



Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton
Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence
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 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

1 st February 2026 Psalter Week 4		Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time	
First Reading	Prophet Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13 <i>'I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly.'</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.		
Second Reading	1 St Paul to the Corinthians 1:26-31 <i>'God chose what is weak in the world.'</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Matthew 5:1-12a <i>'Blessed are the poor in spirit.'</i>		
Saturday 31 st January +	6.00pm 6.30pm	Confessions Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)	
Sunday 1 st February +	10.30am	Mass – (Edward Follows RIP)	
Monday 2 nd February THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	6.15pm 7.00pm	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Albert Blunt (RIP))	
Tuesday 3 rd February St Blaise – Bishop & Martyr St Ansgar - Bishop	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Clare Burrowes RIP)	
Wednesday 4 th February St Werberga - Virgin		No Parish Mass today	
Thursday 5 th February St Agatha – Virgin & Martyr	6.00pm 6.45pm	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Fr David Barrett Int.)	
Friday 6 th February St Paul Miki & Companions Martyrs of Japan	10.00am	Service of Word & Communion	
Saturday 7 th February Feria	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Pat Briskham & Helen Ross Ints.)	
Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time			
Saturday 7 th February +	6.00pm 6.30pm	Confessions Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)	
Sunday – 8 th February +	10.30am	Mass – (Ludwick & Ruth Grabowiecki RIP)	

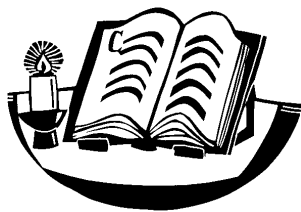
Thank you for your Weekly Offering	
Offertory	£396.87
Digital Collection Plate	£70.00
Standing Orders	£502.00
TOTAL	£968.87
White Flower Appeal	323.16



The First Thursday Discussion Club next meets this coming **Thursday, 5th February, at 7.30pm-8.30pm, after Mass at 6.45pm.** The theme for 2025-6 is Faith in the Arts. Tara Hayek will be leading the discussion on ‘The Art of Archaeology and Conservation of Buildings’, and their interrelation with cultural ecology that builds faith in the community. All are welcome to participate in the discussion.



In preparation for Ash Wednesday - we invite parishioners to return last year’s Palm Crosses to the collection basket at the back of the church. As is the tradition of the Catholic Church, these Palms will be burned to create the ashes used during the Mass on Ash Wednesday. Thank you!



Parish Mission Group – a new Parish group is forming with a shared mission to engage with, evangelise and share our faith within our beautiful town. We are inviting parishioners to be part of this outreach in a variety of ways – through prayer; friendly conversation; practical support or community outreach.

Whatever your gifts there is a place for you. If you would like to find out more or feel drawn to join this mission then please contact **Kate Brooks on 07921 778507**



Gardening Club

February is the First Anniversary of our parish Gardening Club - an initiative recognised and supported by Bishop David. We often meet for coffee and cake after Saturday morning Mass. Our first get together this year will be **next Saturday 7th February** to chat about plans for 2026. Please do come along. You don't need any gardening experience, some members just come for a coffee and a chat are always happy to help you.



The Parish Council would like to compile a calendar of events for 2026. Ideally, we would like to ensure that social events, appeals, second collections and special Masses such as the Healing Service are as far as possible spread out throughout the year. We appreciate that things unexpectedly crop up during the year, but it would be great to try and schedule those events that we do know about. If any Parish

Group is planning an event, an appeal, fund raiser or if they have an idea that they might like to bring to fruition please could you let Aine Cooper know by email:

aine.cooper@me.com This will be fed through to the Parish Council and ultimately included in a parish calendar. Many thanks in advance for your help.

Helping Hands

Your Parish needs YOU! - We are (re-)launching our Helping Hands scheme and are looking for volunteers. There are many opportunities for us to help others – whether it is to give someone a lift to Mass or write Bidding Prayers or weed the Church garden. We are a community with many and varied talents and the more volunteers we have taking part in our activities, the easier the tasks become and the stronger we grow together. Everyone is welcome – there are no age limits! There will be a form at the back of the Church for you to fill in, part of which shows where we have specific needs for volunteers and part of which lists general activities in which you might like to join. There is also a section for you to say if there is any particular skill you would like to offer (for example, are you a wizard at web-stuff?) or a new activity you think might be of interest (e.g., arts and crafts). In the weeks that follow, I will be contacting parishioners to thank you for your offers of help, matching you with our activity co-ordinators. Thank you in advance for your support.
Monica Grady (for the Parish Council)

