



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence
39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH - 01234 711212

Priest in Charge: Fr Biju Chittuparamban

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Deacon: Rev. Peter Griffin – 07850 499414

Parish Website: www.ourladysolney.co.uk

Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

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SVP Contact: 07469 717760

25 th May 2025 Psalter Week 2		Sixth Sunday of Easter	
First Reading	Acts of the Apostles 15: 1-2, 22-29 <i>‘It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements.’</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.		
Second Reading	Book of Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23 <i>‘He showed me the holy city coming down out of heaven.’</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him, and will come to him. Alleluia!		
Gospel	John 14:23-29 <i>‘The Holy Spirit will bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.’</i>		
Saturday 24 th May +		6.00pm 6.30pm	Confessions Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday 25 th May + Parish Patronal Solemnity		10.30am	Mass – (Anne & Brendan Ludlow RIP)
Monday 26 th May St Philip Neri - Priest		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Karen Creed Ints.)
Tuesday 27 th May St Augustine of Canterbury - Bishop		9,15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass - (Nora, Leonard & Maureen Rix RIP)
Wednesday 28 th May Feria			No Parish Mass Today
Thursday 29 th May + THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD Holy Day of Obligation		9.15am 10.00am 7.00pm	Adoration with Confession Mass (Galina Belolubska & Viktoria Rusakova RIP) Mass – (Holy Souls)
Friday – 30 th May Feria		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass- (Ann Harris – Healing)
Saturday – 31 st May The Visitation of the BVM		11.15am 12 noon	Adoration with Confession Mass – SVP Healing Mass
Seventh Sunday of Easter			
Saturday – 31 st May +		6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday – 1 st June +		10.30am	Mass – (Marion & Bernhard Grabowiecki Ints.)

Thank you for your Weekly Offering

Offertory	£240.00
Digital Collection Plate	Nil
Standing Orders	£502.00
TOTAL	£742.00

The Spring Plant Sale will be after Mass this weekend



Month of May – Our Lady's Month

As we begin the month of May which we dedicate to Our Blessed Lady – Mother of God & Mother of the Church.

It would be good if we could all set aside some time each day during the month to pray the rosary. It would be good also if families could come together in their homes to pray the rosary – this will be a source of great grace. Suggested intentions: That the Holy Spirit will guide our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, for peace in our troubled world, (particularly in Ukraine, the Middle East, and the Sudan). For the poor and marginalised in our society, for our families, friends, our parish...



SVP Healing Mass – The annual SVP Healing Mass will be celebrated by Fr Biju on **Saturday 31st May at midday** and will be followed by lunch. It would help us with the catering if you could let us know if you will be joining us for lunch. Please add your name to the list at the back of the church. Also please let us know if you would like transport either by phone on **07469 717760** or by email on veronicatarrant@aol.com or contact any member of the Parish SVP.



Thank you – to all who have returned their application forms to join the parish 100 Club – the response has been very good. If you would like to join The 100 Club, we are requesting that you return your application form and make payment by **Sunday 15th June** to ensure you are entered in the first draw

which will take place on **Sunday 6th July**. If you have not had an information pack yet, please see Maura, Michele, or Toby after Mass. **Many thanks from The 100 Club Committee for supporting this new fundraising venture for our parish.**



Parish Forum – Our Parish Forum meetings are an excellent opportunity for our many volunteers to meet and update us on their efforts to serve our thriving parish community. It is also an opportunity for each of us to make our own contribution with ideas for the future. The next Parish Forum meeting will be held on **Monday 9th June at 7.00pm** in the Parish Room. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.



Plant Sale – This Weekend! proceeds will be divided between - Olney **is Kind** - a local community driven initiative dedicated to providing help and support to local people facing challenging circumstances, crisis, poverty, and other difficulties. **A new mower for cutting the grass** - The mower is on order but we are awaiting a delivery date. If you would like to help (about a couple of hours every six/seven weeks)

please let Graham, or any gardening club member, know. The grass is an important part of social events in the garden so it would be nice to keep it in good order.

