



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](mailto:frbiju.chittuparamban@northamptondiocese.org)

Deacon: Rev. Peter Griffin – 07850 499414

Parish Website: [www.ourladysolney.co.uk](http://www.ourladysolney.co.uk)

Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

[parish.olney@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:parish.olney@northamptondiocese.org)

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

Parish Safeguarding: Janet Goodland

[safeguarding.olney@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:safeguarding.olney@northamptondiocese.org)

SVP Contact: 07469 717760

3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2025 Psalter Week 2		Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time	
First Reading	Book of Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23 <i>‘What has a man from all his toil?’</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.		
Second Reading	St Paul to the Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11 <i>‘Seek the things that are above, where Christ is.’</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Luke 12:13-21 <i>‘The things you have prepared, whose will they be?’</i>		
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> August +		6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August +		10.30am	Mass – (Fr Anthony Roberts RIP) – (Fr John Fowler RIP)
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> August St John Mary Vianney - Priest		9.15am 10.00am 11.30am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Fr Biju – Birthday Ints) Requiem Mass – Pamela Cooke RIP)
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> August The Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass - (Sherine Winters RIP)
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> August THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Josh Hill – Ints)
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> August Feria		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Ingrid Hawkins RIP)
Friday – 8 <sup>th</sup> August St Dominic - Priest		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Terence Cockings RIP)
Saturday – 9 <sup>th</sup> August St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross – Virgin & Martyr		9.00am 9.30am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Margaret Hodgson - Recovery)
Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time			
Saturday – 9 <sup>th</sup> August +		6.00pm 6.30pm	Confessions Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday – 10 <sup>th</sup> August +		10.30am	Mass – (Fr Anthony Roberts RIP)

**Tea & Coffee in the Parish Hall after the 10.30am Mass this Sunday along with the August '100 Club' Draw – Good Luck!**

Thank you for your Weekly Offering	
Saturday/Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> July	
Offertory	£397.85
Digital Collection Plate	£10.00
Standing Orders	£502.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£909.85</b>
Stella Maris (Sea Sunday)	£164.00
Saturday/Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> /27 <sup>th</sup> July	
Offertory	£294.00
Digital Collection Plate	£20.00
Standing Orders	£502.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£816.00</b>



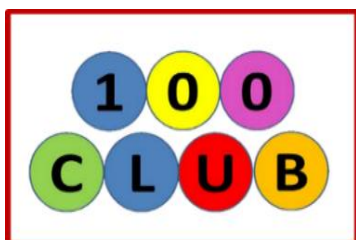
**Fr Biju** will be celebrating his last Mass here as our Parish Priest on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September**. After this Mass our Parish Social Committee are busy organising a fitting farewell to Fr Biju and will be serving refreshments – everyone welcome! This will be a wonderful opportunity for us 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.



**Fr John Fowler, RIP** – On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August, we remember in prayer our dear friend and priest on the third anniversary of when he returned to the Lord. We all of us have so many fond memories of dear Fr John – we pray that he is now basking in the joys of his heavenly home. Please keep Cicely, Andrew & all of Fr John's family & friends in your prayers.

*“Happy are those who die in the Lord! Happy indeed, the Spirit says; now they can rest for ever after their work, since their good deeds go with them.” Revelation 13-14*



**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August** – **this Sunday** sees the next draw of the '100 Club'. If you would like to 'sign up' for the September Draw which takes place on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September** please see Michele, Toby or Maura after Mass or email:

[the100clubourladysolney@gmail.com](mailto: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. Of course, if you have already signed up you can still purchase additional tickets 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 either Fr Biju or Deacon Peter know.



