



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

Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

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

Parish Safeguarding: Janet Goodland

safeguarding.olney@northamptondiocese.org

SVP Contact: 07469 717760

8 th September 2024 Psalter Week 3		Twenty-Third Sunday of the Year	
First Reading	Isaiah 35: 4-7 <i>The ears of the deaf shall be unsealed and the tongues of the dumb shall be loosed.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	My soul, give praise to the Lord.		
Second Reading	St James 2: 1-5 <i>God chose the poor to be the heirs to the kingdom.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Mark 7: 31-37 <i>He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.</i>		
Saturday 7 th September +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (Brian Humphries RIP)	
Sunday 8 th September +	10.30am	Mass – (Pro Populo)	
Monday 9 th September St Peter Claver, Priest		No Parish Mass today	
Tuesday 10 th September Feria	10.00am	Mass – (Holy Souls)	
Wednesday 11 th September Feria		No Parish Mass today	
Thursday 12 th September The Most Holy Name of Mary	10.00am	Service of Word & Holy Communion	
Friday – 13 th September St John Chrysostom – Bishop & Doctor		No Parish Mass today	
Saturday – 14 th September THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS		No morning Parish Mass	
Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year			
Saturday – 14 th September +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (David Coleman RIP)	
Sunday – 15 th September +	10.30am	Mass – (Pro Populo)	

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

Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £440.90

DCP – Nil

Average Standing Orders: £ 487.00

Total: £927.90

Many thanks for your continued financial support.

Mary's Meals – this weekend we are pleased to welcome John Fulton who will speak to us about the work of Mary's Meals.

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.



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 ourladysolney@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.



Secrets of St Paul – Mission Northampton – begin a weekly course on **Tuesday 17th September 2024 at 7.30pm** for anyone interested in finding out more about the great evangelist, St Paul. For more information visit: <https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/secrets-of-paul-online-weekly-from-17th-september-2024/>



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.



Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary – This special feast is not observed this year as it falls on a Sunday (8th September). “This is the unveiling of the mystery, this is the nature made new, God and man, and the deification of the human nature assumed by God. But so radiant, so glorious a visitation of God to men needed some prelude of joy to introduce us the great gift of salvation. The present feast is such: the prelude is the birth of the Mother of God, and the concluding act is the union which is destined between the Word and human nature. A virgin is now born and suckled and moulded, and is made ready to be mother of God, the king of all for ever.”

Extract from a reading from the sermons of St Andrew of Crete



St Peter Claver SJ – Priest - was born to a prosperous family in Verdu, Spain, and earned his first degree in Barcelona. He entered the Jesuits in 1601. When he was in Majorca studying philosophy, Claver was encouraged by Alphonsus Rodriguez, the saintly doorkeeper of the college, to go to the missions in America. Claver listened, and in 1610 he landed in Cartagena, Colombia. After completing his studies in Bogotá, Peter was ordained in Cartagena in 1616. Cartagena was one of two ports where slaves from Africa arrived to be sold in South America. Between the years 1616 and 1650, Peter Claver worked daily to minister to the needs of the 10,000 slaves who arrived each year. When a ship

arrived, Peter first begged for fruits, biscuits, or sweets to bring to the slaves. He then went on board with translators to bring his gifts as well as his skills as a doctor and teacher. Claver entered the holds of the ships and would not leave until every person received a measure of care. Peter gave short instruction in the Catholic faith and baptized as many as he could. In this way he could prevail on the slave owners to give humane treatment to fellow Christians. Peter Claver baptized more than 300,000 slaves by 1651, when he was sickened by the plague.

In the last years of his life Peter was too ill to leave his room. The ex-slave who was hired to care for him treated him cruelly, not feeding him many days, and never bathing him. Claver never complained. He was convinced that he deserved this treatment.

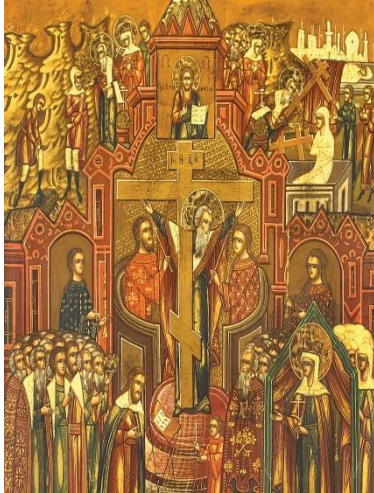
In 1654 Peter was anointed with the oil of the Sacrament of the Sick. When Cartagenians heard the news, they crowded into his room to see him for the last time. They treated Peter Claver’s room as a shrine, and stripped it of everything but his bedclothes for mementos. Claver died September 7, 1654.

St. Peter Claver SJ was a member of the Society of Jesus and is the patron of African missions and of interracial justice, due to his work with slaves in Colombia. He was canonized in 1888.

Thought for the Week: “We must speak to them with our hands before we speak to them with our lips.”

St Peter Claver SJ

Reflection on the Exaltation of the Holy Cross



The one symbol most often identified with Jesus and his Church is the Cross. Next Saturday we celebrate the feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This feast traces its beginning to Jerusalem and the dedication of the church built on the site of Mount Calvary in 335. But the meaning of the Cross is deeper than any city, any celebration, any building. The Cross is a sign of suffering, a sign of human cruelty at its worst. But by Christ's love shown in the Paschal Mystery, it has become the sign of triumph and victory, the sign of God, who is love itself. Believers have always looked to the Cross in times of suffering. People in concentration camps, in prisons, in hospitals, in any place of suffering and loneliness, have been known to draw, trace, or form crosses and focus their eyes and hearts on them. The cross does not explain pain and misery; it does not give us any easy answers; but it does help us to see our lives united with Christ's.

We often make the Sign of the Cross over ourselves; we make it before prayer to help fix our minds and hearts on God; we make it after prayer, hoping to stay close to God. In trials and temptations, the Cross is a sign of strength and protection, it is the sign of the fullness of life that is ours. At Baptism, too, the Sign of the Cross is used; the priest/deacon, parents, and godparents make the sign on the forehead of the child – *'claiming the child for Christ.'* On this special feast let us look to the Cross often; let us make the Sign of the Cross and realise we bring our whole selves to God—our minds, souls, bodies, thoughts, and hearts; everything we are and will become.

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Deacon Peter

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