Grandparents Association – our next meeting will be this coming **Thursday 29th May** from 2pm until 3pm – topic: ‘Prayer with and for our children’ – all welcome



The Parish SVP continue to provide transport for people who need it. We aim to be able to get people to Mass once a week (often a lot more). There is often a high demand which makes the transport arrangements difficult. We are very grateful to our volunteer drivers who are an enormous help to us. We have a great need for more volunteers - the more we have the less we will need

to call on you. If you can help, please contact Veronica or any member of the SVP as above. **Thank you.**



House Blessing - The month of June is traditionally dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This devotion is a way to honour the love and compassion symbolized by Jesus' heart. The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart will be celebrated on **Friday 27th June**. During the month of June Fr Biju is offering to visit and bless your home if you wish. Please speak directly to Fr Biju to arrange this.

Children's Liturgy – Mike and Mary do a wonderful job in planning and delivering the liturgy to our young parishioners, we are looking for volunteers to help with this. In line with diocesan protocol. volunteers will be required to be DBS checked. If you are interested or would simply like to know more about what is involved, please contact Fr Biju, Deacon Peter, Mike, or Mary.

Newsletter Deadline – Items for inclusion in the Parish Newsletter should be submitted to Denise **no later than 5.00pm on Wednesday afternoon**. Items submitted after this deadline cannot be guaranteed to be included until the following week.

Thought for the week: "God loves us, all of us. We are all in the hands of God. Without fear, united, hand in hand, with God and among ourselves, we will go forward. We are all disciples of Christ, Christ goes before us, and the world needs his light." – **Pope Leo XIV**

Reflection on the Solemnity of The Ascension



This coming Thursday, the Church will be celebrating the Solemnity of The Ascension - the ascent of Jesus Christ into heaven on the 40th day after his resurrection. The Feast of the Ascension ranks with Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost in the universality of its observance among Christians and has been celebrated 40 days after Easter in both Eastern and Western Christianity since the 4th century. Prior to that time, the Ascension was commemorated as a part of the celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Just before the passion and suffering of Jesus, his friends and followers witnessed him being betrayed, denied, and condemned. They stood at a distance and watched him die a very public and humiliating death – some of them even deserted him. When they were told by some of the others that they had seen the Lord, they refused to believe them; they doubted. Eventually, after seeing the risen Lord for themselves several times, they believed that he had indeed risen from the dead. And now Jesus is preparing them for his departure and his return to heaven. The disciples thought they had lost Jesus once when he died, now they must face the reality of life without him again – Jesus is leaving them – but he is not leaving them alone; he is not deserting or abandoning them. The reality is that he is going to be with them in a very personal and intimate way.

In the Gospels, Jesus told his followers that he would give them another Advocate to be with them forever; *“The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you.”* John 14:26. Before Jesus takes his leave of them, he passes on and entrusts them with the responsibility of carrying on his mission of proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel and of establishing the Kingdom of God. This ordinary group of men and women are the ones who were chosen by Jesus to be heralds and witnesses of the resurrection. Through their words and actions, the world will know that Jesus is alive and more alive and present than ever he was. As the earthly life of Jesus ends, theirs and our mission and ministry begins.

Today that responsibility now belongs to us. The first friends and followers of Jesus are our ancestors and we are their descendants. It is now up to each of us in our way to carry on the mission and ministry of Jesus. Through us today, the world will know that Jesus is alive, present, and active in our world. As the late Pope Francis taught us *“every Christian is a missionary to the extent that they have experienced the love of God in Jesus.”*

Even as we celebrate the solemnity of The Ascension, it is most important that we understand and believe that Jesus has not left, deserted, or abandoned us. He is with us when we can gather together at the celebration of Mass; He is with us when we reach out to support one another with our love; He is with us in both the good times and bad times in our lives. As he tells us in the Gospel, *“Go therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always, yes, to the end of time.”* Matthew 28:19-20

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