



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence
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Priest in Charge: Fr Biju Chittuparamban

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16 th March 2025 Psalter Week 2		Second Sunday of Lent – Year C	
First Reading	Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18 <i>God enters into a covenant with Abram, the man of faith.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	The Lord is my light and my salvation.		
Second Reading	St Paul to the Philippians 3:17-4:1 <i>Christ will configure us to his glorious body.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father. From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my beloved Son, listen to him.' Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.		
Gospel	Luke 9: 28b-36 <i>'As Jesus was praying, the appearance of his face was altered.'</i>		
Saturday 15th March +	6.00pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (Pro Populo)	
Sunday 16th March +	10.30am	Mass – (Paul Dempsey RIP)	
Monday 17th March ST PATRICK, Bishop – Patron of Ireland	9.15am 10.00am 12.00pm	Adoration with Confession Mass (Frances Redden Ints.) Mass of Thanksgiving – (Freddie Coles RIP)	
Tuesday 18th March <i>Lent Feria</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Fiona Latta RIP)	
Wednesday 19th March ST JOSEPH, Spouse of the BVM		No Parish Mass today	
Thursday 20th March <i>Lent Feria</i>	10.00am 10.30am 12noon	Mass (David O'Connor RIP) Adoration with Confession	
Friday – 21st March <i>Lent Feria</i>	9.15am 10.00am 2.30pm	Adoration with Confession Mass (Ann Harris – Healing) Stations of the Cross	
Saturday – 22nd March <i>Lent Feria</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Pope Francis – Recovery)	
Third Sunday of Lent – Year C			
Saturday – 22nd March +	6.00pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (Pro Populo)	
Sunday – 23rd March +	10.30am 12noon	Mass – (Maria O'Dea – Healing) Adoration & Prayer for Vocations	

Thank you for your Weekly Offering

- Offertory: £407.71
- Digital Collection Plate: £55.00
- Standing Orders of £502.00
- TOTAL: £964.71

Next Sunday - there is a one-off collection for the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham which is being organised as part of the Jubilee Year celebrations.

Adoration and Retreat – next Saturday 22nd March 1.30pm to 4.30pm

This is being organised by the SVP.



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Stations of the Cross

Throughout Lent we will be praying the 'Stations of the Cross' each **Friday** afternoon at **2.30pm** here at Our Lady's – please do come if you can.



hold Bishop David in your prayers. **Ad Multos Annos**

Bishop David - The Solemnity of St Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is being celebrated on **Wednesday 19th March**. Bishop David was ordained Bishop of Northampton on this solemnity in 2020 and this year we mark five years of his episcopal ministry. Mass for the Solemnity of St Joseph will be celebrated by Bishop David in the **Cathedral at 11.00am** followed by refreshments in the St Thomas Centre afterwards. All are welcome. Alternatively, you can watch via the Cathedral 'Live Stream' at <https://northamptondiocese.org/> Please continue to



Seminars on the Holy Spirit – During Lent we are most fortunate to have Sr Josephine Walsh, DHS leading Seminars on the Holy Spirit. All the seminars will be held on **Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm – 8.45pm in the parish hall** on the following dates:
18th March – New Life
25th March – Growth/Repentance
1st April – Baptism in the Holy Spirit
8th April – Transformation into Christ

All are most welcome to sing, praise, thank God and experience new life in the Holy Spirit.

100 Club – Watch this Space!

The Laudato Si Group will meet again on **Thursday 20 March, at 7.30pm** in the Parish Hall. Do come along and join them to see how we can all respond to Pope Francis' invitation to Care for Our Common Home. Everyone is welcome!

Planned Giving Envelopes - for parishioners who use the weekly envelopes new ones will be available from next weekend. There are a few spare boxes so if anyone would like a set please contact Denise.

