



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

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16 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 Psalter Week 3	Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time DAY FOR LIFE	
First Reading	Ezekiel 17:22-24 <i>I make low trees grow.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.	
Second Reading	2 St Paul to the Corinthians 5:6-10 <i>Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing the Lord.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!	
Gospel	Mark 4:26-34 <i>It is the smallest of all the seeds; yet it grows into the biggest shrub of them all.</i>	
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> June +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (Jean Griffin RIP – 4 <sup>th</sup> Aniv.)
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> June +	10.30am	Mass – (Pro Populo)
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> June <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June <i>Feria</i>	10.00am	Mass - (Sherine Winters RIP)
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June Dedication of the Cathedral - <i>Feast</i>		No Parish Mass today
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June St Alban, <i>Martyr</i>	10.00am	Service of Word & Holy Communion
Friday – 21 <sup>st</sup> June St Aloysius Gonzaga - <i>Religious</i>	10.00am	Mass (Tom Moore RIP)
Saturday – 22 <sup>nd</sup> June St John Fisher, <i>Bishop</i> & St Thomas More - <i>Martyrs</i>		No Parish Morning Mass today
Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time		
Saturday – 22 <sup>nd</sup> June +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (Terry Wakefield RIP)
Sunday – 23 <sup>rd</sup> June +	10.30am	Mass - (Pro Populo)

**Second Collection today for the 'Day for Life'**

## Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £670.11

DCP – £30.00

Average Standing Orders: £464.00

**Total: £1,164.11**

**PLEASE NOTE: NO PARISH MORNING MASS THIS COMING SATURDAY**



### DAY FOR LIFE 2024 – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June

The Church teaches that life is to be nurtured from conception to natural death; and Day for Life is celebrated on the third Sunday of June each year. The theme this year focuses on care at the end of life: *The Lord is my Shepherd – Compassion and Hope at the End of Life*. You can get further information on this by going to the website of the Catholic Bishops of England & Wales at:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/>



**Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus** - June is the month specially dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. You will find a Litany dedicated to the Sacred Heart on the parish website. This devotion reminds us how in Jesus's Heart, the love of God has been made manifest: a love that atones for our sins, that reaches out with healing, that longs to bring peace to our hearts and to the world, a love that suffers with us in our

sufferings, a love that transforms our crosses into offerings of love which save souls and atones for sins and spreads the victory of God's grace throughout the world. Please do think about praying the Litany every day this month.



### First Holy Communion

Many Congratulations to the young children who made their First Holy Communion here in Our Lady's on Saturday morning. It was a wonderful occasion for them, their families, and friends as well as the entire Parish. Please do keep our young children in your daily prayers.



**Catholic Grandparents Association** - A grandfather was telling his little grandson about the things he did in his own childhood: swinging from a tree on a tyre, pony riding, skating on the pond, picking blackberries. The boy was wide-eyed, taking this all in, and then gave a sigh 'I wish I'd got to know you sooner.' Our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 26th June as usual at 2pm in the Parish Hall**. The subject will be **THE POWER OF THE**

**GRANDPARENT**. Unconditional love is the most powerful force in the world. In a world that can bully us, measure us, assess us, and judge us, a grandparent can be someone who loves us .... anyway. This gives a child a real sense of self-worth, building up confidence. Do please come and join us for refreshments and an opportunity to consider another aspect of grandparenting and to pray together for grandparents and grandchildren. Everyone is welcome at our meeting.



**Altar Servers** – We are looking to recruit some young members of our parish to join our team of Altar Servers and are appealing especially to those who recently received their First Holy Communion and those young people who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation next month. Altar Servers play a very important part in the Church's Liturgy enabling us all, Priests, Deacons, and the Laity to worthily celebrate the Mass. Full training will be given to you. If you are interested, please speak, or contact either Fr David or Deacon Peter.



### **Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral Church Our Lady Immaculate & St Thomas of Canterbury Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June**

The Cathedral is the mother church of the Roman Catholic Church in Diocese of Northampton. The word “cathedral” derives from the Greek word “kathedra,” meaning “chair.” The chair of the diocesan bishop is the seat from which he guides the life of the Church in a particular geographical region known as a diocese. This chair is a symbol of his authority to teach, sanctify and govern the people of Christ. The church in which this chair is housed is consequently known as a cathedral church — the bishop's own parish church. This coming Wednesday we will be celebrating the feast of the Dedication of the Cathedral (a solemnity in the Cathedral). On this very special day, we should pray for our Diocese, our Parish, the Priests and Deacons of our Diocese, the Religious Communities in our Diocese and for the people of our Diocese. But we should especially pray for Bishop David and all his predecessors.



