



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence
39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH - 01234 711212

Priest in Charge: Fr Biju Chittuparamban
frbiju.chittuparamban@northamptondiocese.org

Fr Patrick Hutton – Retired

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

SVP Contact: 07469 717760

1 st September 2024 Psalter Week 2		Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation	
First Reading	Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-8 <i>Add nothing to what I command you, keep the commandments of the Lord.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	The just will live in the presence of the Lord.		
Second Reading	St James 1:17-18. 21-22. 27 <i>You must do what the word tells you.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23. <i>You put aside the commandments of God to cling to human traditions.</i>		
Saturday 31 st August +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (Bill Flynn RIP & family Ints.)	
Sunday 1 st September +	10.30am	Mass – (Pro Populo)	
Monday 2 nd September <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today	
Tuesday 3 rd September St Gregory the Great – Pope & Doctor of the Church		No Parish Mass today	
Wednesday 4 th September St Cuthbert - Bishop		No Parish Mass today	
Thursday 5 th September Bl Richard Brown - Martyr		No Parish Mass today	
Friday – 6 th September <i>Feria</i>	10.00am	Mass – (Charles Keeney RIP – First anniversary)	
Saturday – 7 th September <i>Feria</i>		No morning Parish Mass	
Twenty-Third Sunday of the Year			
Saturday – 7 th September +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (Brian Humphries RIP)	
Sunday – 8 th September +	10.30am	Mass – (Pro Populo)	

Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £443.36

DCP – £60.00

Average Standing Orders: £ 487.00

Total: £990.36

Many thanks for your continued financial support.



The First Thursday Discussion Group – The second series of talks starts this coming Thursday **5th September at 7.30pm** in the Parish Hall. The theme for this year is “Parables.” The topic for the 5th is Parables, the Paralympics, and Faith in the Olympics. Future topics will include Parables in Pope Francis’s

Encyclical on the Environment, Laudato Si, linking to our parish’s discussion group last Lent on sustainability, Parables in the Olney Hymnal and what exactly is a parable and how do they work. Any volunteers who would like to lead a session or have a specific parable or application they would like to be discussed please contact Simon Lee. Everyone is welcome to attend.



New Academic Year - As the new academic year begins for those at School, College, or University we wish our young people every success and hold them in our prayers. These past few months have been enormously challenging for our students and we hope and pray that things will significantly improve in the months ahead.

March for Life – **Saturday 7th September 2024** morning events 10.00am to 1.00pm. Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street, London, SW1P 3DW. Mass 11.00am - St Georges Cathedral, Southwark, London, SE1 7HY The March 1.30pm - from the Emmanuel Centre www.marchforlife.co.uk

Thanksgiving Mass – A Thanksgiving Mass & presentation to Fr David will be held on **Sunday 6th October at 10.30am**. Cards for parishioners to sign are at the back of the church. Envelopes are also available for anyone wishing to donate towards a farewell gift for Father. If donating by cheque, please make payable to Our Lady Help of Christians. You can also donate via the digital collection plate or via the bank. Contact Denise for further details.



First Holy Communion - Classes will start on **Sunday 13th October**. If you have a child in Year 2 or above and you would like them to make their 1st Holy Communion, please contact Denise on ourladysolney@btconnect.com or call her on 01234 711212 for a registration form. Further details will be announced later – all requests must be made via the parish office in the first instance.

Mary's Meals – next weekend, **7th/8th September**, we are pleased to welcome John Fulton who will speak to us about the work of Mary's Meals.

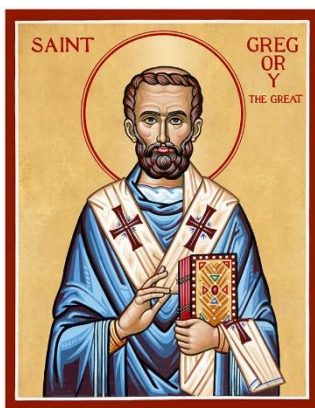


Pope Francis has established 1st September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home. The day is inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical 'Laudato Si,' which calls on "every person living on this planet" to care for our shared Earth. He calls us all to celebrate this opportune moment to "reaffirm [our] personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation, as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live."

A Prayer for our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

From Pope Francis, Laudato Si



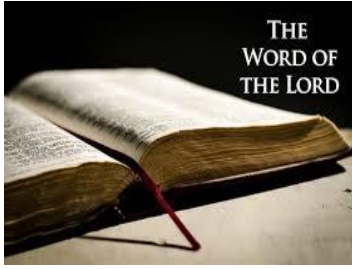
Pope St Gregory the Great – Tuesday 3rd September

Pope St Gregory the Great was born at Rome about the year 540. He entered the public service and was appointed a Prefect of the City. Then he entered a monastery, was ordained deacon and performed the office of a papal legate to Constantinople. On 3rd September 590 he became pope and showed himself a true pastor in his administration, his care of the poor and in spreading and consolidating the faith. In addition, he wrote many works on faith and morals. He died in 604.

Thought for the week – "Don't be anxious about what we have, but about who you are."

Pope St Gregory the Great

Reflections on the Bible Readings on the 22nd Sunday of the Year



Today's readings explain that true religion is not simply a scrupulous, external observance of rules, laws, traditions, and rituals. It is, instead, a loving, obedient relationship with God. Prayers, rituals, Sacraments, and religious practices are our God-given graces to practice this true religion in our daily lives.

Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-8 - The first reading explains that religion is a Covenant relationship with a caring, providing, and protecting God. God gave Israel the Law so that the Israelites might keep their Covenant with Yahweh and thank Him for His love and fidelity to His Chosen People. The Law was also intended to keep them a united, holy, and intelligent nation, proud of their powerful, protective, single God.

The Responsorial Psalm describes a person who practices true religion — blameless and just, thoughtful, and honest in dealing with others.

St James 1:17-18. 21-22. 27 - In the second reading, St. James defines true religion as keeping the word of God and doing His will by helping the needy, the poor, and the weak in the community. He challenges Christians to become doers of the word, not merely hearers.

Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23 - In today's Gospel, Jesus describes true religion as serving God and all His children with a pure and holy heart. He tells us that sincerity of heart, internal disposition, purity, and holiness are more important than mere external ritual observances. He also asks us to keep our hearts holy as it is the source of sins, vices, and evil habits.

We need to learn and keep the spirit of the Church's laws and ritual practices. For example, our Sunday obligation is intended to allow us to worship God in the parish community, to offer our lives to God, to ask His pardon for sins, to thank God for His blessings, and to receive Divine Life and strength from Him in Holy Communion.

Our daily family prayers are meant to thank God for His blessings, to present the family's needs before God, to ask pardon for our sins, to maintain the spirit of unity and love in the family, and to keep a close relationship with God.

Fr Biju

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, Our Lady of Walsingham, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St Rita, pray for us.

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