



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](mailto:frbiju.chittuparamban@northamptondiocese.org)

**Deacon: Rev. Peter Griffin – 07850 499414**

Parish Website: [www.ourladysolney.co.uk](http://www.ourladysolney.co.uk)

Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

[parish.olney@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:parish.olney@northamptondiocese.org)

St Joseph's Convent – Sr Eileen Gorman DHS - 01234 711267

Parish Safeguarding: Janet Goodland

[safeguarding.olney@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:safeguarding.olney@northamptondiocese.org)

**SVP Contact: 07469 717760**

20 <sup>th</sup> April 2025		Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord He is Risen! ~ Alleluia, Alleluia!	
First Reading	Acts of the Apostles 10:34. 37-43 <i>We ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad.		
Second Reading	St Paul to the Colossians 3:1-4 <i>Seek the things that are above, where Christ is.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Christ our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed; let us therefore celebrate the festival in the Lord. Alleluia!		
Gospel	John 20: 1-9 <i>He must rise from the dead.</i>		
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> April +		8.00pm	Easter Vigil of the Lord’s Resurrection (Charlie Creed RIP)
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> April +		10.30am	Mass – (Agnes Wogan RIP)
Easter Octave			
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April <i>of Easter Octave</i>		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Fr Anthony Roberts RIP)
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April <i>of Easter Octave</i>		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (John Pichowicz RIP)
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April <i>of Easter Octave</i>			No Parish Mass Today
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> April <i>of Easter Octave</i>		10.00am 10.30am 12 noon	Mass (Fr John Fowler RIP) Adoration with Confession
Friday – 25 <sup>th</sup> April <i>of Easter Octave</i>		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Fr Brian Leatherland RIP)
Saturday – 26 <sup>th</sup> April <i>of Easter Octave</i>		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Mrs Dyer – First Anniversary)
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Low Sunday) Divine Mercy Sunday			
Saturday – 26 <sup>th</sup> April +		6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday – 27 <sup>th</sup> April +		10.30am	Mass – (David Ashford – Ints)

**SECOND COLLECTION TODAY – EASTER OFFERING FOR FR BIJU**



*Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.*

**Pope John Paul II**

Thank you for your Weekly Offering

- Offertory: £367.80
- Digital Collection Plate: £55.00
- Standing Orders: £502.00
- Total: £924.80
- Myanmar Collection - £221.00



**Easter Offering** - as is customary, the Easter Offering is your personal gift to our Parish Priest, Fr Biju. If you wish to contribute, please either put this in the planned giving envelope or use the printed envelopes at the back of the church – if using online banking please insert ‘Easter Fr Biju’ in the description or you can use the Digital Collection Plate in the narthex. Thank you.

**Note from Fr Biju ...** A sincere thank you from Fr Biju to everyone who worked so hard in so many ways to prepare our church for the worthy celebration of Holy Week and the sacred Triduum. God bless you all!



**Altar Servers** – we extend our sincere thanks to our team of Altar Servers who did such a splendid job throughout Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum. This is a wonderful Ministry of the Church for our young people (and not so young!) – if you would like to become an Altar Server or would like to know more of what is involved, please speak with Deacon Peter.

**Note from Deacon Peter...** Last Wednesday at the Chrism Mass, Bishop David, together with other priests from the Diocese, renewed their priestly promises. I find this to be a very special moment in the Mass when we are reminded of the special part that our priests play in our daily lives as ‘Co-workers’ with our Bishop. Here in our Parish, Fr Biju continues to be a very faithful and true shepherd of Christ and we are very blessed to have such a fine Parish Priest here in Olney – thank you so much Fr Biju for all that you do for us. We pray that you will be greatly blessed this Easter and always. As we bask in the joys of Easter, we hope and pray that you will find peace and time to rest. God bless you Fr Biju.



**Welcome** - The Easter Vigil is a sacred night for the Church. It is a significant event in the liturgical year for all Catholics, but especially for new members as they join our Church. Traditionally, the Easter Vigil has been the Mass during which candidates are received into the faith. This year in our parish we welcome Karen Creed who, as well as being received into the faith, was also Confirmed and received her First Holy Communion.

