



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH

Diocese of Northampton

Parish Priest: Fr David B Barrett olneyparishpriest@icloud.com

Fr Patrick Hutton - Retired

Deacon: Rev Peter Griffin – 07850 499414

pfgriffin@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Website: www.ourladysolney.co.uk

Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

Telephone: 01234 711212 ourladysolney@btconnect.com

St Joseph's Convent – Sr Delia DHS - 01234 711267

Turvey Abbey – 01234 881432

SVP Contact: 07925 125206

27 th November 2022 Psalter Week 1		First Sunday of Advent Year of Matthew (A) – Ferial Lectionary: Year I	
First Reading	Isaiah 2:1-5 <i>The Lord gathers all nations together into the eternal peace of God's kingdom.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house'.		
Second Reading	St Paul to the Romans 13:11-14 <i>Our salvation is near.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Matthew 24:37-44 <i>Stay awake so that you may be ready</i>		
Saturday 26 th November +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (Fr Edmund Worthy RIP)	
Sunday 27 th November +	10.30am	Mass – (For the Parish)	
Monday 28 th November <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today	
Tuesday 29 th November <i>Feria</i>	10.00am	Mass – (Raymond Whysall RIP)	
Wednesday 30 th November St Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland - feast	10.00am	Mass – (Fr Brian Leatherland RIP)	
Thursday 1 st December St Edmund Campion, Martyr – op mem		No Parish Mass today	
Friday 2 nd December <i>Feria</i>	6.15pm 7.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Br Herbert Kaden RIP)	
Saturday – 3 rd December St Francis Xavier, Priest - memoria	10.00am 10.30am- 11.30am	Mass – (Alexander Roberts RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confession	
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
Saturday – 3 rd December +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)	
Sunday – 4 th December +	10.30am	Mass – (Robert Harris & family Int.)	

CHRISTMAS CARDS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE PORCH

Mass Times this week – please note this week’s changes to the Mass:

Thursday 1st December – No Parish Mass today – along with his family, Fr David will be celebrating the Requiem Mass of his late father, Brian Barrett RIP

Friday 2nd December – Mass will be at **7.00pm**



Requiescat in Pace

Fr David’s father, Brian Barrett, passed away on Sunday 30th October. His funeral will take place on **Thursday 1st December**. The coffin will be received into the church of St Joseph, Gardenia Avenue, Luton (LU3 2NS) on **Wednesday 30th November at 5.00pm**. The Requiem Mass will be celebrated at the same church on **Thursday 1st December at 11.30am** followed by burial at Dunstable Cemetery (West Street, Dunstable LU6 1QD). Afterwards there will be refreshments at St Joseph’s Parish Centre, Gardenia Avenue, Luton. If any parishioners would like to attend the funeral, Fr David says they would be most welcome. If you would like to attend, please let Fr David know. We keep him and especially his mother Eileen and all the family in our prayers and pray that Brian will rest in peace and rise in glory.

THANK YOU FROM THE DIOCESAN CAFOD TEAM - Your support over this past year has been life-changing and very much appreciated. Thank you for praying, campaigning, donating or volunteering to support people and communities in their struggles against poverty. An example is in South Sudan; communities who take in displaced people fleeing violence or natural disasters. The arrivals are given food and some are given land. They erect temporary structures as shelter and some start farming. Nyanguet, who fled with her five children after her village was attacked, says, “*The community host us well. My children and I feel safe now.*” Thank you for helping to support people and communities like this throughout the world. Have a joyful Advent and a happy Christmas.

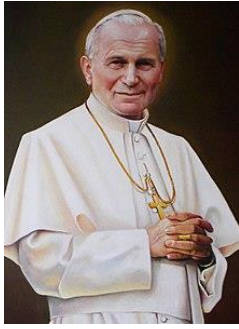


Christmas Talk and Carols Sunday 18th December at 6.00pm

In place of our parish Christmas Carol Service at Our Lady’s, we will have a talk followed by some Carols and mince pies and mulled wine on **Sunday 18th December at 7pm** followed by seasonal refreshments in the parish hall. The talk will be given by one of our parishioners Julia Scott. She has written two novels for teenagers focusing on Pro-Life issues. A third is on the way. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus who is our Life, this will be a wonderful way for us to get together, hear something hopeful, sing and celebrate. Proceeds from the evening will go to Willen Hospice. Everyone is welcome

Bishop David Oakley – Our Missionary Diocese

Our Bishop has recently put on YouTube a reflection on how our Diocese and our parishes can become more missionary. Look up Northampton Diocese on YouTube and you will find the talk entitled, “Our Missionary Diocese”. This is a direct link to it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkvLWmHX-18>



Advent Reflection – St Pope John Paul II

“To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize him as present in the events of daily life. Therefore, Advent is, so to speak, an intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come, and who comes continuously”.

