



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

Parish Website: www.ourladysolney.co.uk

Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

parish.olney@northamptondiocese.org

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

Parish Safeguarding: Janet Goodland

safeguarding.olney@northamptondiocese.org

SVP Contact: 07469 717760

24 th August 2025 Psalter Week 1		Twenty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time	
First Reading	Prophet Isaiah 66:18-21 <i>‘They shall bring all your brothers from all the nations.’</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.		
Second Reading	Letter to the Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13 <i>‘The Lord disciplines the one he loves.’</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord. No one comes to the Father except through me. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Luke 13:22-30 <i>‘People will come from east and west, and recline at table in the kingdom of God.’</i>		
Saturday 23 rd August +		6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday 24 th August +		10.30am	Mass – (Deceased family and friends of the Ayles family)
Monday 25 th August <i>Feria</i>		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (St Patricks Artists Int)
Tuesday 26 th August <i>Feria</i>		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass - (Michael McCormick Recovery)
Wednesday 27 th August St Monica			No Parish Mass today
Thursday 28 th August St Augustine – Bishop & Doctor			No Parish Mass today
Friday – 29 th August The Passion of St John the Baptist		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Caroline Robertson Ints)
Saturday – 30 th August <i>Feria</i>		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Stewart family Ints)
Twenty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time			
Saturday – 30 th August +		6.00pm 6.30pm	Confessions Vigil Mass – (Valerie Curran RIP)
Sunday – 31 st August +		10.30am	Mass – (Pro Populo)

Thank you for your Weekly Offering	
Offertory	£314.70
Digital Collection Plate	£45.00
Standing Orders	£502.00
TOTAL	£861.70



Our Parish Church – on **Tuesday 26th August** we celebrate the anniversary of the dedication of our beautiful church. We thank God for the gift of our church and for the benefactors and many parishioners past and present. We pray also for our currently Parish Priest together with the priests who have served the people of our parish over the years. May God bless them all.

Prayer to Our Lady Help of Christians

Most Holy Virgin Mary, Help of Christian, how sweet it is to come to your feet imploring your perpetual help. If earthly mothers cease not to remember their children, how can you, the most loving of all mothers forget me? Grant then to me, I implore you, your perpetual help in all my necessities, in every sorrow, and especially in all my temptations. I ask for your unceasing help for all who are now suffering. Help the weak, cure the sick, convert sinners. Grant through your intercessions many vocations to the religious life. Obtain for us, O Mary, Help of Christians, that having invoked you on earth we may love and eternally thank you in heaven.

St John Bosco



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.



First Holy Communion - Classes will start on **Sunday 5th October**. If you have a child in Year 2 or above and you would like them to make their 1st Holy Communion, please contact Denise on parish.olney@northamptondiocese.org or call her on 01234 711212 for a registration form. Further details will be announced later – all requests must be made via the parish office in the first instance.

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

We desperately need more people to join the flower rota. If you can help, please contact Denise on parish.olney@northamptondiocese.org or ring on 01234 711212. Thank you.

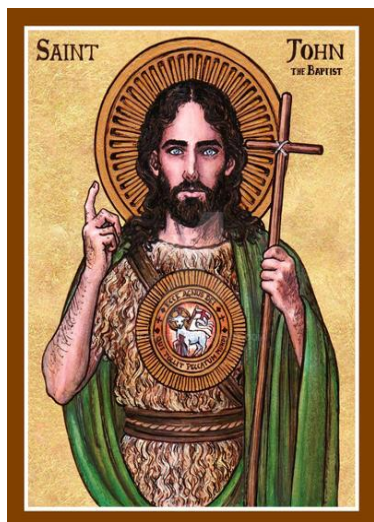
Sick and Home Visits: If you know of anyone who is ill or housebound please get them to contact Fr Biju or the parish office so we can arrange for a visit and to receive Holy Communion if they wish.

Mass for Marriage and Family Life: Bishop David will celebrate the Annual Mass for Marriage and Family Life on 6th September 2025 at 12.00 noon at Northampton Cathedral. All are welcome.

If you are celebrating a special anniversary this year, please contact Sam at mfl@northamptondiocese.org

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: On 13th August, Father Derek Laverty, SCCC, passed away at the age of 71 in Dublin, Ireland. Derek grew up in Bedford and some of you may remember him from when he visited the sisters in St Joseph's. May he rest in the peace of the Lord.

Message from the Social Committee: The Parish Council and Social Committee are looking forward to welcoming everyone to Fr Biju's farewell celebration after Mass on Sunday 7 September. We hope you will enjoy the buffet. No food contributions are required this time but any donations of wine would be appreciated as our stores are running low. Please feel free to drop off any bottles (either at the back of church or place in the kitchen) next weekend. Soft drinks will be provided. Many thanks.



The Passion of St John the Baptist – On **Friday** of this week, we celebrate the memoria of what was once known as 'The Beheading of St John the Baptist but is now called the 'Passion of St John the Baptist.'

Passion can be understood in two ways; passion in terms of suffering, trial and death, and passion in terms of the motivating force and energy of someone for a particular purpose. The gospels make it clear that John fully understood his purpose in preparing the way for the coming Messiah, for Jesus.

As cousins, they may have known each other quite well in their childhood days and early years. John fulfilled his mission so well that his group of followers continued well after his death, although some, as we know, turned to Jesus. To die, the way he did at the hands of Herod, seems scant reward for all that he did for Jesus. Yet he would not have wanted it any other way. He offers us a somewhat brutal lesson as followers of Jesus whose mission, passion like John's, is to prepare the way for Jesus to enter the lives of those we encounter. Our reward may not be glorious, happy, or joyful in any way but, our reward, like John's, is to fulfil whatever God asks of us, however difficult, however challenging, and however impossible it may seem.

Scripture Reflection

In the first reading, Isaiah's prophecy addresses the Babylonian exiles returning to Jerusalem after 70 years in captivity, particularly the younger members with their pagan wives, instructing them that salvation is not a Jewish monopoly, and that is why Yahweh welcomes pagans into Judaism as well. The prophet's great book ends as it began, with a vision of all the peoples of the world streaming toward Jerusalem, acknowledging and praising the God of Israel.

The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 117) refrain, "*Go out to all the world and tell the Good News*," reflects the mission of God's chosen people to be instruments of salvation to the whole world. In the second reading, exploring with his readers the consequences of Christian commitment, St. Paul explains that "*the narrow gate*" of Jesus means our acceptance of pain and suffering as the loving discipline God gives His children.

In today's Gospel, Jesus clearly explains that anyone who follows him through the narrow gate of sacrificial service and sharing love will be saved. Jesus also admonishes his followers to concentrate on their salvation by self-discipline rather than to worry about the salvation of others.

Salvation is a past, present, and future event. We were saved from the bondage of sin when we were baptised as children or adults. We are being saved at present when we cooperate with God's grace by loving others as Jesus did, by sharing our blessings with the needy, and by getting reconciled with God daily, asking His forgiveness for our sins. We will be eternally saved when we hear the loving invitation from Jesus, the Judge, at the moment of our death and on the day of the Last Judgment, saying: "*Good and faithful servant, you were faithful in little things, enter into the joy of your Master.*" We need to cooperate with God's grace daily given to us: a) by choosing the narrow way and the narrow gate of self-control and self-discipline of our evil tendencies, evil habits, and addictions; b) by loving others, seeing the face of Jesus in them, and sharing our blessings with them sacrificially; c) by obtaining the daily Divine strength to practice self-control and sharing love through the guidance of the Holy Spirit in daily prayer, in Bible reading, and reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.

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