



Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton
Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence
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23 rd November 2025 Psalter Week 2	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe DAY OF PRAYER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE		
First Reading	2 Samuel 5:1-3 <i>‘They anointed David king over Israel.’</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.		
Second Reading	St Paul to the Colossians 1:12-20 <i>‘He has transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.’</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!		
Gospel	Luke 23: 35-43 <i>‘Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’</i>		
Saturday 22 nd November +	6.00pm 6.30pm	Confessions Vigil Mass – (Eric Humphries RIP – 1st Anniv)	
Sunday 23 rd November +	10.30am	Mass – (Pro Populo)	
Monday 24 th November St Andrew Dung-Lac & the Martyrs of Vietnam	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration Mass – (Eleanore Blunt RIP)	
Tuesday 25 th November St Catherine of Alexandria – Virgin & Martyr St Alnoth – Martyr	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration Mass – (Kevin Sheridan – Healing)	
Wednesday 26 th November Feria		No Parish Mass today	
Thursday 27 th November Feria	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration Mass – (Noeleen O’Connor RIP)	
Friday – 28 th November Feria	6.15pm 7.00pm	Adoration Mass – (Eileen Barrett RIP)	
Saturday – 29 th November Feria	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Thresiyakutty Chacko RIP)	
First Sunday of Advent Sunday Lectionary: Year A – The Year of Matthew – Weekly: Year II			
Saturday – 29 th November +	6.00pm 6.30pm	Confessions Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)	
Sunday – 30 th November +	10.30am	Mass – (Alexander Roberts RIP)	

Christmas cards and advent calendars are available in the narthex

Thank you for your Weekly Offering	
Offertory	£385.65
Digital Collection Plate	£20.00
Standing Orders	£502.00
TOTAL	£907.65
Sick & Retired Clergy	£95.00

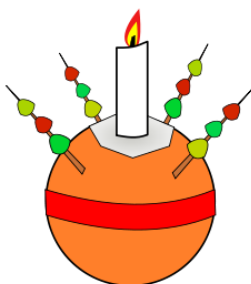
Note from Fr. Daniel – from this coming week for the foreseeable future, due to the responsibilities I have at HMP Aylesbury. I am going to have to offer the **Friday Parish Mass in the evening at 7:00 p.m.**

First Sunday of Advent – From the 6.30pm Vigil Mass **next Saturday** our parish will start to use the readings from the **Revised Lectionary – Year A (The Year of Matthew)** with the **Weekly Readings from Year II.**



In Memoriam Mass – 15th November

Fr Daniel & Deacon Peter would like to thank our parish SVP and everyone who helped in the preparation of this Mass held on Saturday and to all those who attended or who joined us via the ‘Live Stream.’ It was a wonderful occasion where we were able to celebrate and pray for the many souls of our families & friends who have returned home to the Lord. A truly wonderful parish celebration. May they rest in peace.



Christingle Service - We warmly welcome all children and grandchildren to come and make a Christingle and enjoy a hot chocolate at **3pm on Saturday 6th December**. There will be a family friendly **Vigil Mass at 4pm** when we will light the Christingles. Everyone is welcome to join the Mass and share the light of Christmas.



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

Saturday 6th December & Sunday 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.





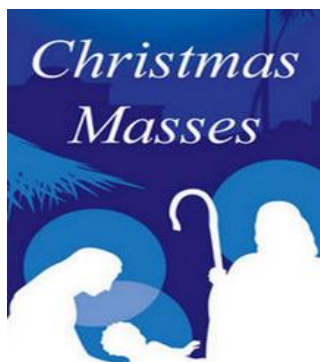
Our annual parish Christmas Concert will be held on **Friday 19th December at 7.00pm** here in our church. An evening of carols, readings and prayer followed by seasonal refreshments in the parish hall. Everyone welcome! This year the proceeds from the concert will go to 'Willen Hospice.'



