



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence
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Parish Priest: Fr David B Barrett

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Fr Patrick Hutton – Retired

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14 th July 2024 Psalter Week 3		Fifteenth Sunday of the Year 'Sea Sunday'	
First Reading	Amos 7:12-15 <i>Go, prophesy to my people.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.		
Second Reading	St Paul to the Ephesians 1:3-14 <i>Before the world was made, God chose us.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Mark 6:7-13 <i>He began to send them out.</i>		
Saturday 13 th July +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (Lillian Morris RIP)	
Sunday 14 th July +	10.30am	Mass – (Agnes & Sidney Wogan RIP)	
Monday 15 th July St Bonaventure – Bishop & Doctor	10.00am	Mass – (Marie Dakin RIP – First Anniv.)	
Tuesday 16 th July Our Lady of Mount Carmel	10.00am	Mass – (Ben Bird RIP)	
Wednesday 17 th July Feria	10.00am	Mass – (Emmanuel Dogli RIP)	
Thursday 18 th July St Edburga of Bicester - Religious		No Parish Mass today	
Friday – 19 th July Feria	10.00am	Mass – (Breda Cribbin RIP)	
Saturday – 20 th July St Apollinaris – Bishop & Martyr	10.00am 10.30am	Mass – (Holy Souls) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession	
Sixteenth Sunday of the Year			
Saturday – 20 th July +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)	
Sunday – 21 st July +	10.30am	Mass – (Family & friends of the Ayles family)	

Second Collection this weekend – Stella Maris (Sea Sunday)

Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £362.65

DCP – £35.00

Average Standing Orders: £464.00

Total: £861.65

Many thanks for your continued financial support.



SEA SUNDAY - The annual collection for **Stella Maris** ('Sea Sunday') is the traditional second collection for the work of the Apostleship of the Sea. Please put your contribution either in the baskets in the narthex, the Digital Collection Plate or place in a sealed envelope marked 'Sea Sunday' and

leave at the Presbytery. Thank you for your continued support.



WELCOME TO FR BIJU Fr Biju Chittuparamban will be visiting the parish this coming Wednesday. As you all know, he will be taking over as Parish Priest here during the week of 5th August. He will be coming to Mass and concelebrating with Fr David this coming Wednesday 17th July at 10.00am. If you would like to see him and meet him, please feel welcome to come along and we can have a cup of tea or coffee in the hall afterwards: it would be lovely to show him what a warm, welcoming parish we have.



Confirmation Mass with Bishop David Monday 22nd July 2024 at 7.00pm

We have 15 candidates who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation later this July. Bishop David Oakley will be here from Northampton for the evening. All are welcome, although seating for the candidates and their families will be a priority. There will be refreshments after Mass for everyone. Please do keep the candidates and their families in your prayers.



Mass Intentions – Offering

If you wish to donate for Mass Intentions via the Digital Collecting Plate, can you please ensure that you complete the Mass Offering envelope at the same time and put into one of the baskets in the church. Thank you.



PRAYING THE ROSARY FOR PEACE We are living in very difficult times, with the threat of war and instability. Our Lady has said many times at the places where she has appeared how powerful the Rosary is for achieving peace. We cannot rely on politicians to get things right – but we can turn to Our Lady and through her, the Queen of Peace, ask God to give us through His Son the peace that the world cannot give.



From Fr Patrick's desk... The recent meeting of our Catholic Grandparents at the end of June was an opportunity to consider the importance of giving unconditional love, and individual attention to our grandchildren. How important it is for teenage grandchildren especially to know that their grandparents will keep their confidences, and be for them an emotional safety-net. We greatly appreciated the refreshments provided at the beginning of our meeting. Thank

you. We committed ourselves to keep in our prayers the grandchildren experiencing difficulties in their lives. David Ashford received a Certificate of Membership and a badge on his gilet. Look out for it when you see him proudly wearing it. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 31st July at 2pm. The subject will be 'facts about grandparents who become carers of their grandchildren.'

One grandmother who had been caring for her grandchildren all day long was rather miffed when they quickly abandoned her to rush into their parents' arms on their return. 'It hurts a bit,' she admitted, 'but I suppose that's how it should be.' Yes, it is. *But don't expect two bags of sweets next time, you fickle little blighters!*

Because of holidays we shall not be meeting in August. Thereafter we look forward to welcoming Fr. Biju Chittuparamban.



Called & Equipped is a **one-year programme**, offering a foundation in Catholic teaching and a journey of faith formation.