Karen has been a long-time part of our parish family and it is with great joy that we welcome her into full communion with the faith. Please do hold Karen in your prayers.



**Thank You** Just a note to confirm that Vivienne and the knitters raised a fantastic **£162:70** from the Easter puppets in a bag. The monies will be 'ring fenced' and used for our parish children/youth projects. We are very grateful to Vivienne and her 'band of knitters' for all the work that they put into this project and of course for the tremendous support given by parishioners.

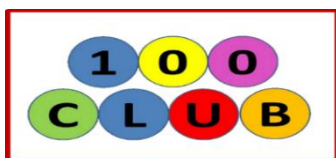


**Evangelisation & Catechesis** – one of our parishioners, Kate Brooks, has set up a new website – <https://www.olneycatholic.org/> with the aim of spreading the Gospel to the peoples of Olney and beyond – to share the joy that we have found in our faith with everyone. After Mass on **Easter Monday** Kate will be handing out Easter Eggs and invitation cards in Olney Town Centre – if you have some spare time Kate would welcome any support that you can offer. Please speak directly to Kate or Fr Biju.



**Parish CAFOD Group** are planning a relaxing summer social gathering on **Saturday 10th May Parish Hall 7.30pm** Talk by Astrophysics Professor Monica Grady – 'Current Adventures in Outer Space'. This will be preceded by an Italian Style Supper. Bring your own wine /drinks. Entry by ticket only cost £10. Tickets will be on sale from w/e 26th/27th April. To gauge parishioners' interest and catering arrangements a list has been placed at the back of the Church. Please sign up ASAP. Numbers might be limited.

**Thankyou - Cafod Parish Group**



**News about 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
- Look out for more information on how to join our Parish 100 club



**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!

**Thought for the Week:** 'Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love.'

**St Francis of Assisi**

## Easter Sunday Scripture Reflection

From Fr Biju's desk... "Easter" literally means "the feast of fresh flowers." Easter is the greatest and the most important feast in the Church for four reasons:

Firstly, **The Resurrection of Christ is the basis of our Christian Faith.** It is the greatest of the miracles, for it proves that Jesus is God. That is why St. Paul writes: **"If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain; and your Faith is in vain"** (1 Cor 15:14). **"Jesus is Lord! He is risen!"** (Rom 10:9), was the central theme of the *kerygma* (or "preaching"), of the Apostles.

Secondly, **Easter is the guarantee of our own resurrection.** Jesus assured Martha at the tomb of Lazarus: *"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me will live even though he dies..."* (Jn 11:25-26).

Thirdly, **Easter is a feast which gives us hope and encouragement in this world of pain, sorrows, and tears.** It reminds us that life is worth living. It also gives us strength to fight against temptations and freedom from unnecessary worries and fears.

Finally, **Easter gives meaning to our prayers.** It supports our belief in the Real Presence of the Risen Jesus in and around us, in His Church, in the Blessed Sacrament, and in Heaven, hearing our prayers, and so gives meaning to our personal as well as our communal prayers.

**Let us live the lives of Resurrection people.** We are not supposed to lie buried in the tomb of our sins, evil habits, dangerous addictions, despair, discouragement, or doubts. Instead, we are expected to live a joyful and peaceful life, constantly experiencing the living presence of the Risen Lord Who loves us in all the events of our lives and amid the boredom, suffering, pain, and tensions of our day-to-day life.

**The salutary awareness of the presence of the Risen Lord within us inspires us to honour our bodies,** keeping them holy, pure, and free from evil habits and addictions. Our conviction that the loving presence of the Risen Lord dwells in our neighbours and in all those we encounter should encourage us **to respect them and to render them loving, humble, selfless service. Let us become transparent Christians, radiating the Risen Lord around us** in the form of selfless and sacrificial agape love, mercy, compassion, and a spirit of humble service.



Fr Biju, Deacon Peter, the Sisters, and Denise wish you, your families, and friends a very Blessed and Happy Easter. God bless you all!