



## Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH - 01234 711212

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

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

**Parish Priest: Fr Daniel Rooke**

[frdaniel.rooke@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:frdaniel.rooke@northamptondiocese.org)

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

**SVP Contact: 07469 717760**

5

5 <sup>th</sup> October 2025 Psalter Week		Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	
First Reading	Prophet Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4 <i>‘The righteous shall live by his faith.’</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	O that today you would listen to his voice! ‘Harden not your hearts.’		
Second Reading	2 St Paul to Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14 <i>‘Do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord.’</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! The word of the Lord remains for ever and this word is the good news that was preached to you. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Luke 17: 5-10 <i>‘If you had faith.’</i>		
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> October +		6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> October +		10.30am	Mass – (Deceased members of the Chapman family)
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> October St Bruno - Priest			No Parish Mass
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October Our Lady of the Rosary		9,15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass - (Josephine & James Palmer RIP)
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October St Osyth - Abbess			No Parish Mass today
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October St John Henry Newman - Priest		9,15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass - (Margaret Cleaver – Birthday Ints.)
Friday – 10 <sup>th</sup> October St Paulinus of York – Bishop St Denis & the martyrs of Parish St John Leonardi - Priest		9,15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass - (Charles Keeney RIP)
Saturday – 11 <sup>th</sup> October Saturday Mass of Our Lady		9,15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass - (Clare Burrowes – Recovery)
Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time			
Saturday – 11 <sup>th</sup> October +		6.00pm 6.30pm	Confessions Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday – 12 <sup>th</sup> October +		10.30am	Mass – (John Turner & Mary Turner Jewell RIP)

**WEEK THREE: ANNUAL PARISH MASS COUNT**

Thank you for your Weekly Offering	
Offertory	£350.55
Digital Collection Plate	Nil
Standing Orders	£502.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£852.55</b>

**Missio Red Boxes** - Could box holders please return them to the church over the next two weeks to be emptied. Thank you.

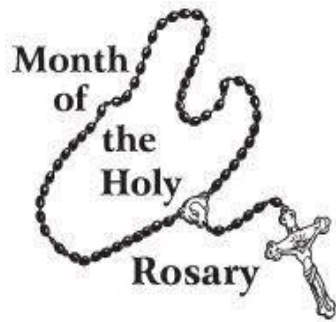


**CAFOD Harvest Fast Day** was held last Friday - a day when we were asked to live and eat more simply, recognising the needs of others throughout the world who struggle to survive. The theme this year is '**love thy neighbour as thyself.**' These are the words of Jesus

himself and a phrase very familiar to all of us. This year Cafod has chosen Ethiopia as the country to show neighbourly love and support. The Cafod Appeal talk and distribution of Fast Day envelopes will be given **this weekend 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> October** and contribution envelopes collected the **next weekend 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> October**. Thank you for your continuing generosity. Parish Cafod Group



**First Holy Communion** – this Sunday our young people are beginning their journey of preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and their First Holy Communion. Please do keep them, their families, and their catechists in your daily prayers,



### October - Month of the Holy Rosary

During the month of October, traditionally dedicated to the Holy Rosary, Pope Leo XIV has called on Catholics around the world to pray the Rosary daily, uniting in prayer for peace in war-torn regions. Announced during the Wednesday General Audience, the Holy Father encourages the faithful to join in this powerful prayer of intercession.

**Thought for the Week:** "To recite the Rosary is nothing other than to contemplate with Mary the face of Christ."

**St. John Paul II's Apostolic Letter 'Rosarium Virginis Mariae'**



### Mass Intentions

If you wish to make an offering for a Mass Intention by way of the Digital Collection Plate it is most important that you fill in one of the Mass Intention envelopes giving the name of who the Mass is for together with your name and contact number. Whilst we make every effort to book the Mass on the date/time requested, this is not always possible – your understanding of this is appreciated.



**Diocese of Northampton Marks 175 years** – On Monday 29th September 2025, the Diocese of Northampton joined the wider Church in England and Wales in celebrating the 175th anniversary of the restoration of the Catholic hierarchy. A special Mass was celebrated in Northampton Cathedral by Canon Michael Harrison at midday, with Mgr Sean Healy preaching the homily on this historic occasion. The Diocese of Northampton was first established in 1850, following the restoration of the hierarchy by

Pope Pius IX. Before that time, Catholics in the region were under the pastoral care of the Vicar Apostolic of the Eastern District. With the creation of new dioceses, Northampton was formed to cover Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and parts of Cambridgeshire. Its first bishop was William Wareing, who had previously served as Vicar Apostolic. The early years of the diocese were not without difficulty. Bishop Wareing inherited a small Catholic population of just 10,000 faithful, 30 priests, and one convent. Anti-Catholic feeling remained strong in society, and the building up of parishes, schools, and missions demanded courage and perseverance. Nevertheless, the diocese grew steadily, laying the foundations for today's vibrant Catholic community. In his homily, Mgr Healy reflected on the challenges and opportunities of those first years and the continuing mission of the diocese today. He recalled the large map that once hung in Bishop's House, showing the seven counties that comprised the original diocese and the growth of Mass centres across the region. He reminded those gathered that the true story of a diocese is not told by maps or boundaries, but by its people and their faithful witness to the Gospel. You can read more about this celebration as well as the audio of Mgr Healy's homily at:

