



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

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15th September 2024 Psalter Week 4		Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year Evangelii Sunday – The Joy of the Gospel	
First Reading	Isaiah 50:5-9 <i>I offered my back to those who struck me.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.		
Second Reading	St James 2:14-18 <i>If good works do not go with faith, it is quite dead.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord; no one can to the Father except through me. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Mark 8:27-35 <i>You are the Christ. The Son of Man is destined to suffer grievously.</i>		
Saturday 14 th September +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (David Coleman RIP)	
Sunday 15 th September +	10.30am	Mass – (Pro Populo)	
Monday 16 th September Ss Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian, Bishop - Martyrs		No Parish Mass today	
Tuesday 17 th September St Robert Bellarmine – Bishop & Doctor St Hildegard of Bingen – Virgin & Doctor	10.00am	Mass – (Jean Griffin RIP)	
Wednesday 18 th September Feria		No Parish Mass today	
Thursday 19 th September St Januarius – Bishop & Martyr St Theodore of Canterbury - Bishop	10.00am	Service of Word & Holy Communion	
Friday – 20 th September St Andrew Kim Tae-gon & the Martyrs of Korea		No Parish Mass today	
Saturday – 21 st September St Matthew – Apostle & Evangelist		No morning Parish Mass	
Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year			
Saturday – 21 st September +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (Pro Populo)	
Sunday – 22 nd September +	10.30am	Mass – (Alan & Joan Bagg RIP)	

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: EVANGELII GAUDIUM
(formerly Home Missions)

Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £330.95

DCP – Nil

Average Standing Orders: £ 487.00

Total: £817.95

Many thanks for your continued financial support.



Evangelii Gaudium Sunday – This Sunday (15th September) marks Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel) Sunday or Mission Sunday as it used to be called. The theme for this year is “Growing as Missionary Disciples.” There will be a second collection to support the national work of the Bishop’s Conference Mission Directorate.



Reverend Father Brian Leatherland, RIP

This coming Monday, 16th September, we mark the Second Anniversary of when dear Fr Brian was called home to the Lord. Please do continue pray for the repose of the soul of this much-loved priest and friend; and pray also for Sally, Rebekka, James and all the family. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

Requiescat in pace

Thanksgiving Mass – A Thanksgiving Mass & presentation to Fr David will be held on **Sunday 6th October at 10.30am**. Cards for parishioners to sign 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.

Bring and Share Buffet – Sunday 6 October 2024

We are very grateful to the Parish Social Committee who are making the arrangements for the ‘Bring & Share’ Buffet following the Thanksgiving Mass for Fr David. A letter together with suggestions for the buffet will be distributed after Mass this weekend. Please could you indicate on the board in the porch by **Sunday 29th September** how many people will be coming from your household and what you would like to bring to the buffet. Please do not worry if you are unable to bring anything or don’t know for definite if you can attend. It’s just to get an approximate idea of numbers and to ensure that there is a variety of food. The letter & suggestions are also available on the parish website.

Mass Intentions - With the increase of weekday Masses, we now have more availability for Mass Intentions - first available date is 14th October. If you use the Digital Collection Plate or the Parish Website for a Mass Intention, can you please ensure that you also complete a Mass Intention envelope with details of who the Mass is for. A Mass Intention made via the website on 28th August with no other details – can you please let Denise know if this was you.



Catholic Grandparents Association – One of the many blessings in our parish is the existence of the Catholic Grandparents Association under the guidance of Fr Patrick. Our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 24th September as usual at 2pm in the Parish Hall.** 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 meetings.



Did you know that over 500 Catholic parishes across England and Wales are certified Fairtrade? Fairtrade Fortnight **9th – 22nd September** has the theme, '**Be the Change,**' highlighting how

consumer power can support farmers overseas to build stronger, more resilient communities. This Fortnight, over 550 local community activities will be taking place, including talks, coffee mornings, breakfasts, film screenings, stalls, town displays and church services. St Luke's Catholic Church in Pinner, Westminster Archdiocese said on its facebook page on Monday: 'Every time each of us goes shopping, we cast a vote for the sort of world we want. So please choose goods with the Fairtrade Mark - it means the growers are paid a fair price. All our local supermarkets have some - look for bananas, tea, coffee, chocolate, nuts, jams, marmalade, sugar, wine and more. So let's all **BE THE CHANGE** and choose Fairtrade.' - **In Olney our local Fairtrade outlet is the Co-op!**



First Holy Communion - Classes will start on **Sunday 13th 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 ourladyolney@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.

Thought for the week - We cannot forget that evangelisation is first and foremost about preaching the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus Christ or who have always rejected him. Many of these are quietly seeking God, led by a yearning to see his face... Christians have the duty to proclaim the Gospel without excluding anyone."

Sister Wendy Beckett on Prayer

Prayer is essentially an attitude. We trust God, we believe in Him, we turn to Him. An attitude is something permanent. So how could prayer stop when we, as it were, stop praying? It would be as if your relationship with your parents existed only when you were in actual contact with them.

I think there are different levels of prayer. The deepest level is that wordless union with God that is indescribable. There is nothing to say about this, because there are no concepts that one can get hold of to talk about what happens. My guess would be that we all know this level, even in the most fleeting form. Has everybody not experienced a moment when beauty or wonder touched them at depth? Because this touch of God escapes all the confines of the human mind, there is literally nothing more to be said about it.

Then there is the level that would fit more comfortably into what most people think of as prayer. We are in church, or we are on our knees, and we are, as the catechism says, '*directing the mind and heart to God.*' We know what we are doing: we are praying. Most commonly we are petitioning, but also, we can be glorying, or thanking, or simply telling God how we feel. (*Telling God that you have a cold and are greatly tempted to impatience is perfectly valid prayer.*)

All church services are structured on this level of prayer. And so are meditation books. Also, when we sit down to think about a passage in the Scriptures and to ponder its meanings for us. The defining note of this broad and vital level of prayer is that we use words, either vocally or mentally.

A less structured level is what I would call spiritual talk. Here you are not directly addressing God, but are engaged in the mystery of what He is. Listening to sermons comes into this level. Saint Teresa of Avila said she had never heard a sermon so bad she could not get something from it (*I suppose even compassion for the preacher*). Even more, talking to friends about the things of God comes into this layer. Parents teaching their children about God comes here, and schoolteachers trying to share with their pupils a sense of God's wonder and of the actual nature of faith. All these occupations make sense only because we want to love God. In their own way they are an expression of that love and a means of deepening it.

Excerpt from 'Sister Wendy Beckett on Prayer' as a devotional attitude and the different levels of prayer.

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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