



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence
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Pope Francis RIP

17th December 1936 – 21st April 2025

Requiescat in Pace

Collect for the late Pope

O God, faithful rewarder of souls, grant that your departed servant Pope Francis, whom you made successor of Peter and shepherd of your Church, may happily enjoy for ever in your presence in heaven the mysteries of your grace and compassion, which he faithfully ministered on earth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen. — *Roman Missal*



Apostolica Sedes Vacans

Apostolic Seat is Vacant



OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM BISHOP DAVID OAKLEY ON THE PASSING OF THE HOLY FATHER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With deep sorrow, we receive the news of the passing of our Holy Father, Pope Francis. His life was a testament to the Gospel's call to mercy, justice, and love, lived out in solidarity with the poor, the forgotten, and all those on the peripheries of society. His heart was always open to those who felt lost or excluded, reminding us that the Church is not a fortress but a home where all are welcomed, listened to, and valued.

Pope Francis called us to journey together, shaping a Church that walks with the wounded, discerns with the faithful, and serves with humility. He showed us what it means to be a truly synodal people—seeking the voice of the Spirit in communion with one another, always attentive to those the world so often overlooks. His vision of the Church was one of encounter and accompaniment, where God's mercy reaches every heart longing for hope. *Evangelii Gaudium* is such an inspiration for the would-be missionary disciple in a parish that seeks its true identity.

I was privileged to meet Pope Francis in September 2022 when I joined fellow newly appointed bishops in Rome for a time of formation and prayer. The Holy Father spent two and a half hours answering our questions, speaking with remarkable openness and fatherly wisdom, encouraging us to be shepherds who walk closely with our people, always prioritising those most in need.

As we grieve his passing, we also give thanks for his prophetic witness and the way he led us deeper into the love of Christ. I invite all in the Diocese of Northampton to gather in prayer, offering Masses, Rosaries, and personal intercessions for the repose of his soul. May we continue his legacy by building a Church that listens, loves, and walks with all God's people.

May the Lord whom he served so faithfully now welcome him into the fullness of His kingdom. May Our Lady, Mother of the Church, intercede for him and for us all.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace. Amen.

In Christ,

+ David Oakley
Bishop of Northampton

Online Book of Condolence - As we unite as the Catholic community across our diocese in prayer for the repose of the soul of the Holy Father, each of us will have a unique memory of his impact on us personally or our world. If you would like to leave a digital message on our diocesan book of condolence visit:
<https://northamptondiocese.org/book-of-condolence/>

A selection of prayers for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis as well as prayers on the election of a new Pope can be located on the Prayers & Reflections tab on the parish website.

27 th April 2025 Psalter Week 2		Second Sunday of Easter (Low Sunday) Divine Mercy Sunday	
First Reading	Acts of the Apostles 5:12-16 <i>‘More than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women.’</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	Give praise to the Lord for he is good, his mercy endures for ever.		
Second Reading	Book of Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 <i>‘I died, and behold I am alive for evermore’</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! You believed, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia!		
Gospel	John 20:19-31 <i>‘Eight days later, Jesus came.’</i>		
Saturday 26 th April +		6.00pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday 27 th April +		10.30am	Mass – (David Ashford – Ints)
Monday 28 th April ST GEORGE – Martyr – Patron of England		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Al Wightman – Healing)
Tuesday 29 th April St Catherine of Sienna – Virgin & Doctor – Patron of Europe		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (P J Higgins – Healing)
Wednesday 30 th April Pope Pius V - Pope			No Parish Mass Today
Thursday 1 st May St Joseph the Worker		6.00pm 6.45pm	Adoration with Confession Mass (Charlie Rogers RIP)
Friday – 2 nd May St Athanasius – Bishop & Doctor On this day in 2001 Mgr Kevin McDonald was ordained 11 th Bishop of Northampton		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Fr Brian Leatherland RIP)
Saturday – 3 rd May SS PHILIP & JAMES – Apostles		9.15am 10.00am 1.00pm	Adoration with Confession Mass (James Coeur de Lion Ints.) Wedding – Sarah Gould & David Clarke
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER			
Saturday – 3 rd May +		6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday – 4 th May +		10.30am	Mass – (Anthony & Eddie Bagg RIP)

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND – PRIESTS TRAINING FUND



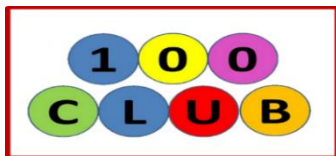
Divine Mercy Sunday

The Message of Divine Mercy is that God is merciful. He is love itself poured out for us, and He wants no one to escape that merciful love. The message is that God wants us to turn to Him with trust and repentance while it is still a time of mercy, before He comes as the just Judge. This turning with trust to Him who is Mercy itself is the only source of peace for mankind. Turning to and imploring God's mercy is the answer to the troubled world, there is no escaping that answer. Divine Mercy Sunday is the day that would celebrate the paschal mystery with the focus on God's covenant of mercy. It is a day of complete forgiveness and pardon. We can already celebrate this "Mercy Sunday" by going to Confession (preferably before that Sunday) and by receiving Communion on that day. We can honour the mercy of the Lord by our prayers and works of mercy. Our lord asked St Faustina to pray and work towards establishing a Feast of The Divine Mercy on the Sunday after Easter. He told her: On this day, the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment (Diary, 699). Images and cards to take home with you and for spreading to others are available at the back of the church.



The First Thursday Discussion Club will meet as usual on **Thursday, 1st May, at 7.30pm after Mass at 6.45pm.** In a slight change to the intended topic following the death of Pope Francis, Simon Lee will lead a discussion on Popes and Parables, which will cover some of the remaining parables and some of those already discussed in this 2024-2025 series, with reference to Pope Francis, RIP. All are welcome. All are welcome.

Message from the Social Committee - On Sunday 4th May we will be serving tea / coffee after the 10:30 am Mass with a VE Day theme. You are invited to bring along any photos or memorabilia from the war years that you would like to share. Any VE bakes would be appreciated. Thank you.



This weekend we launch the Parish 100 Club - Would you like to support our parish and at the same time be in with a chance every month of winning £100? Then please consider joining our parish lottery.

- **Buy tickets for yourself, family, and friends**
- **Each ticket costs £24 for a year's worth of draws - that is 12 chances to win £100**
- **Draws will take place on the first Sunday of each month**
- **Pick up a joining pack after Mass from the back of the church.**

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

