



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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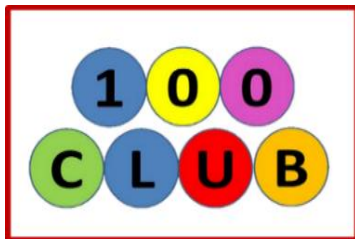
SVP Contact: 07469 717760

10 th August 2025 Psalter Week 3		Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time	
First Reading	Book of Wisdom 18:6-9 <i>‘By the same means by which you punished our enemies you called us to yourself and glorified us.’</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	Blessed the people the Lord has chosen as his heritage.		
Second Reading	Letter to the Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 <i>‘He was looking forward to the city whose designer and builder is God.’</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Luke 12:32-48 <i>‘You also must be ready.’</i>		
Saturday 9 th August +		6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday 10 th August +		10.30am	Mass – (Fr Anthony Roberts RIP)
Monday 11 th August St Clare - Virgin		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Terry Askew – Healing)
Tuesday 12 th August St Jane Frances de Chantal - Religious		10.00am	Requiem Mass – Marie Therese Poulailleau RIP
Wednesday 13 th August Ss Pontian – Pope; Hippolytus - Priest			No Parish Mass today
Thursday 14 th August St Maximillian Kolbe – Priest & Martyr		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Martha McConnelleague RIP)
Friday – 15 th August + THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM Solemnity - Holy Day of Obligation		9.15am 10.00am 7.00pm	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Fr Bert Payne RIP) Mass – (Sue Lees RIP)
Saturday – 16 th August St Stephen of Hungary		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Richard Jewell RIP)
Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time			
Saturday – 16 th August +		6.00pm 6.30pm	Confessions Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday – 17 th August +		10.30am	Mass – (James O’Connor RIP)

PLEASE NOTE: THIS COMING FRIDAY WE CELEBRATE THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM – THIS IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Thank you for your Weekly Offering	
Offertory	£350.96
Digital Collection Plate	£55.00
Standing Orders	£502.00
TOTAL	£907.96

The Feast of St Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr – Secondary Patron of our Parish – falls on 10th August – as this is a Sunday the Feast is not observed this year.



Congratulations to our Second 100 Club winner!
Christine Ayles

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Thank you to everyone who joined the parish 100 club in time for our second draw which was held last Sunday. If you would like to 'sign up' for the next draw which takes place on **Sunday 7th September** please see Michele, Toby or Maura after Mass or email: the100clubourladysolney@gmail.com to let the team know you would like to buy a ticket/tickets for the remaining 10 draws of the year and they will be in touch with an application form and to let you know how you pay for the rest of the year. Many thanks for your continued support.

Annual Financial Report

Parish Finance Report - We are pleased to share a brief update on the parish finances for the past year to **31 March 2025**. Total income reached £68,558 whilst running costs were kept slightly lower at **£66,469**. This small surplus has

allowed us to grow our reserves to **£38,748**, helping to build a more secure foundation for the future.

Income – £68,558

Running Costs – £66,469

Reserves – now £38,748

While this is encouraging, we must remain mindful that major one-off repairs or new projects will still require fundraising and additional support beyond our regular income. We also raised £10,787 from second collections for diocesan-led and other good causes. Further details can be found on the noticeboard at the back of the church and on the parish website at: <https://www.ourladysolney.co.uk/accounts-to-31-march-2025/>

A **heartfelt thank you to all parishioners** for your continued generosity. Your support keeps our parish running and ensures we can continue our mission and ministry. Together, we are not only balancing the books — we are building a stronger parish for the years ahead. *From Fr Biju's desk...*



Fr Biju will be celebrating his last Mass here as our Parish Priest 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 – everyone welcome! 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 if you wish.



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 Fr Biju know.



St Lawrence – Deacon & Martyr – Lawrence was a deacon of the Church of Rome and died in the persecution of Valerian four days after Pope Saint Sixtus II and his four fellow deacons. Before his death St. Lawrence remarked; *“At last I am finished; you may now take from me and eat!”* He then turned to God in prayer saying, *“I thank You, O Lord; that I am permitted to enter Your portals.”* He was buried on the Via Tiburtina at the Campo Verano near to where Constantine the Great built a basilica. He has been venerated throughout the Church from the fourth century. St Lawrence is the Secondary Patron of our parish.



St Maximilian Kolbe – On Thursday the Church celebrates the feast of St Maximilian Kolbe a Polish Catholic priest who was very active in promoting the veneration of the Immaculate Virgin Mary. During the Second World War he was imprisoned in Auschwitz where he famously offered himself, as an old man with no dependants, in place of Francis Gajowniczek, an Army Sergeant, who had a wife and children and had been sentenced to death. Truly a Saint of our time.

Thought for the week: If anyone does not wish to have Mary Immaculate for his Mother, he will not have Christ for his Brother.”

St Maximilian Kolbe

Scripture Reflection

From Fr Biju's desk... The central theme of today's readings is the necessity for trusting Faith in God's promises and vigilant preparedness among Christ's followers to meet their God as their Judge and Rewarder at the time of their death.

The First Reading cites the Faith-filled preparedness of the ancient Hebrew slaves in Egypt before their mass exodus to the Promised Land. Their trusting Faith in their God's promises gave them hope. We are told how their Faith and Hope resulted in their liberation. With expectant Hope, the Hebrews sacrificed the first Passover lamb and ate the first ritual meal, as prescribed by their God through Moses. They awaited their imminent release and were prepared for it.

Today's Responsorial Psalm invites us to express our own confidence in God and to declare our trust in His Providence.

In the Second Reading, taken from the last chapter of the letter to the Hebrews, the author defines Faith as "the realisation of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen". He tries to reinforce the Faith of the Jewish Christians by appealing to the example of their ancestors, starting with Abraham, and reviewing the things they accomplished by Faith.

In the Gospel, Jesus challenges his disciples to trust the Father's promise to give them eternal happiness in His kingdom. But they are to be prepared at all times, because the Son of Man will come at an unexpected hour, either at the moment of their death or at the end of the world, whichever comes first. Using the master-thief parable, Jesus warns us to be on our guard so that the thief may not steal our treasure of Divine grace or our relationship with God by his temptations. Using the master-servant parable, Jesus reminds us always to do the will of God by obeying Jesus' commandment of love and offering humble and sacrificial service to others.

We always need to be prepared to meet our Lord as our judge. Since no one is sure about the time and circumstances of one's death, we must be ever prepared to face Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, as our Judge at the moment of our death to give an account of our lives. Jesus wants to see that we have kept our relationship with him by growing in holiness. Such a growth is assisted by daily talking to him and listening to him in Bible reading; by asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit every day and getting spiritual nourishment in Holy Communion during the Holy Mass.



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