St Luke 24:35-48 - The two disciples had met Jesus on their way to Emmaus. There Jesus had used the Eucharistic meal to reveal himself to them, for the Eucharist is always an occasion for us to get to know the Risen Christ better. Now he meets the whole group of disciples in their refuge, the Upper Room. It is perhaps an account of the same incident that we heard last Sunday, but with different emphasis. Now the stress is on the meeting with a real person, and not with a ghost. That is why Jesus eats a piece of fish. The important lesson of this is that, in our resurrection to true life, it is the whole person that is raised, not just the soul. Christian teaching is that a person is an animated body. We work out our salvation with fingers and toes and other bodily members, and all will be raised to life. It is not just a matter of thoughts and intentions! The whole body is baptised into Christ and is the instrument of our salvation. The body will be changed, and St Paul reminds us that we should not get bogged down with worrying about what sort of body we will have at the resurrection, but rejoice that each of us will be raised as a whole person.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, Our Lady of Walsingham, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, pray for us all as we continue to bask in the joys of Easter.

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