



**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](mailto:parish.olney@northamptondiocese.org)  
 Parish Website: [www.ourladysolney.co.uk](http://www.ourladysolney.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**

<b>14<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b> <b>Psalter Week 3</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent ~ Gaudete</b> <b>Sunday Lectionary: Year A – The Year of Matthew – Weekly: Year II</b>	
<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Prophet Isaiah 35: 1-6a, 10</b> <i>'God himself will come and save you.'</i>	
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Come, Lord, and save us.</b>	
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Letter of St James 5:7-10</b> <i>'Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.'</i>	
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	<b>Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor. Alleluia!</b>	
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Matthew 11:2-11</b> <i>'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look to another?'</i>	
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December +</b>	<b>6.00pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Confessions</b> <b>Mass – (Pro Populo)</b>
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – ((Deceased members of the McCarthy family)</b>
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Third Monday of Advent</i>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Adoration with Confession</b> <b>Mass – (Rosemary RIP)</b>
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Third Tuesday of Advent</i>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Adoration with Confession</b> <b>Mass – (David Ashford RIP)</b>
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December - O Sapientia</b> <i>Third Wednesday of Advent</i>	<b>4.30pm</b>	<b>No Parish Mass today</b> <b>Reception into Church – David Ashford RIP</b>
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December O Adonai</b> <i>Third Thursday of Advent</i>	<b>10.30am</b> <b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Requiem Mass - David Ashford RIP</b> <b>Advent Penitential Service</b>
<b>Friday – 19<sup>th</sup> December O Radix Jesse</b> <i>Third Friday of Advent</i>	<b>10.00am</b> <b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Service of Word &amp; Communion</b> <b>Parish Christmas Carol Concert</b>
<b>Saturday – 20<sup>th</sup> December O Clavis David</b> <i>Third Saturday of Advent</i>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Adoration with Confession</b> <b>Mass – (Daughters of the Holy Spirit – Int.)</b>
<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Sunday Lectionary: Year A – The Year of Matthew – Weekly: Year II</b>		
<b>Saturday – 20<sup>th</sup> December + O Clavis David</b>	<b>6.00pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Confessions</b> <b>Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)</b>
<b>Sunday – 21<sup>st</sup> December + O Oriens</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (James Patrick Spallin RIP)</b>

**Christmas cards and advent calendars are available in the narthex**

**Last foodbank collection before Christmas will be Tuesday 16th December**

Thank you for your Weekly Offering	
Offertory	£331.62
Digital Collection Plate	£43.00
Standing Orders	£502.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£876.62</b>



**Requiescant in Pace** – We were greatly saddened to learn of the death of dear David Ashford who returned to the Lord very peacefully last week fortified with the Rites of Holy Mother Church. Please do keep David, his family & friends in your prayers and especially remember his dear wife Judy who herself returned to the Lord just over two years ago. David’s body will be received into the church at **4.30pm on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**. The Requiem Mass for David will be held here on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am**.



<b>RED</b>	57
<b>YELLOW</b>	52
<b>YELLOW</b>	13

**Congratulations to our latest 100 Club winner – Richard Davis**

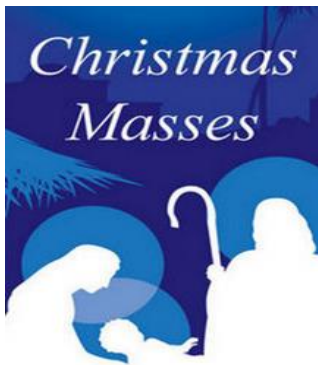
The lucky colour/number combination was **Red 57** and the winner of the £100 prize was Richard Davis. As it was the Christmas draw, there were two more prizes. **Yellow 52** and **Yellow 13** were the winning colour/number combinations and the two £50 winners were Maura Ryan and James Deery. Congratulations to all three winners. The first draw of 2026 will take place during the coffees **after Mass on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January**.



