



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

Parish Safeguarding: Janet Goodland

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SVP Contact: 07469 717760

<b>22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024</b> <i>Psalter Week 1</i>		<b>Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year</b>	
<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Wisdom 2:12. 17-20</b> <i>Let us condemn him to a shameful death.</i>		
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>The Lord upholds my life.</b>		
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>St James 3:16-4:3</b> <i>Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.</i>		
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	<b>Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!</b>		
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Mark 9:30-37</b> <i>The Son of Man will be delivered. If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself servant of all.</i>		
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September +</b>	<b>5.45pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Confession</b> <b>Mass – (Pro Populo)</b>	
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Alan &amp; Joan Bagg RIP)</b>	
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September</b> <b>St Pius of Pietrelcina - Priest</b>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>	
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September</b> <b>OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass – (Michael Griffin RIP)</b>	
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September</b> <i>Feria</i>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>	
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September</b> <b>Ss Cosmas &amp; Damian - Martyrs</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Service of Word &amp; Holy Communion</b>	
<b>Friday – 27<sup>th</sup> September</b> <b>St Vincent de Paul</b>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>	
<b>Saturday – 28<sup>th</sup> September</b> <b>St Wenceslaus – Martyr</b> <b>St Laurence Ruiz &amp; Martyrs of Japan</b>		<b>No morning Parish Mass</b>	
<b>Twenty-Sixth Sunday of the Year</b>			
<b>Saturday – 28<sup>th</sup> September +</b>	<b>5.45pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Confession</b> <b>Mass – (Pro Populo)</b>	
<b>Sunday – 29<sup>th</sup> September +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Monica Drummond RIP)</b>	

**WEEK ONE OF ANNUAL PARISH MASS COUNT**

## Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £383.75

DGP – £25.00

Average Standing Orders: £ 487.00

**Total: £895.75**

Second Collection: Evangelii Gaudium (Home Missions) - £97.50

*Many thanks for your continued financial support.*

**This weekend the SVP will distribute envelopes ahead of their appeal next weekend. Envelopes to be returned 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> September. Also, on digital collection plate.**

**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.

**Please Note: the final date for accepting donations will be Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September.**

**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. 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 available on the parish website under the Newsletter tab.



**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 this coming 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.



**First Holy Communion** - Classes will start on **Sunday 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 [ourladysohney@btconnect.com](mailto:ourladysohney@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.

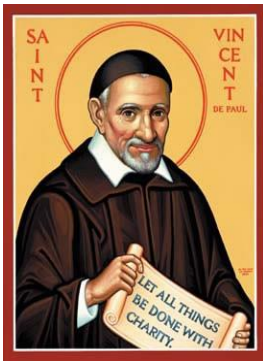
**Mary's Meals** - would like to thank everyone in the parish for their wonderful generosity when we visited at the beginning of September. Donations of **£431.44** will enable Mary's Meals to feed 22 children one good meal every school day for a whole year. Thank you so much for your support, please continue to pray for the work of Mary's Meals. God bless you all.



**Parish Choir – Singers Wanted** – We are truly blessed to have such a dedicated group of parishioners & musicians in our parish choir – their contribution really does enhance our Liturgy. The choir is looking for more singers of all voice types. Apart from rehearsing for Sunday Mass, we will soon start preparing for the Christmas Carol Concert. Even if you cannot commit to being a permanent choir member but would like to be part of the choir for the Carol

Concert you will be most welcome! Rehearsals take place at the church every Monday evening during term time from 7:30pm-9pm.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Eva on **07876 366177** – or by email: [eva\\_kuntz@hotmail.com](mailto:eva_kuntz@hotmail.com). You will be made most welcome.



**St Vincent de Paul** was born in Gascony in France in 1581. He completed his studies and was ordained priest and became a parish priest in Paris. He founded the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians) for the purpose of the spiritual formation of the clergy and the relief of the poor, and with the help of St Louise de Marillac he founded also the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity. He died at Paris in 1660. We pray especially today for the Conference of St Vincent de Paul here in our parish who do so much good work for the sick and less fortunate – may God bless them abundantly.



#### **Prayer to St Vincent de Paul**

Noble Saint Vincent de Paul, beloved servant of the poor, may we follow your example and do good works among those whom society has abandoned, enslaved, or forgotten. Inspire us to feed the hungry, to love a child, to provide comfort and medicine to the sick, to clothe those whose garments are threadbare, and to offer hope and our Lord's words to all who need respite.

Pray for us to our beloved God that we may commit ourselves selflessly to doing the same charitable acts that you did all your life, and intercede with him

that we may have the favour of his guidance and strength and love upon this important and meaningful work. Amen.

*Thought for the week - "If God is the centre of your life, no words are necessary. Your mere presence will touch hearts."*

**St Vincent de Paul**



**Our Lady of Walsingham** - Long before the notes of Pomp and Circumstance were strung together, and its lyrics begun to sing about a Land of Hope and Glory; long before William Blake jotted down the verses of Jerusalem; and before Britannia started to rule any wave; in fact, even before St George's Cross was borrowed from the Republic of Genoa to become the flag of this land; before that time, England looked to another symbol, indeed to one person, in which to find its unity, its pride, and its comfort in times of need. England looked to Mary. According to tradition, during the reign of St Edward the Confessor, one thousand years ago, England began to be

called "**dos Mariae**," Mary's dowry – meaning that out of all the Christianised countries, out of all the places one could possibly imagine, England was Our Lady's own possession, her portion which she loved, protected, and offered as her own precious gifts to her divine Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. But what's more fascinating about this tradition is that "Mary's dowry" was not an official dedication, some pious slogan that a saintly king or an archbishop came up with, rather this was the fruit of popular devotion to the Mother of God, the product of the faith and love of people like you and me. And if England was Mary's possession, this sentiment was nowhere more felt than at Walsingham, a tiny speck of village in Norfolk – which many of us know well – where our Lady had a replica of her holy house of Nazareth, and where countless pilgrims from all over the country and even the near continent flocked to ask Our Lady's intercession.

But besides the obvious nostalgic sentimentality and emotionally charged devotion of these lines, what can we, in a multicultural twenty-first century England, get out of all this? I mean, we are not in the Middle-Ages anymore and dowries are something that has largely fallen into disuse. So, what would be the point of recalling these traditions of times long gone by? Well, first, the feast of Our Lady of Walsingham and its connections to England as somehow being as her special possession, should remind us to pray for a revival of the Christian faith in this land; it should give us confidence in praying, as the Walsingham prayer says, for the 'conversion of England' so that more and more people may turn to the Lord Jesus. Secondly, this feast should inspire us to present Our Lady with gifts of our own. Let us make room for Mary in our lives, giving to her our hearts, our future, and our every good deed, to be her dowry as well, and she will, in turn, present them as precious offerings to the Lord. Indeed, about this second, more personal point, today's gospel gives us a simple instruction; which is nothing too morally demanding nor too taxing to put into practice. The gospel simply says to each of us, 'Here is your mother', and then "take her into your home". England may have stopped being widely known as Mary's dowry, and not many people may know the significance of Walsingham, but the Mother of Jesus, always remains our mother as well.

So, when we are pressed down by worries or plagued by indecision; when we find ourselves stuck on top of our own personal calvaries, when we are dejected or dis comforted; when, like St John at the foot of the Cross, we feel powerless before the suffering of others; the gospel simply says, 'Here is your mother.' Then, in those moments let us take Mary with us and she, Our Lady and protectress, will help us in our every need.

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*