

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.ourladyolney.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

29 th March 2026		Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord This is Holy Week	
Processional Gospel	Matthew 21:1-11 <i>'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'</i>		
First Reading	Isaiah 50:4-7 <i>'I hid not my face from disgrace, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.'</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?		
Second Reading	St Paul to the Philippians 2:6-11 <i>'He humbled himself, therefore God has exalted him.'</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory. Christ became for us obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.		
Gospel	The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ – Matthew 26:14-27:66		
Saturday 28 th March + Palm Sunday Blessing & Distribution of Palms	6.00pm 6.30pm	Confessions Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)	
Sunday 29 th March + Palm Sunday Blessing & Distribution of Palms	10.30am	Mass – (Lynda Ferguson RIP)	
Monday 30 th March Monday of Holy Week	10.00am	Service of Word & Communion	
Tuesday 31 st March Tuesday of Holy Week	9.15am 10.00am 7.00pm	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Ann Harris RIP) Reconciliation Service	
Wednesday 1 st April Wednesday of Holy Week	9.15am 10.00am 12noon	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Eddie Carew – Healing) Chrism Mass – The Cathedral	
Thursday 2 nd April Thursday of Holy Week	10.00am 2.30pm	Liturgy of the Divine Office Office of Readings – Morning Prayer Stations of the Cross	
Here Ends the Season of Lent			



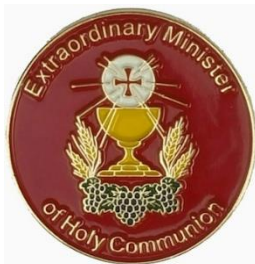
Sacred Pascal Triduum

Maundy Thursday – 2 nd April	7.00pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper (<i>Michael Mullins RIP</i>)
Good Friday – 3 rd April	9.30am 3.00pm 7.00pm	Children's Stations of the Cross The Passion of the Lord Tenebrae Service
Holy Saturday – 4 th April	9.00am	Liturgy of the Divine Office Office of Readings – Morning Prayer
Easterime Begins		
Holy Saturday – 4 th April	7.30pm	The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night (<i>Pro Populo</i>)
Easter Sunday – 5 th April	8.00am 10.30am	Mass (<i>Bishop David Int</i>) Mass (<i>Ben Mannion RIP</i>)

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION – HOLY PLACES OF PALESTINE



Reconciliation Service – as part of our parish preparations for the great feast of Easter, there will be a Penitential Service here at Our Lady's on the **Tuesday evening of Holy Week – 31st March at 7.00pm.** Fr Daniel has invited other priests to join him and encourages us all to avail ourselves of this great sacrament of grace and forgiveness.



Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion – during the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday evening, Fr Daniel will re-commission those in our parish who have been appointed as Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Please come forward when called.

Easter Offering – as is customary, the Easter Offering is your personal gift to our Parish Priest, Fr Daniel. If you wish to contribute, please either put this in the planned giving envelope or use the printed envelopes at the back of the church – if using online banking please insert 'Easter Fr Daniel' in the description or you can use the Digital Collection Plate in the narthex. Thank you.

Easter Egg Hunt – On Good Friday morning families with pre/primary aged children are invited to take part in the Easter Egg Hunt organised by the Churches of Olney. The event will start from Our Lady's Catholic Church at 10.00am in the Parish Hall where the children will be encouraged to make Easter Baskets. The families will then go on an Easter Egg hunt around the town; explore the Easter Story finish up back at Our Lady's Parish Hall for refreshments.



The **Thursday Discussion Club** meets on the Second Thursday, **9th April at 7.30pm-8.30pm, after Mass at 6.45pm**. This is because 2nd April is Maundy Thursday. There is an acronym 'STEM' which refers to the subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Although our theme in this third series of First Thursdays has been Faith in the Arts, and we will consider Sacred Music and Art itself in the coming months, in

April we are going to consider how STEM subjects affect our lives and our faith, prompted by the recent reflection by Pope Leo XIV on his experience of teaching Mathematics and Physics and his views on algorithms, that we must pay attention to the moral dimension of emerging technologies.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2026-03/pope-leo-sends-mathematics-day-message.html>

The discussion will be led by Salah Hayek who will reflect on this in the light of his years in technology and science research, both in industry and in universities.

