



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

Deacon: Rev. Peter Griffin – 07850 499414

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

23 rd March 2025 Psalter Week 3	Third Sunday of Lent – Year C	
First Reading	Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15 <i>“I AM” has sent me to you.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	The Lord is compassionate and gracious.	
Second Reading	1 St Paul to the Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12 <i>The way of life of the people with Moses in the desert was written down for our instruction.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God. Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.	
Gospel	Luke 13:1-9 <i>‘Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.’</i>	
Saturday 22 nd March +	6.00pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday 23 rd March +	10.30am	Mass – (Maria O’Dea – Healing)
Monday 24 th March Lent Feria	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Freddi Coles RIP)
Tuesday 25 th March THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Ann O’Connor RIP)
Wednesday 26 th March Lent Feria		No Parish Mass today
Thursday 27 th March Lent Feria	10.00am 10.30am 12noon	Mass (Freddi Coles RIP) Adoration with Confession
Friday – 28 th March Lent Feria	9.15am 10.00am 2.30pm	Adoration with Confession Mass (Mary Harvey RIP) Stations of the Cross
Saturday – 29 th March Lent Feria	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Luciano Russo RIP)
Fourth Sunday of Lent – Laetare Sunday – Year C		
Saturday – 29 th March +	6.00pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday – 30 th March +	10.30am	Mass – (Maya Danal & family Int.)

THIS WEEKEND - 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.

Thank you for your Weekly Offering

- Offertory: £2122.50
- Digital Collection Plate: £55.00
- Standing Orders of £502.00
- TOTAL: £2679.50



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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.



Message from CAFOD Group - A big thankyou to all who attended our Soup Lunch on Family Fast Day. The four homemade soups were delicious and an enjoyable time had by all, a real parish community feel to the event. A total of **£190** was donated to support the humanitarian crisis in Sudan. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Parish CAFOD Group



Thanks also to all who prepared the worthy celebration of St Patrick's Day after the Mass last Sunday – a special thanks to Oonagh for her wonderful Irish Dancing. A good time was had by all.
(Note: Fr Biju & Deacon Peter were taking careful notes of Oonagh's dancing – could this mean it is over to them next year!)



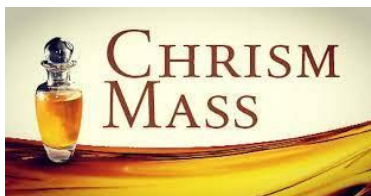
Seminars on the Holy Spirit – During Lent we are most fortunate to have Sr Josephine Walsh, DHS leading Seminars on the Holy Spirit. All the seminars will be held on **Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm – 8.45pm in the parish hall** on the following dates:
25th March – Growth/Repentance
1st April – Baptism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

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



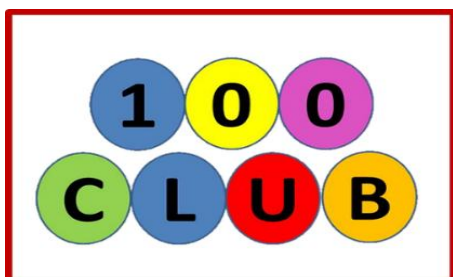
Penance Service for Holy Week – as part of our parish preparations for the great feast of Easter, there will be a Penitential Service here at Our Lady's on the **Tuesday evening of Holy Week – 15th April at 7.00pm.** Fr Biju has invited other priests to join him and encourages us all to avail ourselves of this great sacrament of grace and forgiveness.



Chrism Mass – Change of Date - Please note that Bishop David has informed us that the Chrism Mass will now be held on **Wednesday 16th April at 12 noon.** He invites all parishioners to attend this most joyful of Diocesan occasions.



Date for your Diary – Fr Biju will be celebrating a special Mass for all our young people on **Friday evening, 11th April at 6.30pm.** We would like to encourage as many of our young people as possible to attend the Mass in preparation for Holy Week. After the Mass there will be Pizza & Refreshments available.



Coming to our Parish soon!

Don't miss out!



Catholic Grandparents' Association
Passing on the Faith

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 27th March at 2.00pm** in the parish hall. Everyone welcome.



Parish Gardening Club – Our parish Gardening Club is making great progress – have a look at the back garden and see the wonderful work that is going on. If you would like to help in any way at all please do let us know – you will be made very welcome. Members usually meet on Saturday morning after Mass in the Potting Shed (Parish Hall) or in the Garden!

Tip for the Week: Enjoy the Garden – Take time to appreciate your garden and the beauty of spring.

Third Sunday of Lent – Scripture Reflections

From Fr Biju's desk... All three of today's readings of the Third Sunday of Lent speak of God's mercy and compassion, even in disciplining His children by occasional punishment in the form of natural or manmade tragedies, while giving them second chances to repent of their sins and renew their lives, despite their repeated sins.

The First Reading tells us how God shows His mercy to His chosen people by giving them Moses as their leader and liberator. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob revealed Himself to Moses from the burning bush. He assured Moses of His Divine presence with His people and His awareness of their sufferings in Egypt. God declared His intention of using Moses as the leader who would rescue His enslaved people.

In the Responsorial Psalm the Psalmist reminds us of God's mercy: He pardons all our iniquities; He heals all our ills. He redeems our life from destruction; He crowns us with kindness and compassion. Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness.

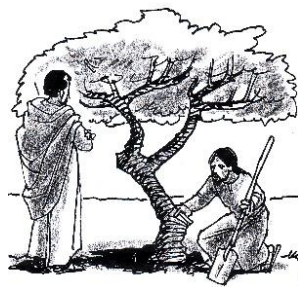
The Second Reading warns us that our merciful God is also a disciplining God. Paul reminds the Christians of Corinth that they must learn from the sad experience of the Israelites who were punished for their sins by a merciful and just God. The merciful and gracious God is also just and demanding, and, hence, they, and we, must be free from sins and idol worship.

Today's Gospel Reading emphasizes the Christian call to conversion, repentance, and inner change, and encourages us with the reality of God's patient mercy. It explains how God disciplines His people, invites them to repent of their sins, renew their lives, and produce the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

With the parable of the barren fig tree, he also warns them that the merciful God will not put up with them indefinitely. God expects us to show our repentance and renewal of life, especially during Lent, by producing fruits of love, mercy, forgiveness, and selfless service, instead of remaining like a barren fig tree in Christ's Church.

We never know when we will meet a tragedy of our own. Let us turn to Christ, acknowledge our faults and failings, and receive from Him mercy, forgiveness, and the promise of eternal life.

During Lent, we are given another chance to repent and return to our Heavenly Father's love through the sacrament of reconciliation. We need to make the best use of it. Amen



Thought for the Week: 'Today, can I make time to be alert to listen to God's voice of love in conversation with Him and with people around me?'

Cardinal Basil Hume

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