



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

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Parish Website: www.ourladysolney.co.uk

Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

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St Joseph's Convent – Sr Eileen Gorman DHS - 01234 711267

Parish Safeguarding: Janet Goodland

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7th April 2024 Psalter Week 2	Second Sunday of Easter Low Sunday – (Divine Mercy Sunday)	
First Reading	Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35 <i>United, heart and soul.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	Give thanks to the Lord for as no end.	
Second Reading	St John 5:1-6 <i>Anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy those who have not seen and yet believe.' Alleluia!	
Gospel	John 20:19-31 <i>Eight days later, Jesus came.</i>	
Saturday 6th April +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday 7th April +	10.30am	Mass – (Sonia van Reyk Ints.)
Monday 8th April THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD <i>(Transferred from 25th March)</i>		No Parish Mass today
Tuesday 9th April <i>Feria</i>	10.00am	Mass - (Molly Wogan RIP)
Wednesday 10th April <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today
Thursday 11th April St Stanislaus, - Bishop & Martyr	10.00am	Service of Word & Communion
Friday – 12th April <i>Feria</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Judy Ashford RIP – First Aniv.)
Saturday – 13th April St Martin I – Pope & Martyr	10.00am 11.30am	Mass – (Elaine O'Connell RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament With Rosary & Confessions
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER		
Saturday – 13th April +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday – 14th April +	10.30am	Mass – (Charlie Creed RIP)

Christus surrexit vere, alleluia

Papal Reflections on Easter

Blessed are you, O Mary, silent witness of Easter! You, O Mother of the Crucified One now risen, who at the hour of pain and death kept the flame of hope burning, teach us also to be, amongst the incongruities of passing time, convinced and joyful witnesses of the eternal message of life and love brought to the world by the Risen Redeemer.

Pope St John Paul II

Dear brothers and sisters, Easter does not work magic. Just as the Israelites found the desert awaiting them on the far side of the Red Sea, so the Church, after the resurrection, always finds history filled with joy and hope, grief, and anguish. And yet, this history is changed, it is marked by a new and eternal covenant, it is truly open to the future. For this reason, saved by hope, let us continue our pilgrimage, bearing in our hearts the song that is ancient and yet ever new: "Let us sing to the Lord: glorious his triumph!"

Pope Benedict XVI

The Divine Mercy Sunday Service will take place at **3pm today Sunday 7th April** at **St Francis de Sales, Radcliffe Street, Wolverton MK12 5LJ**. This Service will include:

- Adoration and Silent Meditation on the Passion
- Veneration of the Image of Divine Mercy [incensation]
- Chaplet of Mercy and Prayers of Reparation
- Divine praises and Benediction

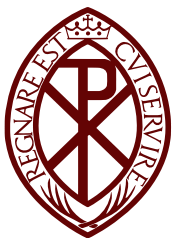
Thank you – Fr David wishes to thank you all for your very generous Easter Offering. Thanks also for the Good Friday Collection for the Holy Places which raised **££197.90**

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.

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.

Larry's Café – You are warmly invited to meet up for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass **every Tuesday morning** – you might even get a biscuit or two out of Larry!

Friday 12th April - You are also invited for refreshments in the parish hall after Mass **this coming Friday** as we mark the first anniversary of when Judy Ashford returned to the Lord.



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.



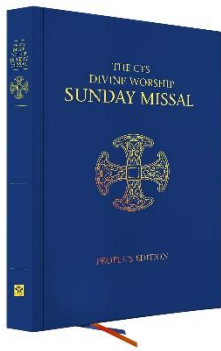
CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION

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!

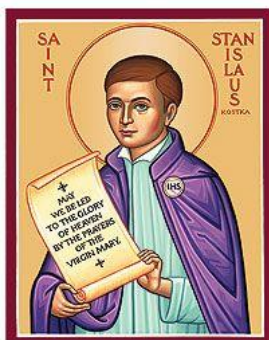


Pilgrimage Series – On Good Friday, 29th March, the BBC screened the first of three hour-long episodes of its series 'Pilgrimage' following seven celebrity pilgrims, of differing faiths and beliefs, on a spiritual journey across North Wales. The series features the Catholic National Shrine at Holywell where Bishop Peter Brignall, Bishop of Wrexham, was filmed for a segment. You can still watch this via the BBC iPlayer.



