

Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

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Parish Website: www.ourladysolney.co.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Daniel Rooke

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Deacon: Rev. Peter Griffin – 07850 499414

Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

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

Parish Safeguarding: Janet Goodland

safeguarding.olney@northamptondiocese.org

SVP Contact: 07469 717760

14 th September 2025 Psalter Week 4		The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	
First Reading	Book of Numbers 21:4b-9 <i>‘If anyone were bitten by a serpent, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.’</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	Never forget the deeds of the Lord!		
Second Reading	St Paul to the Philippians 2:6-11 <i>‘He humbled himself, therefore God has highly exalted him.’</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your Cross you have redeemed the world. Alleluia!		
Gospel	John 3:13-17 <i>‘The Son of Man must be lifted up.’</i>		
Saturday 13 th September +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)	
Sunday 14 th September +	10.30am	Mass – (Fr Daniel’s Ints.)	
Monday 15 th September Our Lady of Sorrows	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Latta family Int.)	
Tuesday 16 th September Ss Cornelius – Pope & Cyprian – Bishop & Martyrs	9,15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass - (Sheila & Joe Loftus RIP)	
Wednesday 17 th September Feria		No Parish Mass today	
Thursday 18 th September Feria	9,15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass - (Leila Cole Healing)	
Friday – 19 th September Feria	9,15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass - (Janet Pearson Recovery)	
Saturday – 20 th September St Andrew Kim Tae-gon and the Martyrs of Korea	9,15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass - (The Faith Movement Int.)	
Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time			
Saturday – 20 th September +	6.00pm 6.30pm	Confessions Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)	
Sunday – 21 st September +	10.30am	Mass – (Alan & Joan Bagg RIP)	

Second Collection Next Weekend – Bishops' Conference Evangelii Gaudium

Thank you for your Weekly Offering	
Offertory	£441.75
Digital Collection Plate	£15.00
Standing Orders	£502.00
TOTAL	£958.75



Welcome to Fr Daniel

We extend a very warm welcome to Fr Daniel Rooke whom Bishop David has appointed as our new Parish Priest.

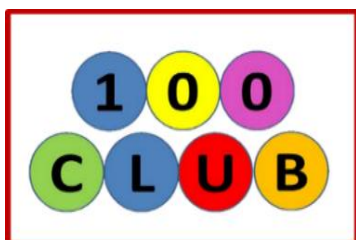
Fr Daniel was ordained Priest on 26th September 2020 and has served as Priest in St Augustine's, High Wycombe and more recently at Northampton Cathedral. He is currently the Diocesan Director of Missio. Please do keep Fr Daniel in your daily prayers as he embarks on the next stage of his priestly ministry.



Message from the Social Committee

Thank you to everyone for attending and contributing so generously to the buffet at the 'Farewell Celebration' for Fr Biju last Sunday – it was a truly wonderful occasion. A very big thank you to everyone who helped before Mass, during the celebration and at the end. It was another wonderful example of our Parish Community together. Many hands make light work. Special thanks to Chacko & Joseph for their splendid 'Bollywood Experience' (Note: Fr Biju did look a bit rusty with some of his moves!) Thank you also for your very generous gift of **£1312.00** which will be

sent to Fr Biju. But the greatest gift of all has been the great love, support, and friendship that you gave to Fr Biju during his time here as our Parish Priest– and such things are eternal. God bless you all.



Congratulations to our latest 100 Club winner!
Janet Goodwin

YELLOW	30
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Thank you to everyone who joined the parish 100 club in time for our third draw which was held last Sunday. If you would like to 'sign up' for the next draw which takes place on **Sunday 5th October** 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.



Guild of St Stephen – Last Sunday during the 10.30am Mass, Fr Biju enrolled Chacko, Jospeh, Aurelia, Shannaida into the Guild of St Stephen for Altar Servers. This reflects their great ministry as Altar Servers assisting the Priest in the worthy celebration of the Holy Mass. We are truly blessed to have such a good team of Altar Servers – young & not so young – we are always keen to welcome others to join them. Full training will be given. If you are interested, please speak to Deacon Peter.