## 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?

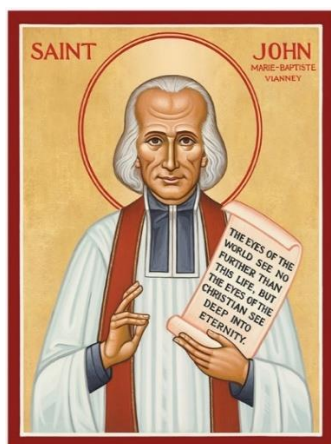
This blended training course combines virtual and in-person elements. Drawing from Scripture, Church documents, and lived experience, it is ideal for new and experienced catechists. **Course Dates: Starts Tuesday 14 October** Then Tuesday evenings: 21<sup>st</sup> October; 4<sup>th</sup> November; 11<sup>th</sup> November; 18<sup>th</sup> November. In-person Saturday session: 10am–4pm, 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.northamptondiocese.org/courses/bishops-certificate-in-catechesis-level-1-october-2025)

Course brochure: [www.northamptondiocese.org/catechesis](http://www.northamptondiocese.org/catechesis)

**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](mailto:mfl@northamptondiocese.org)



**St John Mary Vianney – Priest** was born at Lyons in the year 1786. After overcoming tremendous difficulties, he was finally ordained priest. He was given charge of the parish of Ars in the diocese of Belley, and by his forthright preaching, personal mortification, prayer, and charity renewed it and increased it in a wonderful way. His help to those who came to the sacrament of confession was renowned and people flocked to him from all sides to obtain his advice. He died in the year 1859. St John Mary Vianney is the Patron Saint of Parish Priests.

In his catechetical instructions, St John Mary Vianney writes, *'We had deserved to be left incapable of praying; but God in His goodness has permitted us to speak to Him. Our prayer is an incense that is delightful to God.'*



# Transfiguration of the Lord

Amid the disciples' fears, Christ reveals Himself to them in a tiny glimpse of what the resurrection will be like. This brief vision of Christ, in His glory, was given to Peter, James and John, in order to strengthen the trails of their faith which the sufferings and crucifixion of their beloved master would bring on them. All of us, I am sure, long to have a glimpse of Christ in our everyday lives – maybe to reassure us of God's presence, maybe to remind us of what awaits us in heaven or perhaps to strengthen our weak faith.

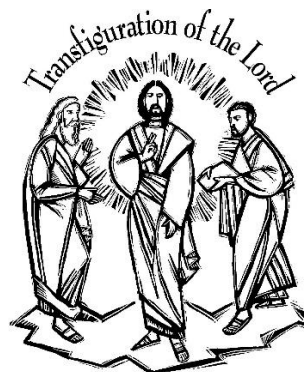
What do we know of the glory of God when we have never seen him with our own eyes or heard His voice with our ears?

The reality is, of course, that there are real glimpses of God all around us each day of our lives – all that we need to do is look for them and recognise them for what they really are. We can see Christ in the hungry, the poor, the homeless, the disadvantaged – we can see Him in those whom we love, our families, our friends – we can see Him in the beauty of the world around us, in the sunset or sunrise, in the trees and rivers, the flowers and plants, in our homes and of course here in our church – in the sacraments, in our devotions, especially in the Mass – all of these are full of the richness and beauty of Christ.

There are two potentialities within each of us – the potential for good and the potential for evil. We are capable of hatred, bitterness, greed, envy and the like. These are ugly things and bring out the worst in us – they corrupt our hearts and minds and draw us away from God. Whereas our potential for good makes us capable of love, joy, patience, kindness, compassion – these are beautiful things and bring out the best in us. They purify our hearts and minds and draw us ever closer to God. Goodness transfigures us.

Mount Tabor and Calvary are linked in the Gospel and are linked also in life. We long for the experience of transfiguration, to stand alongside Peter, James, and John to see God revealed in Jesus Christ. We want to be like Moses and catch a glimpse of His glory. We want to be like Elijah, to hear God in the sound of stillness. But the magnificence of Christ transfigured on Mount Tabor is to be found veiled in the garden at Gethsemane and on Calvary. The glory of God, not now seen directly by our eyes, is just as real and present when Christ experiences His agony in the garden – for in this agony of Christ all mankind was involved. The passion of Jesus Christ is for all time and all people. Tabor and Calvary, in their different ways, reveal the true face of Christ who is the Son of God for, as we know, there was to be a further revelation when the crucified Christ became the risen Christ. The vision of God transfigured in His Son, Jesus Christ, gave His disciples the hope to carry them through the journey of Christ's passion – we too are given this same hope today to carry us through the events of Christ's passion - remembering that Christ died for all mankind.

In His love for us, God allows us to taste on earth the joys of the world to come. In between, however, we must travel in the darkness of faith.



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