- For **anyone active in parish life** or coming into ministry
- Starts with a **residential foundations weekend 4th-6th October 2024**, and will have **24 weekly group sessions** over the following year. All **materials are online**, and small groups usually meet over zoom with one in-person event each term.
- **Choice of small groups** for participants running in different parts of the diocese, and on different days of the week. **Possibility of a bespoke group** if there are enough people from your parish or pastoral area doing it.
- The cost of the course, £480 including the residential weekend, **will be split three ways**: £160 from the diocesan Together in Faith Fund, £160 from the parish, and £160 from the individual. There will be **bursary places** available for those unable to meet the individual payment.

A final introductory webinar will take place on zoom on **Tuesday 16 July at 7:30pm**. Please come and join to see if this is the course for you. For more details and to sign up go to: <https://northamptondiocese.org/called-equipped/>

FOOTPRINTS WITH GOD Steve Ray is a convert to the Church who has produced some wonderful videos on location throughout the Holy Land telling the history of the Old Testament, Christ's life and the growth of the early Church. You can hear his story of conversion on YouTube at https://youtu.be/qoOi_B3Y56c?si=cCtGxF1kzhauO_8f If you wish to watch the series Footprints with God, you will need to subscribe either for a year or a few months. If you are interested – and it is well worth it! – then go to <https://watch.formed.org/footprints-of-god-with-stephen-ray>

Pray, even if you feel nothing, see nothing. For when you are dry, empty, sick, or weak, at such a time is your prayer most pleasing to God, even though you may find little joy in it. This is true of all believing prayer.

Julian of Norwich

The Sunday Word – Reflections

Amos 7:12-15 - Amos had a tricky task on his hands. He was sent unwillingly by God from the neighbouring kingdom of Judah to tell their bitter rivals in the kingdom of Israel to change their ways, to stop exploiting the poor and the weak and to bring sacrifices which were a real expression of homage to God who champions the needy and the powerless. No surprise that he was booted out of the national shrine and told to go off home and mind his own business. We don't like prophets who try to shake us out of our comfortable ways, pointing out our inadequacies, challenging us to be true to God's plans for us. In vain Amos insisted that he was not a professional trouble-maker, that all he had wanted was a quiet life looking after his flocks and herds and sycamore trees. But then the Lord had insisted on giving him this special task of prophesying. The exciting thing about being a Christian is that we never know when we will be called by the Lord to do some special tasks, great or small – even if it is only welcoming the unexpected and tiresome visitor and remembering that he or she comes in the place of Christ.

Ephesians 1:3-14 Today we start reading the great letter to the Ephesians, the first of seven Sunday readings. Many scholars think that this letter was written not by Saint Paul himself, but by a follower steeped in Saint Paul's thought. Gone are the old problems of Jew and gentile; reflections are on a cosmic scale, and Christ is evaluated in terms of the cosmic powers. The letter is quite different in style to Saint Paul's other letters and develops many of his ideas. Perhaps it is the first commentary on Saint Paul's writings. The sevenfold blessing with which the letter begins sums up God's plan of salvation for humanity. The climax is in the centre of today's reading, 'to bring everything under Christ as head'. Christ is the Wisdom of God, the plan according to which and through which all things were created. Christ is also the completion of the creation - and the unity of all things in Christ is a special emphasis of this letter. All things are under Christ as head of creation: he is all nourishment for creation and all guidance of creation. These are the functions which a head performs for a body, and these are the functions which Christ performs for creation.

Mark 6:7-13 The instructions for missionaries are shaped by the urgency of the Kingdom. The Twelve are to travel light for speed. They should wear sandals rather than go barefoot, also for speed and security. They are to rely for their provisions on the welcome they receive and, if they are unwelcome, they should not waste time on those who reject them. Did Jesus think that the Kingdom or Kingship of God would finally burst on the world in his own time, that there was so little time to spare? In one way it did – at his death and Resurrection, which fulfilled God's plan and restored us to friendship with God. In another way the Kingdom is still in the future: the reign of peace and justice is not yet established. There is still sorrow, distress, enmity, fraud, jealousy, and plenty of other evils which fracture God's Kingship. We are still imperfect reflections of the light of Christ, still pilgrim members of a pilgrim Church. Our efforts are often feeble, even when we try to walk in Christ's footsteps. We cannot sit back complacently, any more than the missionaries of Jesus' own time. The task of establishing the Kingdom is still imminent.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St Rita, St Bonaventure, St Edburga, St Apollinaris, pray for us.

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