



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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17 th August 2025 Psalter Week 4		Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time	
First Reading	Prophet Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10 <i>'You bore me, a man of contention to the whole land.'</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	Lord, make haste to help me!		
Second Reading	Letter to the Hebrews 12:1-4 <i>'Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.'</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord, and I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Luke 12:49-53 <i>'I have not come to give peace but division.'</i>		
Saturday 16 th August +		6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday 17 th August +		10.30am	Mass – (James O'Connor RIP)
Monday 18 th August <i>Feria</i>		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (William Brooks RIP)
Tuesday 19 th August St John Eudes - Priest		9,15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass - (Vincent & Michael Wogan RIP)
Wednesday 20 th August St Bernard – Abbot & Doctor			No Parish Mass today
Thursday 21 st August St Pius X - Pope		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Paula Medlicott RIP)
Friday – 22 nd August The Queenship of the BVM			No Parish Mass today
Saturday – 23 rd August St Rose of Lima - Virgin			No 10.00am Mass today
Twenty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time			
Saturday – 23 rd August +		6.00pm 6.30pm	Confessions Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday – 24 th August +		10.30am	Mass – (Deceased family and friends of the Ayles family)

Thank you for your Weekly Offering	
Offertory	£360.65
Digital Collection Plate	£50.00
Standing Orders	£502.00
TOTAL	£912.65



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 – We 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.

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

Can you help the Milton Keynes Foodbank and those they support.

- Bereaved families who have lost the main breadwinner and don't know where to turn.
- Working people on low incomes struggling suddenly with very high mortgages, rent increases and bills.
- Parents and children fleeing domestic violence, who are often displaced miles away from home.
- Families with disabled children or sick relatives who must have the heating on round the clock, taking up all their money.

Items currently needed are Tinned Meat and Fish, Juice or Squash, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Veg, Tinned or Dried Pasta, Savoury Snacks and Toiletries.
Items can be left in the blue box by the presbytery front door.

CHURCH FLOWERS

Do you like seeing fresh flowers in the church each week?

We desperately need more people to join the flower rota.

Also, we need more people to help write the bidding prayers and to read at the Saturday night Vigil Mass.

If you can help with any of the above, please contact Denise in the first instance.

Thank you.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE 19–24 October 2025. Join Bishop David Oakley and Canon John Udris on a spiritual pilgrimage to France marking the 350th anniversary of the Sacred Heart apparitions. Destinations include Paray-le-Monial (Sacred Heart), Nevers (St Bernadette), Ars (St John Vianney), Cluny, and the ecumenical community of Taizé. For more information and booking visit the following website:
<https://www.jcjourneys.com/northampton-burgundy>

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS AUGUST Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION – Monday, 1 September The Church will mark this day as part of the Season of Creation (1 Sept – 4 Oct). Now in its 10th year, Pope Leo XIV has promulgated a Mass for the Day, encouraging renewed prayer and commitment. The Holy Father's message, "Seeds of Peace and Hope", invites us to see care for creation as an expression of faith and a path to peace

SICK & HOME VISITS: If you know of anyone who is ill or housebound please get them to contact Br Biju or the parish office so we can arrange for a visit and to receive Holy Communion if they wish.

DAVID ASHFORD update. David has moved to Dial House, 7-9 Dynevor Rd, Bedford, MK40 2DB. He would be very grateful for visitors. He will be at Dial House for 2-4 weeks. Details will be updated when we have more information.

PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL Holy Michael, the Archangel defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust down to hell Satan and all the wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION to be used especially by those not receiving the Eucharist. My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and I unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Scripture Reflection

The central theme of today's readings is that we should be Christians on fire instead of remaining "frozen Christians." It is by courageously living out our religious convictions with commitment as Jeremiah, Paul, and Jesus did, even if doing so would result in causing divisions in families and society and inviting suffering and death.

In our first reading, Jeremiah is presented as experiencing the consequences of the burning word of God within him. Jeremiah's preaching divided the city and incited such opposition that people sought his death. He showed the courage of his prophetic conviction by telling the king that the Lord God had said that the King had to surrender to the mighty army of the Babylonian empire to save Israel. The King feared the nobles' reaction to this commanded surrender, silenced Jeremiah, and refused to obey God's word. The result for Jeremiah was being thrown into a deep, muddy, unused cistern to die. The result for Jerusalem was utter destruction by an implacable enemy.

The Responsorial Psalm has us sing what could have been Jeremiah's plea to God, "Lord! Come to my aid!" Standing in this prophetic tradition, Paul, in the second reading, challenges the Judeo-Christians to stand firm in their Faith in Jesus, ignoring the ostracism imposed on them by their own former Jewish community.

In today's Gospel, Jesus preaches the word of God, which continues to divide families, a word which, he knew, would ultimately lead to his death. The fire Jesus brings is the fire of love and the fire of hope. The disruption, division, and revolution which Jesus and his true followers cause in society by the fire of sacrificial love and the fire of justice are necessary to reset what's fractured, put right what's dislocated and cleanse what's infected in the world and the Body of Christ.

On the day of our Baptism, we received the light of Christ and were instructed to keep that torch burning brightly until the return of Christ Jesus. In addition, the Holy Spirit was sent into our hearts both in Baptism and at Confirmation to help set us on fire. "One who is on fire cannot sit on a chair." So, as Christians on fire, we have to inflame people to care, to serve, and to bless one another with all the gifts of Faith. We should allow that fire to burn off the impurities in us and to bring out the purity of the gold and silver within us.

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

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