



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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31 st August 2025 Psalter Week 2		Twenty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation	
First Reading	Book of Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29 <i>‘Humble yourself so you will find favour in the sight of the Lord.’</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	In your goodness, O God, you provided a home for the poor.		
Second Reading	Letter to the Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a <i>‘You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God.’</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Luke 14:1, 7-14 <i>‘Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.’</i>		
Saturday 30 th August +		6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Valerie Curran RIP)
Sunday 31 st August +		10.30am	Mass – (Pro Populo)
Monday 1 st September <i>Feria</i>		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Br John Mayhead Ints.)
Tuesday 2 nd September <i>Feria</i>		9,15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass - (Frank, Kitty & Lillian Morris RIP)
Wednesday 3 rd September St Gregory the Great – Pope & Doctor		9,15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass - (Fr Biju – Private Int.)
Thursday 4 th September St Cuthbert - Bishop		6.00pm 6.45pm	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Patterson family Ints.)
Friday – 5 th September Blessed William Brown - Martyr		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Sarah Jayne Fishwick – Healing)
Saturday – 6 th September <i>Feria</i>		9.00am 9.30am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Fr Hildebrand RIP)
Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time			
Saturday – 6 th September +		6.00pm 6.30pm	Confessions Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday – 7 th September +		10.30am	Mass – (Fr Biju’s Ints.)

Thought for the week: "The way to Christ is first through humility, second through humility, third through humility."

St. Augustine.

Thank you for your Weekly Offering	
Offertory	£342.75
Digital Collection Plate	£65.00
Standing Orders	£502.00
TOTAL	£909.75



Fr Biju will be celebrating his last Mass here as our Parish Priest next **Sunday 7th September at 10.30am**. After this Mass the Parish Council and Social Committee are looking forward to welcoming everyone to Fr Biju's farewell celebration in the Parish Hall. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a Parish to thank Fr Biju for all that he has done for our parish in the all too short time that he has been with us. 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. Soft drinks will be provided. Many thanks.

The First Thursday Discussion Club starts its third annual series on **Thursday, 4th September, at 7.30pm-8.30pm, after Mass at 6.45pm**. All are welcome. The theme for 2025-26 is 'Faith in the Arts'. Anyone who attends any session and would then like to lead or chair a discussion is most welcome to volunteer by contacting Simon Lee in person or by email simon.lee@qub.ac.uk or phone 07837138249. Simon will start by leading the September discussion in reflecting on Faith in the Art of Hymn-writing, including references to Amazing Grace by John Newton and God moves in a mysterious way by William Cowper, and the Olney Hymnal. This is a gentle introduction to remind us of the 2023 origins of this parish activity, in response to the previous eighteen months of Olney celebrating the 250th anniversary of Amazing Grace. In October or November, Revd Hugh Reid is going to lead a discussion on Faith in Films. There are certain fixed points, such as the December one on The Art of Carols, Cribs, Christmas cards and Christmas novels, but otherwise we can be flexible on topics and the order, to suit those volunteering. We would like to embrace as many of the creative arts as possible, including stained-glass windows, statues, stations of the cross, poetry, sculpture, painting, drama, and different media, such as cinema, radio, and television. A couple of the dates will have to be considered with Fr Daniel in due course, as the First Thursday of January 2026 is New Year's Day and the first Thursday of April 2026 is 2nd, which is Maundy Thursday, where the Mass of the Last Supper has been at 7pm. But we will give as much notice as possible of any changes to the rhythm of First Thursdays at 7.30pm. All are welcome.



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.



SEASON OF CREATION

Pope Francis established 1st September as the **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**, encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home. The day is inspired by Pope Francis' landmark encyclical

Laudato Si', which calls on "every person living on this planet" to care for our shared Earth. The theme in this Jubilee Year is "Seeds of Peace and Hope" and, in his message for the occasion, Pope Leo XIV reflects on Jesus' use of the image of the seed and how, in Christ, we are also "seeds of peace and hope." As we celebrate this World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation why not spend some time during the coming week in our beautiful parish garden which has so lovingly been nurtured by members of our Parish Gardening Club.



New Academic Year - As the new academic year begins for those at School, College, or University we wish our young people every success and hold them in our prayers. These past few months have been enormously challenging for our young people and we hope and pray that things will significantly improve in the months ahead.



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/Deacon Peter know.



Church Flowers - We remain very grateful to the small team of parishioners who provide and arrange the flowers in our church. We are in need of more people to join the flower rota. If you can help or would like further information, please contact Denise on parish.olney@northamptondiocese.org or call on 01234 711212. Thank you.



National Emergency Alert Test - We have been asked to assist in spreading the word about the Emergency Alert Test taking place **next Sunday 7th September 2025 at 3:00 pm**. The Emergency Alerts system warns the public of nearby dangers to life, including extreme weather. Since the first national test in April 2023, five alerts have been issued, including during major storms when lives were at risk.

You can find out more about Emergency Alerts at <https://www.gov.uk/alerts>

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Scripture Reflection

From Fr Biju's desk... The common theme of today's readings is the need for true humility, which leads to a generous, blessed sharing with the needy. The readings warn us against all forms of pride and self-glorification. They present humility not only as a virtue but also as a means of opening our hearts, our minds, and our hands to the poor, the needy, the disadvantaged, and the marginalised of society. For Jesus, the daily human needs of the poor are the *personal* responsibility of every authentic, humble believer. In addition, humility is the mother not only of peace, but also of many virtues, like obedience, fear, reverence, patience, modesty, meekness, and gentleness.

The First Reading – taken from the book of Sirach, reminds us that if we are humble, we will find favour with God, and others will love us. Today's Responsorial Psalm shows us God's eternal awareness of the least of His children. The Psalm Refrain has us sing, *"God, in Your Goodness, you have made a Home for the Poor!"* while the verse reminds us, *"The Father of orphans and the Defender of widows is God in His Holy Dwelling. God gives a home to the forsaken; He leads forth prisoners to prosperity."*

The Second Reading - taken from Hebrews, gives another reason for us to be humble contrasting the Old Testament God of Power and majesty with the New Testament God's Only-begotten, now Incarnate Son, Jesus, who has appeared to us humbly and festively in this glorified community of Christ and the Father, the angels, and all the saved in the new heavenly Jerusalem. The Incarnate Son of God humbled Himself, taking on human flesh and living our lives so that he might die to save us. He invites his followers to learn how to live from him because he is *"meek and humble of heart."* Paul reminds us that Jesus was lowly, particularly in his suffering and death for our salvation, so we should be like him that we may be exalted with him at the resurrection of the righteous.

In today's Gospel, Jesus explains the practical benefits of humility, connecting it with the common wisdom about good manners. Jesus advises the guests to go to the lowest place instead of seeking places of honour so that the host may give them the place they deserve. Jesus' words concerning the seating of guests at a wedding banquet should prompt us to honour those whom others ignore, because if we are generous and just in our dealings with those in need, we can be confident of the Lord's blessings. On the other hand, if we act out of pride and selfishness, we can be sure that our efforts will come to nothing.

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