Permanent Diaconate Information Day - you are invited to learn about the ministry of the Permanent Diaconate in our Diocese. Join us on Saturday 31st May from 10.00am to 12.00pm at St Mary's Parish, 82 West Street Dunstable. For more details please contact Canon Tony Brennan on 01582 662710 or a parish.stmarydunstable@northamptondiocese.org



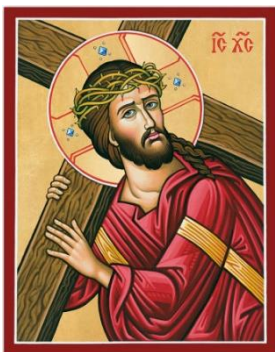
Parish Gardening Club - As the better weather arrives – at last! We are reminded that Spring is just around the corner bringing with it many tasks for the garden. Our Parish Gardening Club is beginning to take shape although we could do with more volunteers – whether

you are a 'Monty Don' or just simply someone who enjoys pottering about in the garden – all are very welcome to join us. It has been agreed that our first task is to maintain what we already have – this involves:

- **Keeping the lawn mown** (Note: Lawn Mower provided)
- **Keeping the borders tidy & plant new flowers & shrubs**
- **Keeping the Hedges/Shrubs trimmed**
- **Hanging Baskets/Tubs in front of the church & presbytery**

If you would like to volunteer for any of these tasks or would simply want to know more about what is involved then come along to the Garden Club meetings – **every Saturday morning after Mass** in the Potting Shed (Parish Hall).

"A Gardener's Tip of the Week: Cut waste and supercharge your soil's nutrients – invest in a Compost Bin!"



Lenten Prayer for Sundays

Take some time to pray this each Sunday of Lent either on your own or as a family. Use it to recommit to having your best Lent ever through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving:

Heavenly Father, as I enter another week of my Lenten journey, guide me to the path that leads to you. Fill my heart with gratitude, patience, strength, and peace as I strive to become the best-version-of-myself, honestly admitting my shortcomings and sins. As I renew my resolve each day to become a better person, let me hear your voice in the deepest reaches of my heart. Give me rest in you and help me to accept others, showing them your great love instead of casting judgment. Stay with me through the busy days this week and remind me that when I need comfort, solitude, wisdom, or guidance, I can always turn to you. Help me develop discipline and generosity through fasting and almsgiving, and come closer to you through prayer this Lent. Amen.

Second Sunday of Lent – Scripture Reflections

From Fr Biju's desk... The common theme of this Sunday's readings is transformation. The readings invite us to work with the Holy Spirit to transform our lives by renewing them during Lent so that they radiate the glory and grace of the transfigured Lord to all around us through our Spirit-filled lives.

The First Reading - describes the transformation of Abram, a pagan patriarch, into a believer in the one God Who would later “transform” Abram’s name to Abraham, and the first covenant of God with Abraham’s family as a reward for Abraham’s Faith and obedience to God.

The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 27) declares that Faith, singing, *“I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living.”*

The Second Reading - St. Paul argues that it is not the observance of the Mosaic Law and circumcision that transforms people into Christians, and hence, that Gentiles need not become Jews to become Christians. St. Paul urges us to stand firm in our Faith and to live a life of discipleship with Jesus now, so that we may share in a glorious future later.

The Gospel Reading - In the Transfiguration account in this Sunday Gospel, Jesus is revealed as a glorious figure, superior to Moses and Elijah. The primary purpose of Jesus’ Transfiguration was to allow Him to consult His Heavenly Father in order to ascertain His plan for His Son’s suffering, death, and Resurrection. The secondary aim was to make Jesus’ chosen disciples aware of his Divine glory, so that they might discard their worldly ambitions and dreams of a conquering political Messiah and might be strengthened in their time of trial.

Each time we receive one of the Sacraments, we are transformed: For example, Baptism transforms us into sons and daughters of God and heirs of heaven. Confirmation makes us temples of the Holy Spirit and warriors of God. By the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God brings back the sinner to the path of holiness. We share the mountain-top experience of Peter, James, and John when we spend extra time in prayer during Lent.

Fasting for one day can help the body to store up spiritual energy. This spiritual energy can help us have thoughts that are far higher and nobler than our usual thinking.



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