



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence  
39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH - 01234 711212

**Priest in Charge: Fr Biju Chittuparamban**  
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Fr Patrick Hutton – Retired

Parish Website: [www.ourladysolney.co.uk](http://www.ourladysolney.co.uk)

Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

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St Joseph's Convent – Sr Eileen Gorman DHS - 01234 711267

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25 <sup>th</sup> August 2024 Psalter Week 1		Twenty-First Sunday of the Year	
First Reading	Joshua 24:1-2. 15-18 <i>We will serve the Lord, for he is our God.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	Taste and see that the Lord is good.		
Second Reading	St Paul to the Ephesians 5:21-32 <i>This mystery has many implications for Christ and his Church.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	<b>Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!</b>		
Gospel	John 6:60-69 <i>Whom shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life.</i>		
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> August +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)	
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> August +	10.30am	Mass – (James O'Connor RIP)	
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> August Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God - Priest	10.00am	Mass – (Sick of the Parish)	
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> August St Monica	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration Mass – (Rosie & Brian Henman-Healing)	
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> August St Augustine of Hippo, Bishop & Doctor of the Church	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration Mass – (Fr John Fowler RIP)	
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> August The Passion of St John the Baptist	11.00am	Requiem Mass – Catherine Morris RIP	
Friday – 30 <sup>th</sup> August St Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line and Margaret Ward – Martyrs	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration Mass – (Fr Hildebrand van Reyk RIP)	
Saturday – 31 <sup>st</sup> August St Aidan, Bishop – Ss of Lindisfarne	10.00am 10.30am	Mass – (Fr Patrick's Ints.) Adoration with Confession	
Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year			
Saturday – 31 <sup>st</sup> August +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (Bill Flynn RIP & family Ints.)	
Sunday – 1 <sup>st</sup> September +	10.30am	Mass – (Pro Populo)	

## Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £410.65

DCP – £30.00

Average Standing Orders: £ 464.00

**Total: £904.65**

*Many thanks for your continued financial support.*



**Our Parish Church** – on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August** we celebrate the anniversary of the dedication of our beautiful church. We thank God for the gift of our church and for the benefactors and many parishioners past and present. We pray also for the priests who have served the people of our parish over the years.

### Prayer to Our Lady Help of Christians

Most Holy Virgin Mary, Help of Christian, how sweet it is to come to your feet imploring your perpetual help. If earthly mothers cease not to remember their children, how can you, the most loving of all mothers forget me? Grant then to me, I implore you, your perpetual help in all my necessities, in every sorrow, and especially in all my temptations. I ask for your unceasing help for all who are now suffering. Help the weak, cure the sick, convert sinners. Grant through your intercessions many vocations to the religious life. Obtain for us, O Mary, Help of Christians, that having invoked you on earth we may love and eternally thank you in heaven.

**St John Bosco**

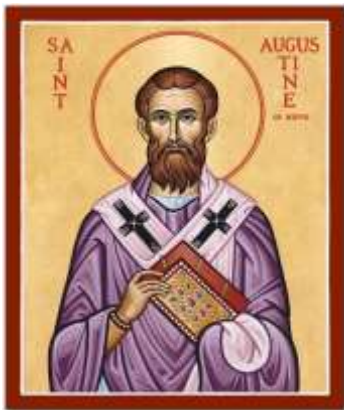
Littleway Healing Outreach Day with Father Lawrence Brassill and Mrs Pauline Edwards on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September from 11.30am to 4.30pm at St Josphe's (Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine) Midland Rd Bedford.

Parish Mass at 10.45am followed by refreshments in the Guild room then a talk at 11.30am, Exposition (lunch 12.30 bring packed lunch/teas provided) 1.30pm sharing of Scripture, Music, Testimonies, Laying on of hands prayer. All welcome for all or part of the day.

March for Life – Saturday 7th September 2024 Morning events 10.00am to 1.00pm - Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street, London, SW1P 3DW. Mass 11.00am - St Georges Cathedral, Southwark, London, SE1 7HY The March 1.30pm - from the Emmanuel Centre [www.marchforlife.co.uk](http://www.marchforlife.co.uk)

Thanksgiving Mass – A Thanksgiving Mass & presentation to Fr David will be held on Sunday 6th October at 10.30am. Cards for parishioners are at the back of the church. Envelopes are also available for anyone wishing to donate towards a farewell gift for Father. If donating by cheque, please make payable to Our Lady Help of Christians. You can also donate via the digital collection plate or via the bank. Contact Denise for further details.

