



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence
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30 th March 2025 Psalter Week 4		Fourth Sunday of Lent ~ Year C Laetare Sunday	
First Reading	Joshua 5:9a, 10-12 <i>The people of God entered the promised land and there kept the Passover.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	Taste and see that the Lord is good.		
Second Reading	2 St Paul to the Corinthians 5.17-21 <i>God through Christ reconciled us to himself.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus. I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.’ Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.		
Gospel	Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 <i>‘Your brother was dead, and is alive.’</i>		
Saturday 29 th March +		6.00pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday 30 th March +		10.30am	Mass – (Maya Danal & family Int.)
Monday 31 st March <i>Lent Feria</i>		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Foundation Mass – Throckmorton family)
Tuesday 1 st April <i>Lent Feria</i>		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Steve Gent RIP)
Wednesday 2 nd April <i>Lent Feria</i>			No Parish Mass today
Thursday 3 rd April <i>Lent Feria</i>		6.00pm 6.45pm	Adoration with Confession Mass (All Parish Volunteers)
Friday – 4 th April <i>Lent Feria</i>		9.15am 10.00am 2.30pm	Adoration with Confession Mass (Sonia van Reyk Ints) Stations of the Cross
Saturday – 5 th April <i>Lent Feria</i>		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Fr Biju – Ints)
Fifth Sunday of Lent ~ Year C			
Saturday – 5 th April +		6.00pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday – 6 th April +		10.30am	Mass – (Deceased family & friends of the Ayles family)

Thank you for your Weekly Offering

- Offertory: £294.20
- Digital Collection Plate: £55.00
- Standing Orders of £502.00
- Total: £851.20
- CAFOD Lenten Appeal - £709.21
- Walsingham Shrine - £73.55

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.



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:
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.



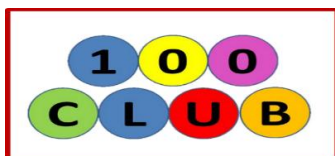
The First Thursday Discussion Club will meet as usual on **Thursday, 3rd April, at 7.30pm after Mass at 6.45pm.** We are delighted that Revd Fran Reid, Curate in the Wolverton Benefice serving the Churches of St George's and Holy Trinity, is going to speak in this continuing series on parables and life stories. Revd Fran will be reflecting on the parable of the Prodigal Son as a way of encouraging us all to reflect on our own faith journeys, and will be sharing something of her own journey to faith from a secular background. All are welcome, including friends from all denominations in Olney, Wolverton and beyond.



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.



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.





Holy Week Schedule

Saturday 12th April + Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord Blessing & Distribution of Palms	6.00pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass
Sunday 13th April + Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord Blessing & Distribution of Palms	10.30am	Mass
Monday 14th April <i>Monday of Holy Week</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass
Tuesday 15th April <i>Tuesday of Holy Week</i>	9.15am 10.00am 7.00pm	Adoration with Confession Mass Reconciliation Service
Wednesday 16th April <i>Wednesday of Holy Week</i>	12noon	The Cathedral, Northampton Chrism Mass
Maundy Thursday – 17th April <i>Thursday of Holy Week</i>	2.30pm	No Parish morning Mass Stations of the Cross
Sacred Pascal Triduum		
Maundy Thursday – 17th April	7.00pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday – 18th April	3.00pm 7.00pm	The Passion of the Lord Stations of the Cross
Holy Saturday – 19th April	9.00am	Office of Readings – Morning Prayer
Easterime Begins		
Holy Saturday – 19th April	8.00pm	The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night
Easter Sunday – 20th April	10.30am	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord



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!

Thought for the Week: Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

St Francis of Assisi

Thank-You – The SVP would like to thank the person who donated so generously to us. We really appreciate it. We will put it to very good use immediately

Fourth Sunday of Lent – Gospel Reflection

From Deacon Peter's desk... Our familiarity with today's parable risks dulling us to its tremendously powerful message. We know this as the parable of the lost son or the prodigal son. Any focus on the younger son, however, must also be balanced by an examination of the unusual behaviour of the father.

Firstly, we must imagine our first response to the audacity of a son who asks for his inheritance before his father has died. Indignation would certainly be a justifiable response to such a request. Yet the father in this parable agrees to honour the son's request and divides his property among his two sons.

How might we describe such a father? Foolish comes to mind, but so does trusting. Without property of his own, the father must rely upon his sons to provide for his well-being. The younger son takes his inheritance and leaves home. The older son remains, continuing to provide for the father and the household.

Having been disgraced by the younger son, the father spends some time watching the road for the return of the lost son. When he eventually sees his wayward son returning, the father not only welcomes him but also runs out to greet him and then honours him with a party. We say that this father is loving and forgiving. Yet these adjectives only begin to describe the depth of love and mercy that characterise the father.

We find no surprise in the anger of the older son. Yet the father appears sad and even confused by the older son's indignation. He says in reply that they should celebrate because the lost son had returned. The father is filled with gratitude and love for the older son's faithfulness. This love is in no way diminished by the father's rejoicing at the return of the younger son. Yet the older son's jealousy reveals his limited understanding of the depth of his father's love.

This Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." Today's Gospel describes the reason for our joy: God's great love for us has been revealed in Jesus. Through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Christ has reconciled us with God and one another and we are all invited by Him to take a step back and really search our souls and when we have done this we can come before the Lord in the sacrament of confession and repeat the words of the prodigal son: *"Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you – I no longer deserve to be called your son."*

The joy of Easter is when the Father reaches out to us and rejoices; *"It is only right we should celebrate for you were lost and now you are found"*



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