<https://northamptondiocese.org/home-page/diocese-of-northampton-marks-175-years/>



**St John Henry Newman** - Pope Leo XIV has announced that on **1<sup>st</sup> November 2025**, during the Jubilee of the World of Education, he will officially declare Saint John Henry Newman the 38th Doctor of the Church. Cardinal Newman, canonised in 2019, is the most recently declared saint from England and Wales. He will now join the select group of saints whose teaching has shaped the faith across centuries. Remarkably, Newman is only the second Englishman to receive this title, following St. Bede the Venerable, who was named a Doctor of the Church in 1899. The Pope praised Newman's enduring witness, saying he "*contributed decisively to the renewal of*

*theology and to the understanding of the development of Christian doctrine.*" Born in London in 1801, Newman began his ministry as an Anglican priest before entering full communion with the Catholic Church in 1845. Created Cardinal by Pope Leo XIII in 1879, he is remembered for his profound writings on conscience, faith, and education, which continue to guide the Church today. The Dicastery for the Causes of Saints confirmed that Newman's work holds "historic and abiding impact" on the universal Church, influencing major developments such as the Second Vatican Council. Bishops' conferences around the world, including those of England and Wales, Ireland, the United States, and Australia, petitioned the Pope for his recognition. With this proclamation, Newman will stand among the greatest teachers of the Christian tradition, alongside figures such as St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Thérèse of Lisieux, a profound honour for the Church in England and Wales and a moment of joy for Catholics worldwide.





**The Gospel on a String** - Most of us have at least a few precious photographs in our homes—or perhaps on our phones! They keep the most important people and events of our lives in our minds, so that they are not just distant memories but a part of who we are today. The Rosary is much like our precious photos or other mementos: it is a simple, tangible way of keeping the most important person in our

life—Jesus—front and center. But because the Rosary is a prayer, not just an object, it connects us to Jesus and helps us to deepen our relationship with Him.

Pope Saint John Paul II wrote that the Rosary is a way of “remembering Christ with Mary,” who knows Him as only a mother can. St Luke tells us that Mary continually meditated on the mysteries in her Son’s life and “pondered all these things in her heart.” (Luke 2: 19). We do something similar when we recall important memories and share them with others, gradually developing a different perspective on past events as we mature and see them in a different light. Think of how differently most people see their parents once they have children of their own! By reflecting on the events of Jesus’ life in the Rosary, we can also grow in our understanding of them.

Just as learning from our special memories comes naturally and does not involve any formal study, so the Rosary is “simple yet profound” – again, in the words of Pope Saint John Paul II. It is an unchanging series of the most basic prayers of our faith repeated while thinking about the most important events in the life of Jesus and, by extension, of his mother Mary. It does not require a vast knowledge of the Bible or the Catechism of the Catholic Church—but those of us who enjoy reading and studying will find that it will only enrich our recitation of the Rosary. For music lovers, you may prefer to think of the rosary as the background music while our focus is on that moment is the life of Christ. The reason the Rosary is so “profound” is simply that it originates in God’s own Word. Popes Pius XII and Paul VI have called it “the compendium of the entire Gospel” (**or, the Gospel on a string**) because it encompasses all the highlights of the history of our salvation – namely, the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries.

Whether we are new to the Rosary or have been praying it for years, we should try to meditate on the Mysteries of the Rosary in a way that lets us really tap into its riches and keeps us in touch with the most important person in our lives – Jesus. Some people find it helpful to use a pamphlet with Bible verses or pictures related to the Mysteries; others need nothing but the prayers themselves. Some people enjoy praying the Rosary in a group; others prefer to go at their own pace. Just saying one decade of the rosary daily, for some, slowly and with great attentiveness, might be their preference. Everybody’s approach to praying the Rosary is a little different, just like everybody’s relationship with Jesus and His Mother is unique.

When we spend the time, it takes to pray a Rosary in the company of our Saviour and His Mother, we start to find that they become a bigger part of our lives and that the events of their lives become part of our own. We learn how to live as mature Christians by being with them and observing how they lived, just as we learned to be mature adults by living with our parents or other guardians. None of us is obligated to pray the Rosary, but when we know that it is not a boring series of prayers but a way of deepening our relationships with people who already love us more than words can say—Jesus and Mary—it becomes something that we want to do. It has been my personal experience that it truly is the **GOSPEL ON A STRING!**

**Sr Johanna Marie Melnyk, OSB**

*Adapted from a retreat on the Rosary at Turvey Abbey, 18 May 2013.*

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