



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

**Priest in Charge: Fr Biju Chittuparamban**

[frbiju.chittuparamban@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:frbiju.chittuparamban@northamptondiocese.org)

Fr Patrick Hutton – Retired

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

Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

[parish.olney@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:parish.olney@northamptondiocese.org)

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

Parish Safeguarding: Janet Goodland

[safeguarding.olney@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:safeguarding.olney@northamptondiocese.org)

SVP Contact: 07469 717760

1 <sup>st</sup> December 2024 Psalter Week 1	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b> REVISED SUNDAY LECTIONARY: YEAR C (YEAR OF LUKE)	
<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Jeremiah 33:14-16</b> <i>I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David.</i>	
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.</b>	
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>1 St Paul to the Thessalonians 3:12-4-2</b> <i>May the Lord establish your hearts for the coming of Christ.</i>	
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	<b>Alleluia, alleluia! Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!</b>	
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Luke 21:25-28, 34-36</b> <i>Your redemption is drawing near.</i>	
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November +</b>	<b>6.00pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Confession</b> <b>Mass – (Pro Populo)</b>
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Alexander Roberts RIP)</b>
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b> <i>Weekday of Advent</i>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Adoration</b> <b>Mass – (Bishop John Hine RIP)</b>
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b> <b>St Francis Xavier - Priest</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Mass – (Sr Marie Hayes RIP)</b>
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>St John Damascene – Priest &amp; Doctor</b>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Weekday of Advent</i>	<b>6.00pm</b> <b>6.45pm</b>	<b>Adoration</b> <b>Mass – (Frances Redden – Int.)</b>
<b>Friday – 6<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>St Nicholas - Bishop</b>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Adoration</b> <b>Mass – (Mary McLaughlin RIP)</b>
<b>Saturday – 7<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>St Ambrose – Bishop &amp; Doctor</b>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b> <b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Adoration</b> <b>Mass – (The Sick of our Parish)</b> <b>Christingle Mass - (Young People of the Parish)</b>
<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>		
<b>Saturday – 7<sup>th</sup> December +</b>	<b>6.00pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Confessions</b> <b>Mass – (Pro Populo)</b>
<b>Sunday – 8<sup>th</sup> December +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Bruce Kelly RIP)</b>

**Please Note: Fr Biju is available for Confessions during Adoration**

## LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

- Offertory: £264.20
- Digital Collection Plate: £20.00
- Standing Orders of £487.00
- TOTAL: £771.20

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – REMINDER** – From the Vigil Mass **this Saturday** our parish will start to use the readings from the **Revised Lectionary – Year C (The Year of Luke)**.

**First Thursday Club** - The First Thursday Discussion Club meets **this coming Thursday, 5th December, 7.30-8.30pm**, after Mass at 6.45pm. Simon Lee will lead a discussion on the three vineyard parables and their applications to modern life: the labourers in the vineyard, the wicked tenants of the vineyard, and the disobedient sons of the vineyard owner. Given the vineyard theme and the season of the year, there will be mulled wine (and mulled non-alcoholic wine) and mince pies. All are welcome.

**Various Recycled Candles** (made from old Church candle stubs) are available in the Hall - with grateful thanks to Terry Askew. All donations to be given to "Olney is Kind" a local community driven initiative dedicated to providing support to local residents who are in challenging circumstances; crisis, poverty, or other difficulties. They extend a helping hand across a range of issues.



**News from the Parish Social Group** - This year we are inviting the children and younger members of the Parish to come and celebrate the light of Christ in a special candlelit Mass on **Saturday 7th December at 5pm**. Everyone is welcome to join us for this family friendly Mass especially if you have children or grandchildren. The church will be open from **4:15 pm** so come along early to make a Christingle to light during Mass. Hot chocolate and mulled wine will be served after Mass

**Tea / Coffee after Sunday Mass** - As Sunday 1st December is 'Dickens Day' in Olney our Advent coffee will take place on **Sunday 8th December** after the 10.30am Mass. The Social Committee will be serving tea and coffee and Christmas treats. Everyone is welcome to join us.