Sacrament of Confirmation – Early in the new year we are hoping to begin preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. If you are in **School Year 7** or above, or you know of someone who is, and would like to begin preparation for the Sacrament of then please give your details to either Fr Daniel or Deacon Peter. Likewise, if you are an adult & have not yet been Confirmed but wish to know more about what is involved in preparing for the Sacrament then please contact Fr Daniel or Deacon Peter.



Christmas Penitential Service – a Penitential Service will be held here at Our Lady's on **Thursday 18th December at 7.00pm** – Fr Daniel will be available to hear Confessions in preparation for the Christmas Season.



24th December - Christmas Vigil Mass	6.00pm
24th December – Mass During the Night	9.00pm
25th December - Mass at Dawn	8.00am
25th December – Mass during the day	10.30am

Praying for the Holy Souls in Purgatory - Throughout November, we remember all the Holy Souls at each Mass. Before the Altar is a box containing the names of our loved ones for whom we pray – we think also of those Holy Souls who have no one to pray for them. Jesus, Mary, I love you, save souls.



Thought for the Month of Holy Souls: "We must say many prayers for the souls of the faithful departed, for one must be so pure to enter heaven"

St John Mary Vianney

Scripture Reflections - Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

First Reading - 2 Samuel 5:1-3 David is a fascinating character. As a leader he had a charm and charisma which were irresistible. There is no doubt that he was ambitious. When the women sang, 'Saul has killed his thousands and David his tens of thousands,' it was music to his ears. The king's son fell in love with him and gave him his own prince's gear. The king's daughter fell in love with him, and he accepted her as a good dynastic marriage; but he never had children by her. He set up a protection racket in Judah and so, having won the loyalty of the tribal leaders there, they first anointed him king of Judah at Hebron, the southern tribal capital. Finally, after Saul's death, the elders of the northern tribes (known collectively as Israel) came to anoint him king as well, to reign over the whole country. David also took the first steps to setting up the Temple cult, and was ever after remembered for that. It was to David that the promises of God's of eternal monarchy were given which were to be fulfilled in Jesus. These promises echo down and down the scriptures; they were the basis of all Israel's hope.

Second Reading - St Paul to the Colossians 1:12-20 We heard all but the first part of this reading which celebrates the unrivalled position of Jesus as first-born not only in the God and the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers - all things were created through him and for him. As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross. order of creation, but also in the resurrection. In the order of creation, Christ is the image of the unseen God, the model or template on which God created the world, the Wisdom of God, so he is the first-born and yet himself uncreated. In the order of the resurrection also he is the first-born, bringing all things to perfection, and so he is the crown of creation. In today's reading St Paul is writing, with a slight air of surprise, to the gentiles: the gentiles too are enabled to enter into the inheritance, to join Christ in the kingdom promised to David and fulfilled in Jesus. As this year's gospel readings have taught us again and again, it is not a kingdom that we can earn. We need to submit ourselves for forgiveness. We need to do is stop pretending to others and ourselves that we are perfect.

Gospel - St Luke 23:35-43 The crucifixion scene in St Luke is the climax of the story of Jesus. Emphasis is placed on the role of Jesus as King. The soldiers mock him as such, but the Gospel's use of irony ensures that we understand that they are saying more than they realise. Jesus is also ridiculed as Saviour ('Save yourself and us as well!'): especially in St Luke Jesus is presented as the true Saviour - who is God. In St Luke the crucifixion scene is primarily a scene of forgiveness, where Jesus carries on to the very end his work of forgiveness, which St Luke has underlined throughout his Gospel. The scene begins with the women of Jerusalem mourning for Jesus, and ends with all the spectators departing, beating their breasts, recognizing their universal guilt. Jesus spontaneously forgives his executioners, asking God's forgiveness for them before they even ask it for themselves. He welcomes into his kingdom of Paradise the bandit who spontaneously acknowledges his wrongdoing. Here we see the culmination of all those scenes throughout St Luke's Gospel where values are reversed: the King presented as a wretched figure dying on the Cross, to whom homage is paid not by dignified courtiers, but by another wretched figure dying by his side.



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