



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

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26 th October 2025 Psalter Week 1		Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
First Reading	Book of Sirach 35:15b-17, 20-22b <i>‘The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds.’</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	The lowly one called, and the Lord heard him.		
Second Reading	2 St Paul to Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 <i>‘There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness.’</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Luke 18: 9-14 <i>‘The tax collector went down to his house justified, rather than the Pharisee.’</i>		
Saturday 25 th October +		6.30pm	Vigil Mass – Rite of Induction Mass for Fr Daniel
Sunday 26 th October +		10.30am	Mass – (Pro Populo)
Monday 27 th October <i>Feria</i>		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Baby Cayzen – Healing)
Tuesday 28 th October SS SIMON & JUDE - Apostles		9,15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass - (Eileen Barrett RIP)
Wednesday 29 th October <i>Feria</i>			No Parish Mass today
Thursday 30 th October <i>Feria</i>		9,15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass - (Brian Barrett RIP)
Friday – 31 st October <i>Feria</i>			No Parish Mass today
Saturday – 1 st November <i>Feria</i>		9,15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass - (Herbert – Healing)
All Saints			
Saturday – 1 st November +		6.00pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday – 2 nd November +		10.30am	Mass – (Eileen Barrett RIP)

Second Collection next weekend for Sick and Retired Clergy of the Diocese

Thank you for your Weekly Offering	
Offertory	£430.62
Digital Collection Plate	£75.00
Standing Orders	£502.00
TOTAL	£1000.62
CAFOD Harvest Appeal	£485.00



NOVEMBER – MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

Holy Souls envelopes are now available in the narthex. Can you please print clearly the name of the deceased on a piece of paper and place in the envelope, together with any offering, and return to the church no later than **next Sunday 2nd November** please.

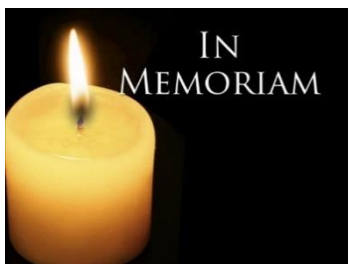
✠ **Eileen Barrett RIP** – the Requiem Mass for Eileen (Fr David's dear mother) will take place at **11.00am on Wednesday 29th October at St Joseph's Church, Gardenia Avenue, Luton LU3 2NS**. The following day marks the third anniversary of when Fr David's father, Brian, was called home to the Lord. We continue to pray for the repose of the souls of Brian and Eileen and offer our prayers for Fr David and all his family during this time of sadness and reflection.

'O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting.' – Psalm 62



**All Saints' Day
&
All Souls' Day**

All Saints Day/All Souls Day – The Bishops' Conference have decided that, due to the way in which the calendar falls this year, the Solemnity of All Saints will be celebrated **next Sunday, 2nd November**. This is when the Church celebrates all those who have reached the full glory of heaven. The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day) will be celebrated on **Monday 3rd November** when we especially pray for all who have died and who are not yet enjoying the Beatific Vision in heaven – but they are on their way in that place or process which we call Purgatory. We pray for all our loved ones especially today and throughout the month of November. All Souls Day is not a Holy Day of Obligation; however there will be Mass at **10.00am**.



In Memoriam Mass

The annual Parish Memorial Mass is on **Saturday 8th November 4.00pm** followed by tea, scones & cake. The Mass will be celebrated for our loved ones who have died since 2023 and now. All who have lost someone special will have their names entered into our parish memorial book, read out and a candle lit in their memory. Please let Denise

have any names no later than Wednesday evening 5th November. These names should not be confused with the November Holy Souls envelopes. If you wish to bring a picture of your loved one to be placed by the candles please do. We are happy to provide transport if needed - please let us know by email at veronicatarrant@aol.com or by phone at **07469 717760**, or in person to any member of the SVP.



100 Club Draw – November - After the celebrations for Fr Daniel's induction as our parish priest this weekend there will be no teas and coffees after Mass next Sunday 2nd November. The 100 Club draw for November will, instead, take place during the teas and coffees after **10am Mass on Tuesday 4th November**.



Remembrance Sunday 9th November 2025

Please note that on Sunday 9th November, Mass will be changed to begin at **9.30am** for that day only. This will allow those who wish to join in with the town's Remembrance Sunday Commemoration.



