



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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27 th July 2025 Psalter Week 1		Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time	
First Reading	Book of Genesis 18:20-32 <i>‘Oh, let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak.’</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord.		
Second Reading	St Paul to the Colossians 2:12-14 <i>‘God made you alive together with him, having forgiven all trespasses.’</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” Alleluia!		
Gospel	Luke 11: 1-13 <i>‘Ask, and it will be given to you.’</i>		
Saturday 26 th July +		6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday 27 th July +		10.30am	Mass – (Fr David Barret – Anniversary of Priestly Ordination)
Monday 28 th July St Alphonsa of India - Religious		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Anne Wogan RIP)
Tuesday 29 th July Ss Martha, Mary & Lazarus		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass - (Sr Clare Maple – Platinum Anniversary of Profession to the Religious Life)
Wednesday 30 th July St Peter Chrysologus – Bishop & Doctor			No Parish Mass today
Thursday 31 st July St Ignatius of Loyola - Priest		9.15am 10.00am	Mass – (Jan Cartwright RIP) Adoration with Confession
Friday – 1 st August St Alphonsus Liguori – Bishop & Doctor		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Dinah Keane RIP & Jim Keane family intentions)
Saturday – 2 nd August St Eusebius of Vercelli – Bishop St Peter Julian Eymard - Priest		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Graham & Liz Ryan Ints)
Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time			
Saturday – 2 nd August +		6.00pm 6.30pm	Confessions Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday – 3 rd August +		10.30am	Mass – (Fr Anthony Roberts RIP)

Thank you for your Weekly Offering – unfortunately the figures for last week's offertory are not yet available – these will be published next week.



Fr Biju – as you will know, Bishop David has asked Fr Biju to continue his priestly ministry as the new Parish Priest of St Mary's Church, Dunstable. Fr Biju's last Mass here as our Parish Priest will be on **Sunday 7th September**. After this Mass our Parish Social Committee are busy organising a fitting farewell to Fr Biju and will be serving refreshments. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a Parish to thank Fr Biju for all that he has done in the all too short time that he has been with us.

Collection – The Parish Council are organising a collection for Fr Biju – if you would like to donate, please use one of the special envelopes which are available at the back of the church or you can use the Digital Collection Plate. Leaving Cards are available at the back of the church for parishioners to sign. Thank you.



Memorial Wall – Fr Biju would like to create a memorial wall in the parish garden by utilising the existing wall that divides the lawn from the paved patio area. Parishioners would have opportunity of purchasing a simple memorial stone plaque (see image) in memory of a loved one. The cost of each plaque is yet to be finalised but if you are interested, please let either Fr Biju or Deacon Peter know.



Fifth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly **Sunday, 27th July**

Since its establishment in 2021 by Pope Francis, this special day has become rooted in the life of the Church, growing in meaning and importance each year. This year's theme, **"Blessed are those who have not lost hope"** (cf. Sir 14:2), echoes the spirit of the Jubilee of Hope and reminds us of the powerful witness offered by older generations through their faith, resilience, and enduring love. No longer seen merely as recipients of care, grandparents and the elderly are now rightly recognised as active contributors to the Church's mission—guardians of memory, transmitters of wisdom, and steadfast examples of hope. In this Jubilee Year, we are especially mindful of those unable to travel. On this special day, we pray for our own grandparents and for grandparents everywhere thanking God for their wisdom and love.

Cancel Debt – Choose Hope - A big thank you to the 50 plus parishioners who signed the petition calling on governments and world leaders to create better systems for managing the global debt crisis; calling on them to cancel unfair debts, and to implement fairer laws to prevent financial institutions from charging extortionate interest rates that prevent low-income countries providing medical care, quality education and combatting climate change. A great response for a small parish! – **Parish CAFOD Group**



Fr David Butler Barrett
Ordained Priest: 30th July 1993
Deo Gratias

"O, how great is the priest! ... If he realised what he is, he would die. If we had faith, we would see God hidden in the priest like a light behind glass, like wine mixed with water. Without the priest, the passion and death of our Lord would be of no avail."