**Northern France** – You are invited to join Bishop David on pilgrimage to Northern France from **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024**. Our pilgrimage begins with 3 nights staying in Lisieux, followed by an overnight stay in Chartres and 3 nights in Paris. Our pilgrimage will be led by Canon John Udrys. For more information visit <https://www.jcjourneys.com/northampton-diocese-pilgrimage-retreat> or email [neil.roseman@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:neil.roseman@northamptondiocese.org)



### **General Election 2024**

The Prime Minister has called a general election for Thursday, 4th July. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, is asking voters to be active rather than passive to engage with politicians on the key issues. “You want to know what your candidate will think and say on your behalf when that candidate gets into Parliament,” says the Cardinal. “I would like to put forward a theme for us all to think about. How do we seek to construct a society in which families can flourish? That is the bedrock.” Gospel values inform how we look at the world as Christians. These values can also offer a different way of looking at politics, a way that puts the common good before self-interest. Throughout this election season we will be seeking answers which will help the poor, the marginalised, and the vulnerable. We seek a society in which all families can flourish and where we care for our common home, where we offer a welcoming hand to strangers in need, where we look out for those struggling to get on. Families are the heart of our communities and society. You can get further information as well as watching a brief video message from Cardinal Nichols at: <https://www.cbew.org.uk>

## Sunday Readings - Reflections

**Ezekiel 17:22-24** - The task of the prophet Ezekiel was to keep up the spirits of the Jews exiled to Babylon. For them it seemed that the sack of Jerusalem was the end of all hope: they had lost their homes, their king, their Temple and even their covenant with God. Ezekiel was a person of fantastic imagination, not afraid to indulge in wild and daring mimes to force through his message that God was still in charge and still caring for Israel. He mimed the siege of Jerusalem by building a mudbrick model and escaping through the wall. His visions are also extraordinary and inspiring. Perhaps the best-known is the Valley of the Dead Bones, prophesying that Israel will come to life again. The passage we read today is an imaginative allegory about a great cedar tree despoiled by two eagles, that is, Israel despoiled by Babylon and Egypt. In our reading God promises that Israel will again become a great cedar tree, in whose shade the nations will come to take shelter. The Gospel parable uses the same figure of a great tree in which all peoples will shelter. The great cedars on the mountains of Lebanon are an awesome and unforgettable sight, stretching far into the sky and wide across the hills, a suitable refuge for great birds and so for all peoples.

**2 Corinthians 5:6-10** - Saint Paul uses several different sets of imagery to convey the goal of the Christian life for which he is longing. We know that all imagery is inadequate, but especially such pictures as heaven 'up there', in the clouds, where we all play on harps. In 1 Corinthians 15 Saint Paul used images of participating in God's power, incorruptibility, and glory, of being transformed into a new mode of being by the Spirit. In today's reading Saint Paul speaks of 'being at home' with the Lord in contrast to being in exile. Now that we are adopted children of God, to be with the Lord is our natural family home. In the final sentence he envisages also the final judgment when we are laid bare and exposed for what we truly are, the frightening but comforting moment when we see ourselves as God sees us, when we can cease putting on an act and keeping up appearances. Before God there is neither need nor possibility of pretence. All masks are stripped off. This too is an aspect of being at home, for there is no pretending before the family.

**Saint Mark 4:26-34** - Jesus was a countryman, from the rich agricultural plains of Galilee, where wheat and fruit trees abounded. It was natural for him to use such imagery to describe the Kingdom of God which he was proclaiming. Today's gospel reading offers us two of the many images in Mark's chapter of parables. What did Jesus want to teach by them? Images can carry many layers of meaning. First, the seed growing secretly all the time: perhaps Jesus meant that God's purposes are accomplished despite our feeble and fumbling efforts; perhaps it was a warning that after long waiting the time for decision, the time of harvest had come with Jesus' own mission. Second, the mustard-seed: was this a reply to the discouraged disciples – or perhaps Jesus' critical opponents – that his motley little group of undistinguished peasants, fishermen and tax collectors would grow into God's own mighty tree? Perhaps this is a first hint that Jesus' mission is for all nations, not just for Israel. All nations would come, nest, and find a home in the branches of his mission, just as in the first reading they nest in the branches of the great cedar tree. At any rate, both images show that God is in charge, and has great plans which will be fulfilled despite our own inadequacies.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, Our Lady of Peace, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St Rita, St John Mary Vianney, Blessed Carlo Acutis, St Alban, St Aloysius Gonzaga, Ss John Fisher & Thomas More pray for us.

*With our love and prayers, Fr David, Fr Patrick, and Deacon Peter*