St Pope John Paul II



Caritas: Love for Christmas Campaign

Caritas are running a Love for Christmas Campaign. Any gifts must be new and need to be dropped off at the church by December 11th. See poster in church and the following message:

We would like to invite you, along with your colleagues and family members to join in this campaign of kindness and generosity by collecting donations of much needed gifts to put smiles on the faces of young families, children and the elderly living in isolation or poverty, as well as young people leaving the care system and living alone and young carers who do so much all year round for others and have little time to actually be a child.



Pastoral Letter First Sunday of Advent 27 November 2022 On becoming a synodal diocese

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today's Gospel speaks to us of things which lie in the future and yet we are aware of them now. Here and now, we experience a foretaste of these events. We were busy about our affairs when a world-wide pandemic came along which affected all our lives. The apostle Paul tells us today, being a follower of Christ means we 'must wake up now'. We must recognise the signs of the times and listen carefully to what the Lord is saying to us in these days. We may easily imagine, to use the Gospel words, that all will be 'swept away'. Perhaps we tell ourselves, we need to fix everything by our own effort. Or we look around for those who have the wherewithal to get us out of the mess we find ourselves in.

There is another way. The first part of the Advent Season is focused on the day when the 'master is coming'. We may sense a threatening tone in today's Gospel. But it doesn't have to be like that. Advent is a season for listening for the voice of the Lord. To do this effectively, we have to get rid of the clutter, the many other voices which shout at us and cause confusion. We also have to learn to look at things from a certain perspective. Being a disciple of Jesus is not about what we are doing. It is about seeking the Lord's will. It is about his action. Our thinking about all things needs a deeper conversion. As we reflect upon the signs of the times, we might even speak of a synodal conversion within our diocesan family.

You may have heard of the forthcoming Synod of Bishops next autumn. It is entitled, **For a synodal Church: communion, participation, mission**. Some generously took part in the

conversations across the diocese, marked by gracious speaking and gracious listening. Your comments and reflections became part of a diocesan report. This, in turn fed into the national synthesis text, received by the bishops of England and Wales last June. The discussion has now moved on to the continental stage. We do not have to wait to see where this journey of the world-wide Church will take us. This is the moment we can embrace an authentic synodality in the way we live our diocesan life. We should take hold of those three words, **communion, participation, mission**, and apply them to every aspect of our parish and diocesan life and witness. To this end, a diocesan Office for Synodality is to be established. I am very grateful to the dedicated diocesan synodal team for their enthusiastic commitment to the synodal process over the past twelve months.

Now it is time to formalise all this, mindful that everything we do is marked by a gracious listening to the Holy Spirit. This will not be easy. Discerning the inspiration of the Holy Spirit means we also need to become aware of the influence of the bad spirit. One of the titles of our ancient enemy is diabolos, the one who divides and separates. Despite this tempting voice we may proceed with the confidence of our faith in the Lord. Our Church finds itself in a new place with regard to evangelisation. We need to reach out to others and become a missionary diocese. We need to appreciate that the Holy Spirit is the soul of the evangelising Church. The diocesan Office for Synodality, we pray, will assist and encourage good conversation across the diocese. So let me share with you a high-priority example of synodal conversation and decision-making within our diocesan family. Some Milton Keynes parishes are increasing in numbers. This is because of migration into the area from elsewhere. Unfortunately, this is not the situation in every pastoral area. Every year, our number of priests decreases and we need to plan the best way to deploy our clergy. Mass attendance figures are also in steady decline. We need to look at our parishes, their properties and resources and discern where the future lies. This is a challenging exercise for many reasons. When a church is closed, a whole story of endeavour to build it, sacramental memory and community cohesion is lost or at least fractured. These decisions should not be taken lightly. Well let's not finish on that note. The prophet Isaiah has an encouraging word for us today, 'In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains... All the nations will stream to it'. Given what they were going through, I bet the people of God in his day found that hard to believe. Faith invites us to transcend our limited vision of what our Lord can do. Hope encourages us to look at what the Holy Spirit is doing. Love embraces the Father's will with bold trust.

Let us pray for each other in these beautiful days of the Advent Season.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

✠ David

Bishop of Northampton

*Given at Northampton on the Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King,
20th November 2022*

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, Our Lady of Sorrows, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, St Andrew, St Edmund Campion, St Francis Xavier pray for us all.

With our love and prayers – Fr David & Deacon Peter