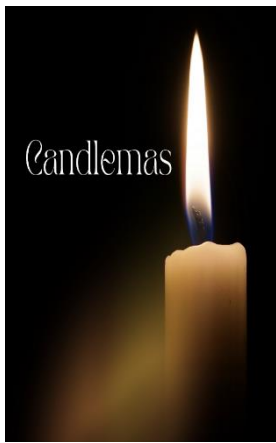


First Aiders – it is apparent we need a few First Aiders in the Parish! Are you already First Aid trained? Would you like to be trained? We are looking to arrange a training session for parishioners on the use of the defibrillator that we now have affixed to the wall at the side of the presbytery. We would also like to train about 6-10 First Aiders through the St John Ambulance. This will greatly help the parish and be a very beneficial skill in everyday life. Please let us know if you are interested.

Monica Grady: 07921 911208 or email: monicamgrady@gmail.com

A request for rosary beads – ‘My daughter in School Year 12 has recently started a Rosary Club at school but has run out of rosaries and would be grateful for donations. If anyone has any they would like to donate, can they leave them in the box in the porch. Last date for donations 20th February. Thank you.

Parish Council News – some four years ago, our then Parish Priest, Fr David, encouraged the formation of a Parish Council, something that Bishop David wished to see in every parish across the Diocese. Following a conversation with Fr David, Paul Young agreed to help with setting up the Parish Council and was appointed the Chair. In the relatively short time that our Parish Council has been in existence a great deal has been achieved – not least the Pastoral Visit of Bishop David to our parish last year of where Bishop David was so impressed with the whole parish. At the centre of life in our Parish Council has been our Chair, Paul Young. Paul has orchestrated, coaxed, persuaded, encouraged so many parishioners to offer themselves in support of our parish. For entirely personal reasons, Paul has decided to take a year-long sabbatical from his parish council responsibilities something that we do, of course, respect. In the interim period, David Pendleton has kindly agreed to be become the acting Chair – we are very grateful to David for ‘picking up the baton’ and know that the council is in very safe hands. Sincere thanks Paul – ‘Gratias tibi ago’ (we give thanks to you).



Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)

On 2nd February this week, we have the following beautiful sermon by St Sophronius of Jerusalem (560-638): Born in Damascus, Sophronius was an ascetic and monk until 634 when he became Patriarch of Jerusalem. His homily here captures some of the main themes of this lovely Feast. Even if we cannot be at church today, perhaps we can light candles at home to celebrate this Feast and ask that the Light which is Christ shines more brightly in our hearts, our homes, our parish, the whole Church, and the world.

In honour of the divine mystery that we celebrate today, let us all hasten to meet Christ. Everyone should be eager to join the procession and to carry a light.

Our lighted candles are a sign of the divine splendour of the one who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brilliance of his eternal light. Our candles also show how bright our souls should be when we go to meet Christ. The Mother of God, the most pure Virgin, carried the true light in her arms and brought him to those who lay in darkness. We too should carry a light for all to see and reflect the radiance of the true light as we hasten to meet him.

The light has come and has shone upon a world enveloped in shadows; the Dayspring from on high has visited us and given light to those who lived in darkness. This, then, is our feast, and we join in procession with lighted candles to reveal the light that has shone upon us and the glory that is yet to come to us through him. So let us hasten all together to meet our God. The true light has come, the light that enlightens every man who is born into this world. Let all of us, my brethren, be enlightened and made radiant by this light. Let all of us share in its splendour and be so filled with it that no one remains in the darkness. Let us be shining ourselves as we go together to meet and to receive with the aged Simeon the light whose brilliance is eternal. Rejoicing with Simeon, let us sing a hymn of thanksgiving to God, the Father of the light, who sent the true light to dispel the darkness and to give us all a share in his splendour.

Through Simeon's eyes we too have seen the salvation of God which he prepared for all the nations and revealed as the glory of the new Israel, which is ourselves. As Simeon was released from the bonds of this life when he had seen Christ, so we too were at once freed from our old state of sinfulness. By faith we too embraced Christ, the salvation of God the Father, as he came to us from Bethlehem. Gentiles before, we have now become the people of God. Our eyes have seen God incarnate, and because we have seen him present among us and have mentally received him into our arms, we are called the new Israel. Never shall we forget this presence; every year we keep a feast in his honour.



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