



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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7 <sup>th</sup> September 2025 Psalter Week 3		Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time	
First Reading	Book of Wisdom 9:13-18 <i>‘Who can discern what the Lord wills?’</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.		
Second Reading	St Paul to Philemon 9b-10, 12-17 <i>‘Have him back no longer as a bondservant but as a beloved brother.’</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Let your face shine forth on your servant, and teach me your decrees. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Luke 14:25-33 <i>‘Any one who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.’</i>		
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> September +		6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> September +		10.30am	Mass – (Fr Biju’s Ints.)
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> September THE NATIVITY OF THE BVM		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (St Patrick’s Artists Ints.)
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September St Peter Claver - Priest		9,15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass - (Marie Therese Poulailleau RIP)
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September Feria			No Parish Mass today
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> September Feria		10.00am	Service of Word & Holy Communion
Friday – 12 <sup>th</sup> September The Most Holy Name of Mary			No Parish Mass today
Saturday – 13 <sup>th</sup> September St John Chrysostom – Bishop & Doctor			No Parish Morning Mass today
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross			
Saturday – 13 <sup>th</sup> September +		6.00pm 6.30pm	Confessions Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday – 14 <sup>th</sup> September +		10.30am	Mass – (Fr Daniel’s Ints.)

Thought for the week: "The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus. When you see a priest, think of our Lord Jesus Christ."

St John Mary Vianney

Thank you for your Weekly Offering	
Offertory	£305.25
Digital Collection Plate	£55.00
Standing Orders	£502.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£862.25</b>

**Second Collection: 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> September – Bishops' Conference Evangelii Gaudium**



## Farewell Fr Biju

After only just twelve months as our Parish Priest today we bid farewell to him as he moves to become the Parish Priest at St Mary's, Dunstable. We will all greatly miss dear Fr Biju; he is a wonderful caring priest who has done so much to herald the Gospel here at Our Lady's. His great love for our parish and in particular his care and concern for our sick parishioners has been a real blessing. We unite in wishing him every blessing and an assurance of our continuing prayers both now & always.

**God bless you, Fr Biju**

**Fr Biju** will be celebrating his last Mass here as our Parish Priest **this Sunday 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.



## 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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.



**First Holy Communion** - Classes will start on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:parish.olney@northamptondiocese.org) or call her on 01234 711212 for a registration form. Further details will be announced later.



**National Emergency Alert Test** - We have been asked to assist in spreading the word about the Emergency Alert Test taking place **TODAY 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>



## Our Parish is featured in this week's Diocesan News

'The parish of Our Lady Help of Christians and St Lawrence, Olney, has entered into the Season of Creation in a very special way. On Sunday, parish priest Fr Biju Chittuparamban blessed a new statue of St Francis of Assisi in the parish's Laudato Si garden, close to the outdoor Our Lady altar. The blessing comes as the Church worldwide marks the Season of Creation, which began on 1st September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and runs through to 4th October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. The Laudato Si garden is lovingly tended by the parish gardening club, who grow flowers and produce as a way of caring for our common home. The statue of St Francis, patron saint of ecology, is a visible reminder of the spiritual aspect of this work and marks the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*. Bishop David Oakley warmly welcomed the initiative, saying:

*"This is a wonderful story of a parish responding to Laudato Si and the invitation to grow food and flowers. Please pass on my best wishes and congratulations to the parish gardening club. Hopefully your experience with this can encourage other parishes to do something similar."*

As the Season of Creation unfolds, the Olney parish garden stands as a joyful witness to faith in action, inspiring others to see care for creation as an integral part of parish life.'

*Many thanks to all our parishioners involved in our parish Gardening Club – they have achieved so much in such a short time. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful open space where we can spend time together or simply on our own in a time of quiet, reflective prayer.*



**Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary** – This special feast falls on a **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September**. "This is the unveiling of the mystery, this is the nature made new, God and man, and the deification of the human nature assumed by God. But so radiant, so glorious a visitation of God to men needed some prelude of joy to introduce us the great gift of salvation. The present feast is such: the prelude is the birth of the Mother of God, and the concluding act is the union which is destined between the Word and human nature. A virgin is now born and suckled and moulded, and is made ready to be mother of God, the king of all for ever."

*Extract from a reading from the sermons of St Andrew of Crete*

## Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Scripture Reflection

**From Fr Biju's desk...** Today's readings encourage us to follow our Baptismal promise with faith, placing God at the centre of everything we do.

**The First Reading** is taken from the Book of Wisdom, instructs us to ask for the gifts of discernment and strength from the Holy Spirit so that we may do the will of God as His true disciples.

**The Responsorial Psalm** instructs true disciples to lead holy lives by remaining constantly aware of the brevity and uncertainty of life.

**The Second Reading** is taken from St. Paul's letter to Philemon; teaches us that detachment and renunciation are necessary for a true disciple of Christ. As a responsible Apostle and zealous disciple of Christ, Paul had to renounce the service of his new helper, Onesimus, and return him to his master. As a new disciple of Christ, Onesimus had to leave Paul, face his owner as a runaway slave, and accept the consequences. Today's Gospel reminds us to count the cost of being a disciple and follower of Christ because the cost is high: true Christian discipleship requires one to "renounce" both earthly possessions and possessions of the heart i.e., one's relationships.

**Today's Gospel** is taken from Luke 14:25-33 and in it Jesus lays out four conditions for true Christian discipleship.

1. Renounce too much attachment to family, giving priority to God and His commandments.
2. Break off the excessive attachment to possessions by leading a detached life, willingly sharing one's blessings with others.
3. Be ready to carry the cross and follow Jesus by a) gracefully accepting and lovingly offering our pains and suffering with Jesus on the cross for the salvation of all of us b) sharing our blessings sacrificially with others c) accepting the pain involved in controlling our evil habits and tendencies and d) by welcoming as God's gift to us of the pain and humiliation we suffer in professing our faith in public and in practicing it in daily life, standing with Jesus, his ideas and ideals.
4. Calculate the cost involved in following Jesus. Using the two parables of the tower-builder and the king defending his country, Jesus says we must think long and hard about Christian discipleship before we commit ourselves to Jesus in this full, life-long surrender of body and soul to Him Who loves us.



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