**A Penitential Service** will be held here at Our Lady’s on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm** – Fr Daniel & Bro John (Turvey Abbey) will be available to hear Confessions in preparation for the Christmas Season. There are many other opportunities to receive this great sacrament of healing – Fr Daniel will be available before all weekday Masses & again over the weekend (*please refer to the newsletter for times*).



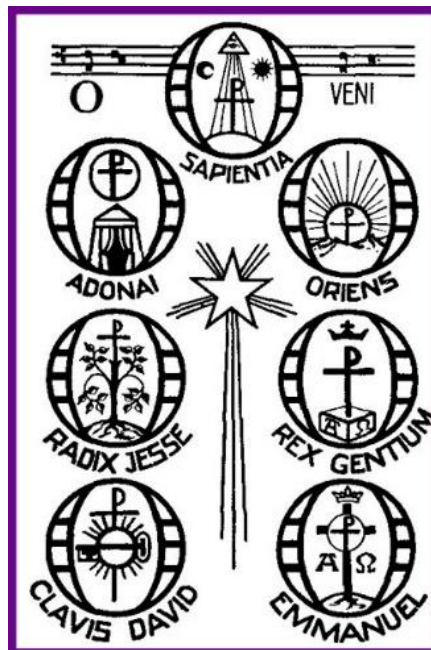
Our annual parish Christmas Concert will be held **this coming Friday evening, 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm** here in our church. An evening of carols, readings and prayer followed by seasonal refreshments in the parish hall. Everyone welcome! This year the proceeds from the concert will go to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



24 <sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Vigil Mass	5.00pm
24 <sup>th</sup> December – Mass During the Night	9.00pm
25 <sup>th</sup> December - Mass at Dawn	8.00am
25 <sup>th</sup> December – Mass during the day	10.30am



As is customary, the Christmas Offertory is our gift to Fr Daniel to show our appreciation for everything that he does for our parish – we are truly blessed to have such a good shepherd watching over us. Envelopes available at the back of the church for Fr Daniels Christmas Offering and on the Digital Collection Plate. If making an offering via the bank please ensure that Fr Daniels name is put in as a reference. Thank you.



The 'O Antiphons' refer to the seven antiphons that are recited or chanted preceding the Magnificat during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the 'Octave before Christmas' – 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

The importance of the 'O Antiphons' is twofold: Each one highlights a title for the Messiah:

**Sapientia (O Wisdom); O Adonai (O Lord); Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse);**

**O Clavis David (O Key of David); Oriens (O Rising Sun);**

**O Rex Gentium (O King of Nations); Emmanuel (O God with Us)**

each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah. If you would like to follow the Liturgy of Hours you can find this on <https://universalis.com/>

## The 'O Antiphons'

17<sup>th</sup> December: **O Sapientia**: O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.

18<sup>th</sup> December: **O Adonai**: O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai Mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.

19<sup>th</sup> December: **O Radix Jesse**: O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

20<sup>th</sup> December: **O Clavis David**: O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of Heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.

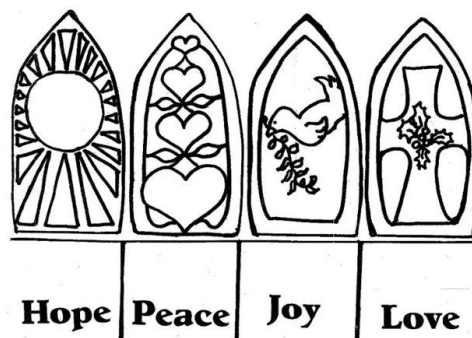
21<sup>st</sup> December: **O Oriens**: O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

22<sup>nd</sup> December: **O Rex Gentium**: O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.

23<sup>rd</sup> December: **O Emmanuel**: O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Saviour of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God. The hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* is based on these antiphons and is properly sung during this period.

### Advent Prayer

Heavenly Father, during 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