



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

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Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

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Christus surrexit vere, alleluia

28 th April 2024 Psalter Week 1	Fifth Sunday of Easter	
First Reading	Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31 <i>Barnabus explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul on his journey.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.	
Second Reading	1 St John 3:18-24 <i>His commandments are these: that we believe in his Son and that we love one another.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty. Alleluia!	
Gospel	John 15: 1-8 <i>Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.</i>	
Saturday 27 th April +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Una Kearns RIP)
Sunday 28 th April +	10.30am	Mass – (Pro Populo)
Monday 29 th April St Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor		No Parish Mass today
Tuesday 30 th April St Pius V, Pope	10.00am	Mass - (Oliver Jackson – Healing)
Wednesday 1 st May St Joseph the Worker		No Parish Mass today
Thursday 2 nd May St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor	6.45pm	Mass – (Bishop Peter's 80 th Birthday Ints)
Friday – 3 rd May Ss PHILIP & JAMES, Apostles	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Anthony Bonner RIP)
Saturday – 4 th May THE ENGLISH MARTYRS	10.00am	Mass – (Valerie Burgess Ints.)
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER		
Saturday – 4 th May +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday – 5 th May +	10.30am	Mass – (Anthony & Eddie Bagg RIP)

Emergency CAFOD Collection for Sudan this weekend.

Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £355.80

DCP – £50.00

Average Standing Orders: £464.00

Total: £869.00

Emergency CAFOD Collection for Sudan this weekend - Millions of families in Sudan forced to flee their homes amid conflict now face yet another urgent crisis – extreme hunger. Please give to CAFOD's Sudan Crisis appeal either in church or at cafod.org.uk/sudanappeal.

Next Weekend – Second Collection for the Diocesan Sick & Retired Clergy

First Thursday Club – this coming Thursday at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. This month's talk is on **The Panacea Society** - everyone welcome!

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.



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.



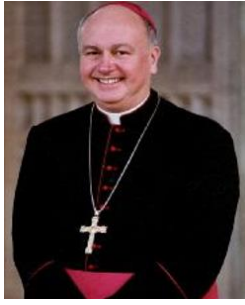
Sr Margaret Geraghty RIP

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Sr Margaret who returned to the Lord on Friday 12th April 2024. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated here at Our Lady's on **Friday 10th May at 11.00am**.

Please pray for the repose of her soul and for her family, the Sisters here at St Joseph's and Burlington Hall and the wider community of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit. Requiescat in Pace.

SVP Healing Mass – SVP Healing Mass on the 180th anniversary of the SVP will be celebrated by Fr David on Saturday May 18th at midday and will be followed by lunch. It would help us with the catering if you could let us know if you will be joining us for lunch. We hope you will also please let us know if you would like transport. Please contact either by phone on 07469 71 77 60 or by email on veronicatarrant@aol.com

Thank you - from Fr Tony Chantry, Missio National Director. In 2023 Our Lady's raised **£1214.56** through the Red Boxes and individuals giving directly. Many thanks for your continued generosity.



Archbishop Kevin McDonald – On Thursday next, 2nd May, Archbishop Kevin McDonald, will be celebrating the twenty-third anniversary of his Episcopal Ordination as the 11th Bishop of Northampton. Please do keep him in your prayers along with Bishop Emeritus, Peter Doyle (12th Bishop of Northampton) and of course Bishop David Oakley our current Bishop (13th Bishop of Northampton).



Bishop Emeritus Peter Doyle – this coming **Friday 3rd May**, Bishop Peter will be celebrating his 80th Birthday. Mass will be offered for his intentions here at Our Lady's on Thursday evening at 6.45pm – please do keep Bishop Peter in your prayers thanking God for his priestly and episcopal ministry, particularly here in our Diocese of Northampton.

Ad Multos Annos

A Year of Encounter - with a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. A Year of Encounter is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter for more information, including online sessions on **Saturday 4th May** to learn more.



The Beatified Martyrs of England & Wales

During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries innumerable men and women from England and Wales suffered persecution for the ancient faith of their country. Many gave their lives for the supremacy of the Pope, the unity of the Church and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Of these martyrs forty-two have now been canonised.

Some one hundred and sixty others have been declared Blessed, and their common celebration is kept on **4th May**.



CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Passing on the Faith

Many thanks to all who came to our last meeting and to those who provided tea and coffee. The next meeting will be **Wednesday 29th May at 2.00pm** in the parish hall. All welcome!

Thought for the Week: Violence and arms can never resolve the problems of men.

Pope St John Paul II

Sunday Reading Reflections

Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31 - This reading is the first news that we have had that the Church has spread beyond Jerusalem. Paul has received his vision of the Risen Christ and has joined the disciples, being baptised at Damascus. Then, according to his letters, he went off to Arabia for three years before going up to Jerusalem. Paul's arguing with the Hellenists (or Greeks) is a foretaste of his bringing the Gospel to those beyond the borders of Judaism. His fearless proclamation of the gospel message, both in Damascus and in Jerusalem, is a characteristic of the work undertaken by the early missionary. We have already come across it when Peter preached the message before the Jewish authorities. It will continue throughout the Acts of the Apostles, even till the end, when we see Paul proclaiming the message during his captivity in Rome. How are we to spread the gospel fearlessly? Perhaps when we courageously uphold Christian principles in moral behaviour (such as the protection of life, the rights of the poor and disadvantaged), and fearlessly face the issues of justice, war and peace, and sexual morality. But our proclamation must also be made in love and charity.

1 John 3:18-24 - St John describes two commandments, and these will dominate the rest of the letter. They are not exactly the classic two commandments of the Law, reiterated by Jesus, to love God above all and our neighbour as ourselves. The two commandments of God here are firstly to believe in the power or name of the Risen Christ, and secondly to love one another. One might say that belief in the power of the Risen Christ is an application of love for God, an aspect which is especially relevant during Eastertide. The saving power of Christ flows out from God's care for us, and belief in it must both be a response in love within us and provoke love and gratitude. It must also make us fearless before God, full of the love which casts out fear, since the power of Christ's resurrection is a guarantee of God's acceptance of Christ's sacrifice for us; it saves us from our own sin and disobedience, and helps us face a hostile world with the fearlessness of which we heard in Paul's preaching in the first reading. It must also inspire fulfilment of the second commandment, love of neighbour. Such belief, issuing in love, is the basis of our understanding that the Spirit is dwelling within us.

John 15:1-8 - A vine is an extraordinary plant. It can grow to a huge size, spreading over a wide area, a whole garden wall or trelliswork, from one single root, and producing a rich sap which yields grapes at the end of countless little branches. And then there is the business of pruning: cut it back thoroughly on all its many shoots and tendrils, and it seems only more determined to grow thick and strong. So, the vine was the symbol of Israel, drawing from the Lord a sap which penetrated to all its shoots, and lovingly pruned by the gardener in a way which best encouraged its growth. The image was taken over by Jesus for his own community, the new Israel. Pairing with last week's picture of the good shepherd, it is one of the greatest of Jesus' images. It perfectly sums up the two emphases of this Sunday's other two readings. The only source of fruitful energy for the Christian is union with and dependence on the life flowing from Christ. Without that, the branches wither and die; a trimming cut off from a vine no longer has any chance of life. The vine itself at pruning season looks stark, rough, and suffering. It is in fact bursting with new life.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, St Catherine of Sienna, St Pius V, Ss Philip & James, the beatified English Martyrs, 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