**CASPAR** – In line with the decision made by the Diocese, we are beginning to use CASPAR, a new parish database system designed to improve communication and streamline parish management. We kindly ask you all to register as a parishioner either via the web page: [www.caspar.church/me?ID=56071](http://www.caspar.church/me?ID=56071) or by scanning the QR code here (also available in the porch). You will need your own email address and will be prompted to create a password. The sign-up process is simple, and we only collect your name and email address. Rest assured, all data is kept secure and is fully GDPR-compliant. You can delete your entry anytime you like. If you are not confident in using the internet or do not have an email address, please contact Denise who will help you to sign up. Thank you.

**Missio Red Boxes** – Last call for the Red Boxes to be returned. Could box holders please empty their box and place money into a bag along with their name and leave at the back of the church **no later than 8th December** – Thank you.



Our annual parish Christmas Concert will be held on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm** here in our church. An evening of carols, readings and prayer followed by seasonal refreshments in the parish hall. Everyone welcome! This year the proceeds from the concert will go to 'Olney is Kind.'



**CAFOD Christmas World Gifts** - Christmas is a time of giving and our parishioners have always shown great generosity in helping to support the less fortunate in this world. First weekend of Advent 30 November/ 1December your CAFOD Parish Group will have a second collection after our two Masses to enable us to buy a selection of Christmas World Gifts. By buying these gifts you will make a difference to families fleeing conflict, farmers struggling to grow crops while battling with climate change and helping children.

Brochures are available in the Church porch for those who would like further information. Thank you for your support - **Parish CAFOD Group**



### Immaculate Conception of the BVM Chief Patron of our Diocese

On **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December**, we celebrate this wonderful solemnity, that Mary, whose conception was brought about in the normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain—that is what “immaculate” means: without stain. When we meditate on the Immaculate Conception, we might ponder the angel Gabriel when he greeted Mary with the beautiful words “*Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you*” (Luke 1:28). Today we pray especially for Bishop David, Bishop Emeritus Peter, for the Priests, Deacons, Religious and people of our Diocese: *Mary, Immaculate Virgin, our Mother, chief patron of our Diocese, we praise and honour you and give ourselves to you. Protect us from all harm and pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.* Bishop David will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral at **12noon on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December**. All are welcome or you watch via the ‘live stream’ – <https://northamptoncathedral.org/>



**Newsletter – Deadline** - Items for inclusion in the Parish Newsletter should be submitted to Denise no later than **5.00pm on Wednesday afternoon**. Whilst we will do our best to include your item this cannot always be guaranteed.

## Scripture Reflections – First Sunday of Advent

As we begin the season of Advent, it is a time of waiting for Christ, allowing Jesus to be reborn in our lives. It is also a time for purifying our hearts by repentance and renewing our lives by reflecting on and experiencing the several comings of Christ into our lives. Besides coming into our world through birth, Jesus comes into our lives through His Church and its members, through its Sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist, the Word of God, the worshipping community, and finally, in His Second Coming. In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah waits and hopes for an ideal descendant of King David who, as the Messiah of God, will bring security, peace, and justice to God's people. Christians believe that Jeremiah's waiting and hoping were fulfilled in Jesus. Jeremiah's prophecy assures us that the Lord will fulfil His promises, and, hence, that we need not be afraid, despite frightening events and almost universal moral degradation.

The Psalmist expresses the central idea of patient, vigilant, prayerful waiting for the Lord. In the second reading, Paul urges the Thessalonians to continue and intensify the life of holiness and mutual love he has taught them as they wait for "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His holy ones." In today's Gospel, Jesus prophesies the signs and portents that will accompany his Second Coming and encourages us to be expectant, optimistic, vigilant, and well-prepared. Jesus wants us to face the future with confidence in God's providence.

Advent gives us time to make preparation — repenting of and confessing our sins, renewing our lives through prayer, penance, and sharing our blessings with others. In Advent, we also ought to check for what needs to be put right in our lives, to see how we have failed, and to assess the ways in which we can do better.

With our love and prayers, Fr Biju and Deacon Peter