St John Vianney

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE ANNUAL MASS - Bishop David will celebrate the Annual Mass for Marriage and Family Life on Saturday, **6th September 2025 at 12 noon**, at Northampton Cathedral. All are welcome. If you are celebrating a special anniversary this year, please contact Sam at: mfl@northamptondiocese.org



Catechist Formation

Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis (Level 1)

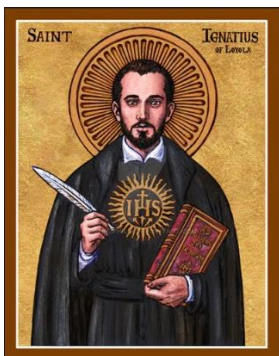
Are you called to be a catechist? Do you want to grow in confidence and understanding as you accompany others on their faith journey?

This blended training course combines virtual and in-person elements. Drawing from Scripture, Church documents, and lived experience, it is ideal for new and experienced catechists. **Course Dates: Starts Tuesday 14 October** Then Tuesday evenings: 21st October; 4th November; 11th November; 18th November. In-person Saturday session: 10am–4pm, 22nd November at St Francis & St Therese RC Church Rooms, Northampton NN4 0RZ. Includes Zoom links, course materials, and refreshments. No fixed fee – donations welcomed

Further information & Registration:

www.northamptondiocese.org/courses/bishops-certificate-in-catechesis-level-1-october-2025

Course brochure: www.northamptondiocese.org/catechesis



St Ignatius Loyola, Priest - was born in the year 1491 at Loyola in northern Spain, his early life was led at court and in the army. He was later converted to a life of holiness. He studied theology at Paris and gathered companions around him and afterwards at Rome he formed the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). He exercised a very fruitful apostolate by his written work and by the formation of his disciples who were outstanding in the reform of the Church. He died at Rome in the year 1556. You can obtain a copy of the 'Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola' – ISBN: 9780895551535 – published by TAN books from Blackwell's Books <https://blackwells.co.uk/bookshop/>

Thought for the week: All the things in this world are gifts of God, created for us, to be the means by which we can come to know him better, love him more surely, and serve him more faithfully.

St Ignatius Loyola

Reflection on Prayer

“Prayer is essentially an attitude. We trust God, we believe in Him, we turn to Him. An attitude is something permanent. So how could prayer stop when we, as it were, stop praying? It would be as if your relationship with your parents existed only when you were in actual contact with them.

I think there are different levels of prayer. The deepest level is that wordless union with God that is indescribable. There is nothing to say about this, because there are no concepts that one can get hold of to talk about what happens. My guess would be that we all know this level, even in the most fleeting form. Has everybody not experienced a moment when beauty or wonder touched them at depth? Because this touch of God escapes all the confines of the human mind, there is literally nothing more to be said about it.

Then there is the level that would fit more comfortably into what most people think of as prayer. We are in church, or we are on our knees, and we are, as the catechism says, 'directing the mind and heart to God.' We know what we are doing: we are praying. Most commonly we are petitioning, but also, we can be glorying, or thanking, or simply telling God how we feel. All church services are structured on this level of prayer. And so are meditation books. Also, when we sit down to think about a passage in the Scriptures and to ponder its meanings for us. The defining note of this broad and vital level of prayer is that we use words, either vocally or mentally.

A less structured level is what I would call spiritual talk. Here you are not directly addressing God, but are engaged in the mystery of what He is. Listening to sermons comes into this level. Saint Teresa of Avila said she had never heard a sermon so bad she could not get something from it (I suppose even compassion for the preacher). Even more, talking to friends about the things of God comes into this layer. Parents teaching their children about God comes here, and schoolteachers trying to share with their pupils a sense of God's wonder and of the actual nature of faith. All these occupations make sense only because we want to love God. In their own way they are an expression of that love and a means of deepening it.”

Sr Wendy Beckett



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