



Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton
Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence
 39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH - 01234 711212
parish.olney@northamptondiocese.org
 Parish Website: www.ourladysolney.co.uk
Parish Priest: Fr Daniel Rooke
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
SVP Contact: 07469 717760

30 th November 2025 Psalter Week 1		First Sunday of Advent Sunday Lectionary: Year A – The Year of Matthew – Weekly: Year II	
First Reading	Prophet Isaiah 2:1-5 <i>‘The Lord gathers all nations together into the eternal peace of the Kingdom of God.’</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.		
Second Reading	St Paul to the Romans 13:11-14a <i>‘Salvation is nearer to us now.’</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Matthew 24:37-44 <i>‘Stay awake so that you may be ready.’</i>		
Saturday 29 th November +		6.00pm 6.30pm	Confessions Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday 30 th November +		10.30am	Mass – (Alexander Roberts RIP)
Monday 1 st December St Edmund Campion- <i>Martyr</i>		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration Mass – (McCarthy family RIP)
Tuesday 2 nd December First Tuesday of Advent		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration Mass – (Chacko Mannathukaran RIP)
Wednesday 3 rd December St Francis Xavier - <i>Priest</i>			No Parish Mass today
Thursday 4 th December St John Damascene – <i>Priest & Doctor</i>		6.00pm 6.45pm	Adoration Mass – (Thomas Marsden RIP)
Friday – 5 th December St Birinus – <i>Bishop</i>		6.15pm 7.00pm	Adoration Mass – (Bishop John Hine RIP)
Saturday – 6 th December St Nicholas – <i>Bishop</i>		9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Paul Robson – Healing)
Second Sunday of Advent Sunday Lectionary: Year A – The Year of Matthew – Weekly: Year II			
Saturday – 6 th December +		4.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Vigil Mass – Christingle (Youth of the Parish) Confessions Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday – 7 th December +		10.30am	Mass – (Deceased family & friends of the Ayles family – RIP)

Christmas cards and advent calendars are available in the narthex

Thank you for your Weekly Offering	
Offertory	£257.29
Digital Collection Plate	£90.00
Standing Orders	£502.00
TOTAL	£849.29

David Ashford RIP – With great sadness we have learned of the passing of David last Wednesday morning. Details of his Requiem Mass will be announced later. May he rest in peace.



The '**100 Club Draw**' will take place **next Sunday 7th December** together with tea/coffee after the 10.30am Mass. As it is the Christmas Draw there will be more than one lucky winner! Everyone is welcome to join us.

First Thursday Club meets this coming **Thursday, 4th December, at 7.30pm-8.30pm**, after Mass at 6.45pm. The theme for 2025-6 is Faith in the Arts and this Thursday we will be sharing the Art of Christmas. We will go round the hall and see if each person wishes to tell us something about the Art of Christmas which has touched them (for example, it might be how a church or school or home was decorated in your childhood, or is now, or the art of cooking at Christmas, or the art of feeding and sheltering the homeless, or the art and craft of gift-making and gift-giving. There is no need to show or tell but please do bring an image if you so wish (for instance, a Christmas card or a photo of a painting, whether famous or by a child in your family) or share a sound (for example, a recording of a carol or your own rendition on the night of a carol or a poem or a reading about Christmas) or an object (such as a favourite crib). You can pass if you prefer. Similarly, there is no obligation to drink the wine, mulled or not, or to eat the mince pies. Salah Hayek will be on hand before Mass and during the session if you wish to put an image or a video clip on screen or play a carol through speakers, but there is no need to do more than say a few words about your chosen example. All are welcome.