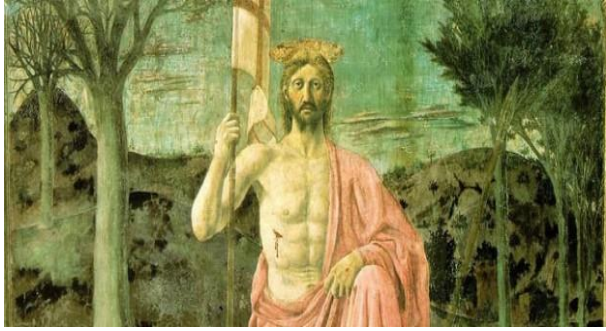
SUNDAY MISSAL/WEEKLY MISSAL – the Catholic Bishops of England & Wales have approved the use of a new translation of the Lectionary which is to be taken into use on the First Sunday of Advent this year (1st December). The new Lectionary will consist of four volumes (currently three volumes) – a revised Book of the Gospels will also be taken into use. The Catholic Truth Society (CTS) have been appointed as publishers and have indicated that the cost of these new Lectionaries will be in the region of £500-£600 for the set of four. The new Book of Gospels will be in the region of £150 - £200. 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 in the coming weeks, we will of course keep you updated.

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>



St Stanislaus – Bishop & Martyr

Born in the town of Szczepanow, in Poland about the year 1030. He studied at Paris and was ordained a priest. In 1071 he succeeded Lambert as the Bishop of Cracow. Stanislaus ruled his diocese as a good shepherd, helping the poor and making a visitation of his clergy every year. He fearlessly rebuked the king, Boleslav, and was murdered by him in the year 1097.



Easter Reflection

Easter is the most important event in the history of the world. Other events are marked by annual observances, both civic and religious. Hence, once a year we celebrate Christmas, Mothering Sunday, and Father's Day. But Easter is different, as Christians, we have a weekly

observance, we celebrate the Lord's Resurrection each and every Sunday as a reminder that it is the most important event in our history and in our Christian lives.

At Easter, the Lord Jesus invites us to emerge from the tomb to walk in the light to know that the world can never be the same because he has conquered sin and death for each one of us. In our own lives no matter how far we are from the Lord, Easter is an invitation, to draw near and to gaze into the empty tomb, to put our fingers in the place of the nails, to renew our baptismal promises and know that we are part of the family of Christ throughout the whole world.

When the risen Lord meets anyone in the Gospels, they are often given a task. The task, at this time, is to join the Easter proclamation, to be witnesses to the new life that is offered by Jesus Christ, even when persecuted, or in distress, or in the midst of war. At Easter, we celebrate that new life and grace that Jesus Himself offers us. We share in that life and power when we insist that money is not our ruler, that self-promotion is not our King, that pleasure is not a fulfilling aim, and that the ruthless individualism of our age can never bring us true and lasting happiness. The truth is that the new life of the Risen Christ poured forth into our world cannot be contained, nor restricted, and certainly can never be extinguished!

To know the risen Lord, is to know his love, and his invitation to lead an even better life, to treat each other with greater respect and sensitivity. In the light of the Resurrection, our lives will change. Thankfully, we have the powerful prayers of Our Lady of Walsingham to help us in this conversion. She is, after all, the Mother of the Risen Lord, Mother of the Church, and Mother of us all! Let us turn to her, without hesitation, for such unfailing help throughout the Easter season and beyond. May Our Lady of Walsingham obtain for us a fresh experience of the life-giving presence of the Risen Lord, who is the source of our hope, our joy, and our peace.

May Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us!

*Rev Dr Robert Billing, Rector of the Catholic National Shrine and Basilica, at Walsingham
Easter Sunday – 31st March 2024*

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, St Stanislaus, St Martin I, pray for us all as we bask in the joys of Easter.

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