Christmas Tree Festival at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Olney

Friday 6th December & Saturday 7th December

This year's theme is The Three Kings

We will not need any Christmas tree decorations, but we thought it would be an ideal Christmas offering if anyone who is able and willing could make a small gift. Some of these will be used to decorate around the Christmas tree and then displayed in our church

before being donated to the SVP for delivery in and around Olney – Any gift donations to Vivienne Young please.



Pope Leo XIV's first Apostolic Exhortation, Dilexi te ("I have loved you"), is a heartfelt invitation to the Church and to all the faithful to rediscover the heart of the Gospel: the love of Christ revealed in love for the poor. Rooted in the mystery of the Incarnation, when God became man and chose poverty for our sake, this document is both a profound reflection on divine love and a passionate call to action. You can read the document at: https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20251004-dilexi-te.html

Gospel Reflection – St Luke 18:9-14 - These two figures in today's Gospel are stock characters, sketched with Luke's brilliant wit and sensitivity. The gospels invariably give the Pharisees a bad press: after the destruction of Jerusalem, they were the only surviving branch of Judaism and so, for the evangelists, they represent the vigorous opposition of Judaism to Christianity at that time. The Jewish historian, Josephus, paints a sympathetic picture of them, and Matthew's picture of them as the personification of hypocrisy may be a caricature of their scrupulosity concerning the observance of the Law. Jesus played them at their own game in his careful interpretation of scripture, presenting them with a rich and profound understanding of God's Word. The question must be asked: was Jesus a Pharisee too? Pre-occupation with exact observance of rules can often appear to outsiders as hypocrisy. In Jesus' time a tax-collector was the epitome of malpractice and the abandonment of all decent standards: he worked for the hated Roman occupying power; he had to make his own living by extorting excessive tax. So, this parable is one more example of Jesus' reversal of expected values, and his outreach to those generally despised: to the woman notorious in the city as a sinner, to the woman taken in adultery, to Zacchaeus and to the 'good thief'. It beautifully fulfils the first reading, demonstrating that the prayer of the humble 'pierces the clouds'.



Pope Leo XIV meets with King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

After a meeting in the Apostolic Palace last Thursday, Pope Leo XIV, King Charles III and Queen Camilla of England gathered for an ecumenical prayer service in the Sistine Chapel. They were joined by the Most

Reverend Stephen Cottrell, the 98th Archbishop of York and the Primate of England – the second-most senior bishop in the Church of England. The Pope and Archbishop led a midday prayer comprising psalms and a Gospel reading. Michaelangelo's frescoed chapel was filled with several ecumenical guests, including the Archbishop of Westminster and President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, and the Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, Leo Cushley, representing the Scottish episcopate.

This visit marked a historic moment in Anglican-Catholic relations – one that has not occurred in 500 years. Two themes marked the journey: Christian unity and care for the environment. Originally scheduled for April, the visit was cancelled due to Pope Francis' ill health. One of its goals was to highlight the shared commitment of King Charles and the Argentine Pope to the care of Creation – ten years after the publication of the encyclical *Laudato si.* Moreover, the ecumenical prayer service, held in Latin and English, built upon the good relations between the Vatican and the United Kingdom. It also fulfilled a wish of King Charles, who, as Supreme Governor of the Church of England, has long been committed to interfaith engagement.

From the opening hymn of the prayer service, the theme of Christian unity and ecumenism was evident. The original text was written by St. Ambrose of Milan, Doctor of the Church. It was translated by St. John Henry Newman, who was an Anglican for half of his life before converting to Catholicism. King Charles had attended the canonization ceremony of the English theologian in 2019. St. John Henry Newman is set to be declared a Doctor of the Church on 1 November by Pope Leo. Continuing this atmosphere of communion, the chapel was filled with the voices of the Lay Clerks of St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle and the Children of the Chapel Royal of St. James' Palace – both invited by King Charles and Queen Camilla – together with the Sistine Chapel Choir. The three groups chanted and sung the hymn and psalms of midday prayer. As the organ signalled the end of the prayer service, Pope Leo exited the Sistine Chapel side-by-side with King Charles.

'Ut unum sint' ~ 'That they all may be one'



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