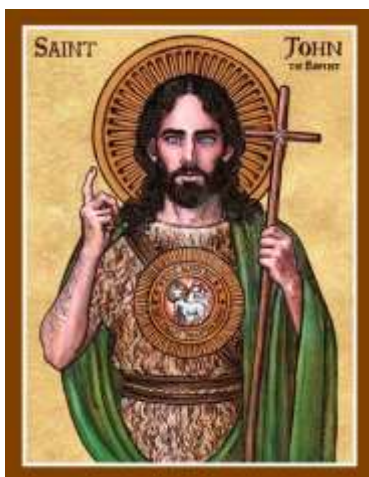
First Holy Communion - Classes will start 13<sup>th</sup> October. If you have a child in Year 2 or above and you would like them to make their 1st Holy Communion, please contact Denise on [ourladysofney@btconnect.com](mailto:ourladysofney@btconnect.com) or call her on 01234 711212 for a registration form. Further details will be announced later. **All** requests must be made via the parish office in the first instance.



**St Augustine of Hippo** – was born at Thagaste in Africa in the year 354. As a young man he led an unsettled life both in the philosophy he professed and in his moral behaviour, but later, in the year 387, he was converted and received baptism at Milan from the bishop, St Ambrose. He came back to his own country and led the life of an ascetic. Elected Bishop of Hippo, for thirty-four years he was an exemplary bishop to his flock, teaching his people by his sermons and writings, striving to combat the errors of the time and to make the faith understood. He died in the year 430.

[Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe.](#)  
[St Augustine of Hippo](#)

Reflection on the Passion of St John the Baptist



On Tuesday of this week, we celebrate the memoria of what was once known as ‘The Beheading of St John the Baptist’ but is now called the ‘Passion of St John the Baptist’.

Passion can be understood in two ways; passion in terms of suffering, trial and death, and passion in terms of the motivating force and energy of someone for a particular purpose. The gospels make it clear that John fully understood his purpose in preparing the way for the coming Messiah, for Jesus.

As cousins, they may have known each other quite well in their childhood days and early years. John fulfilled his mission so well that his group of followers continued well after his death, although some, as we know, turned to Jesus. To die, the way he did at the hands of Herod, seems scant reward for all that he did for Jesus. Yet he would not have wanted it any other way. He offers us a somewhat brutal lesson as followers of Jesus whose mission, passion like John’s, is to prepare the way for Jesus to enter the lives of those we encounter. Our reward may not be glorious, happy, or joyful in any way but, our reward, like John’s, is to fulfil whatever God asks of us, however difficult, however challenging, and however impossible it may seem.

## Reflections on the Bible Readings on the 21 st Sunday

The main theme of today's readings is that Christian life is a series of daily choices for God or against God. As God's children, He has given us the freedom to choose. Let us make our choice for Christ and live it.

In the first reading, having almost come to the end of his mission, Joshua reminded Israel of how faithful and pleasing the Lord has been to them. Finally, he challenged them: "If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve..." Their response was relatively rapid and positive: "We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God..."

Of course, as most of us do, they spoke well. Unfortunately, they did not keep their promise. As soon as Joshua was gone (Judges 1-12), they ran to other gods. The psalmist says: "Those who run to other gods multiply their sorrows" (Ps 16, 4). Indeed, they multiplied their sorrows through their own decision and choice.

The second reading emphasizes the unity that must exist in the Body of Christ and the intimate relationship between Jesus and His followers. It also challenges the Ephesian Christians to make the right choice in life and build Christian marriages on mutual respect and love, accepting each other's rights and dignity. Jesus also uses the husband-wife relationship as an analogy to explain the close relationship between Christ and the Church. Paul reminds us that Jesus nourishes us, the members of His Church, through the Eucharist, making us His own flesh and blood, as husband and wife become one flesh.

Concluding his long Eucharistic discourse, Jesus, in today's Gospel, challenges his Jewish audience, and later His apostles, to make their choice: to accept Him as the true Bread from Heaven Who gives them His Body and Blood as their Heavenly Food, or to join those who have lost their Faith in Jesus and left Him, expressing their confusion and doubts about His claims. Today's passage describes the various reactions of the people to Jesus' claims. Many of the disciples leave, but the apostles freely choose to stay with Jesus. In the Eucharistic celebration, we, too, are called to make a decision, profess our Faith in God's Son and renew the Covenant ratified in his Life, death and Resurrection.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, Our Lady of Walsingham, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St Rita, pray for us.

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