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.



Reverend Father Brian Leatherland, RIP This coming Tuesday, 16th September, we mark the Third Anniversary of when dear Fr Brian was called home to the Lord. Please do continue pray for the repose of the soul of this much-loved priest and friend; and pray also for Sally, Rebekka, James and all the family. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

Requiescat in pace

Message from Fr Biju.

A big thank you from Fr Biju to all the parishioners at Our Lady's and St Lawrence for all their support, prayers and generosity over the past 13 months.

I will keep you all in my prayers.

With my love Fr Biju

Message from the SVP

The SVP are having be holding their annual appeal on 27th/28th September. Envelopes will be distributed on 20th/21st September for return the following weekend. You can also donate via the digital collection plate (select SVP).

Members of the SVP will be available both weekends if you would like to chat to us or ask any questions.

Thought for the Week: "Our soul is like a hot air balloon. If by chance there is a mortal sin, the soul falls to the ground. Confession is like the fire underneath the balloon enabling the soul to rise again. . . It is important to go to confession often."

The Exhalation of the Holy Cross – Scripture Reflection

From Fr Daniel's desk... Change is a funny thing, isn't it? It can feel a bit like standing in a doorway, with one foot still in the familiar room behind you, and the other stepping into a new space. There is a mix of feelings there: the love for what has been, and the hope for what is to come, with perhaps a little measure of trepidation. I am feeling this myself as I begin this journey with you all, wondering about whom I will meet, worrying about how to serve you as a pastor, and I imagine many of you feel this way too as we start this new chapter together.

It is fitting, then, that this week we celebrate the "Exultation of the Cross", and like many other feast days of the Lord, it is paired with a devotion to Our Lady. Monday will be the memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows. The Church chooses to link these two devotions inviting us to see their deep, inseparable connection. Two feasts presenting two sides of perspectives of one mystery.

We see this duality in the scripture readings. The First Reading from Numbers presents a curious and, at first, unsettling scene. The Israelites, weary and impatient in the wilderness, complain against God and Moses. They are then afflicted with venomous snakes, a consequence of their faithlessness. The remedy from God is perhaps shocking, and yet becomes a symbol of victory. Moses is commanded to fashion a bronze serpent and raise it on a pole. Those who look upon it live. The torturous snakes are defeated by God. So that even if bitten God will save them.

In John's Gospel, Jesus directly links Himself to this serpent. "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up." We look upon an instrument of torture and proclaim it as our glory. This time it is death itself that has been defeated, and God will save us. The Cross, then, is a sign that God does not simply eliminate suffering, magic away our real troubles, but He enters it, defeats it, and lifts it up, Changing it. We might recall Holy Communion when again, with the Host and Chalice lifted High, they are changed to the Body and Blood of Christ.

The Cross is the triumph of Christ's obedience and love. Who knows this dual reality better than Our Lady? Exaltation, even the celebration of the God act of salvation does not mean we escape reality. It remains right and healthy to face the sorrows of looking upon the cross, and embrace them. In the Holy Land beside the site of the Crucifixion, inside the Holy Sepulchre is a statue of Mary with seven large swords piercing her heart, weeping; sorrow does not need to stop us, instead our emotions are a means for prayer and growth.

This feast reminds us that the triumph of the Cross was not a sterile event of history. It was a first a victory born of love and also endured with immense human sorrow. Our Lady's tears do not diminish the glory of the Cross; instead, they are proof of the love that made the sacrifice possible. The two feasts together offer us a complete picture of our faith. To be a people of the Cross is to understand that true love is never without cost. As we navigate our own time of change together, let us hold these two truths in our hearts. There is room for mixed emotions, yet like our lady we can forge forward with grace and purpose. Like St Andrew Kim Taegon and his companions, hold fast to our faith even in times of uncertainty. And, like St Hildegard of Bingen, find new ways to express the ancient truths of our faith.

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