Immaculate Conception of the BVM Chief Patron of our Diocese

On Monday 8th December, we celebrate this wonderful solemnity, that Mary, whose conception was brought about in the normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain—that is what “immaculate” means: without stain. When we meditate on the Immaculate Conception, we might ponder the angel Gabriel when he greeted Mary with the beautiful words “*Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you*” (Luke 1:28). Today we pray especially for Bishop David, Bishop Emeritus Peter, for the Priests, Deacons, Religious and people of our Diocese: *Mary, Immaculate Virgin, our Mother, chief patron of our Diocese, we praise and honour you and give ourselves to you. Protect us from all harm and pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.*

Bishop Peter will be celebrating Mass at the Cathedral at **12noon on Monday 8th**

December. All are welcome or you can watch via the ‘live stream’ –

<https://northamptoncathedral.org/>



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



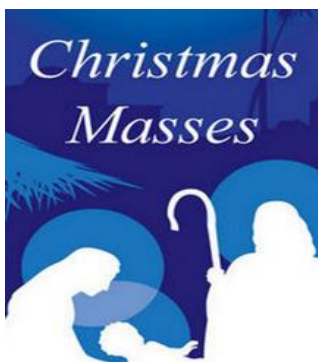
Our annual parish Christmas Concert will be held on **Friday 19th December at 7.00pm** here in our church. An evening of carols, readings and prayer followed by seasonal refreshments in the parish hall. Everyone welcome! This year the proceeds from the concert will go to 'Willen Hospice.'



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 eter.



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

The Outdoor Nativity - You are warmly invited to meet Mary, Joseph, and travel to Bethlehem with a real donkey at The Outdoor Nativity on **Sunday December 14th at 2:30pm on Guinea Orchard** (behind the Museum and The Swan). Put on by the churches of Olney, the performance will last around 40 mins so dress warmly and come prepared to join in a few well-known carols.

First Sunday of Advent – Reflection

This Sunday we begin a new season in the liturgical calendar of the Church. Today, we begin the great Season of Advent. There are two messages that we will hear over the next four weeks. One message and set of values will come to us from the media and the shops. We will be told that we will have to move faster, stay busy, queue longer in the shops and spend more money on those ‘must have’ presents so that we will have the ‘perfect’ Christmas, as if such a thing exists. We will be told and sold the idea that unless we buy more and surround ourselves with all the trappings of Christmas, we won’t be happy. This most definitely is ‘fake news.’

However, there is a very different message and set of values that will be offered to us through the gospels, the prayers, and the liturgy of Advent. We are being asked to prepare a way for the Lord, to stay awake, to make a straight path for the Lord and to get ourselves ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This most definitely is ‘Good News!’

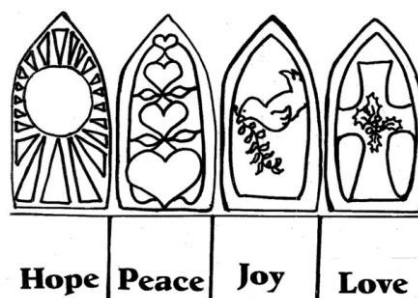
The message of Advent is an invitation and it also a challenge to us. We are called to be looking forward, to be ready, to be prepared and we are asked to wait in joyful hope. Waiting is not something that we are usually good at these days. Our modern world tells us to move faster in so many ways. We have smart phones, emails, and microwave ovens that all ‘help’ us to get through our busy days. However, Advent asks each of us to do very opposite. During these sacred days of preparation, we are being asked to take some time to be still and silent as we prepare ourselves deeply for the Christmas.

While we cannot simply ignore the shops, the media, and the advertisements over the next few weeks, neither should we ignore the words and message of Jesus in today’s Gospel; *‘Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming...’*

If we get too caught up in the shopping and spending, there is the danger that we will miss the true meaning of Advent. This is what the call to ‘stay awake’ means. We are asked not to miss the next four weeks of Advent. We are asked to prepare and get ready as best we can as followers of Jesus.

It would be so sad, that if after the shopping and all the other preparations we missed Advent and its joyful and hopeful message.

Heavenly Father, as we begin this holy season of Advent, we prepare our hearts to welcome Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us the grace to walk in faith and hope, to be watchful in prayer, and to live in joyful expectation of His coming. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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