Please join us. All are welcome.



Helping Hands Update - Thank you to all who have returned their forms. Responses will be sent out after Easter. But in the meantime, we still need volunteers to help with the following:

The Children's Liturgy. It is impossible to stress what a vital part this is of our Parish mission – preparing our young ones to become full members of our Church. Mike and Mary do a fantastic job – they have our deep and sincere gratitude. But I think they might prefer more support in terms of people to help teach the liturgy. Maybe some of the parents who accompany their children could volunteer? But all are welcome – possession of a child is not a requirement! Training and DBS clearance would be given.

Church Cleaning: Our Church is a lovely building. Inside, it is welcoming and bright, just like a home should be. But just as a home becomes more welcoming when it is clean and polished, our Church also needs to be kept dusted and swept. We are lucky to have a rota of people who do this – but we need more to make the workload lighter.

We are hoping that sufficient people will come forward, for either the children's liturgy or church cleaning (or both – there are no limits!) that the commitment to assist would be only once every two months or so. Don't worry that if you are the only volunteer you would have to commit weekly – you would be joining a team, not acting alone.

We also want to make use of our parishioners' expertise in the following areas:

Property Maintenance: (also known as odd job operative): Are you handy with a hammer or speedy with a saw? Can you advise on unblocking a drain or drilling into a wall? Just like our home, our Church requires odd jobs now and again to keep it safe and sound. We are looking for someone – or several – who could help with bits and pieces of maintenance.

Website Assistant: we are hoping to find someone who is interested in helping to maintain our website, uploading items, keeping things up to date, etc. It isn't onerous – it might suit one of our teenaged parishioners who need a skill to add to their CV. Or a retired parishioner who needs something to do. Or anyone at all! Knowledge of WordPress would be an advantage, but is not essential, and training would be given. Thank you in advance of the flood of volunteers that will be swamping me. Please e-mail me or fill in one of the Helping Hands forms at the back of the Church.

Monica Grady (for the Parish Council) monicamgrady@gmail.com

Thank you for your Weekly Offering	
Offertory	£466.60
Digital Collection Plate	£160.00
Standing Orders	£502.00
TOTAL	£1128.60

Palm Sunday Reflection – The Church celebrates this sixth Sunday of Lent as both Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday. This is the time of year when we stop to remember and relive the events which brought about our redemption and salvation. What we commemorate and relive during this week is not just Jesus' dying and rising but our own dying and rising in Jesus. Attentive participation in the Holy Week liturgy will deepen our relationship with God, increase our Faith, and strengthen our lives as disciples of Jesus. Today's liturgy combines contrasting moments, one of glory, the other of suffering: the royal welcome of Jesus in Jerusalem, and the drama of the trial, culminating in the crucifixion, death, and burial of the Christ.

Today's first reading foreshadows Jesus' own life and mission. The Responsorial Psalm, "My God, My God, why have You abandoned Me?" plunges us into the heart of Christ's Passion. The Second Reading, taken from Paul's letter to the Philippians, is an ancient Christian hymn representing a very early Christian understanding of who Jesus is and of how his mission saves us from sin and death.

The Processional Gospel describes the royal reception Jesus received from his admirers, who paraded with him for two miles between the Mount of Olives and the city of Jerusalem. The Gospel is a reading of the Passion of Christ according to Matthew. We are challenged to examine our own lives in the light of some of the characters in the Passion story – like Peter who denied Jesus, Judas who betrayed Jesus, Herod who ridiculed Jesus, Pilate who acted against his conscience as he condemned Jesus to death on the cross, and the leaders of the people who preserved their position by getting rid of Jesus.

Let us ask ourselves, do we welcome Jesus into our hearts? Are we ready to surrender our life to him during this Holy Week and welcome him into all areas of our life as our Lord and Savior? Let us remember that we are all sinners who have crucified Jesus by our sins, but we are still able to turn to Jesus again to ask for pardon and mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Are we like the humble donkey that carried Jesus, bringing Jesus' universal love, unconditional forgiveness, and sacrificial service to our families, schools, places of work, and communities by the way we live our lives?

"They took branches of palm trees and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

John 12:13



With our love and prayers to you all – Fr Daniel & Deacon Peter