



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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15 th December 2024 Psalter Week 3		Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete) REVISED SUNDAY LECTIONARY: YEAR C (YEAR OF LUKE)	
First Reading	Prophet Zephaniah 3:14-18a <i>The Lord will exult over you with loud singing.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	Shout aloud and sing praise, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.		
Second Reading	St Paul to the Philippians 4:4-7 <i>The Lord is at hand.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Luke 3:10-18 <i>'And we what shall we do?'</i>		
Saturday 14 th December +	6.00pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (Pro Populo)	
Sunday 15 th December +	10.30am	Mass – (Family & Friends of the Ayles family)	
Monday 16 th December <i>Third Monday of Advent</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration Mass – (Fr Brian Leatherland RIP)	
Tuesday 17 th December <i>Third Tuesday of Advent</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration Mass – (Johan Barber RIP)	
Wednesday 18 th December <i>Third Wednesday of Advent</i>		No Parish Mass today	
Thursday 19 th December <i>Third Thursday of Advent</i>	10.00am 10.30am 12 noon 7.00pm	Mass – (Adrian Field Int.) Adoration Service of Reconciliation	
Friday – 20 th December <i>Third Friday of Advent</i>	9.15am 10.00am 7.00pm	Adoration Mass – (Sandy Smyth RIP) Christmas Carol Concert	
Saturday – 21 st December St Peter Canisius – Priest & Doctor	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration Mass – (Fr David Barrett Int.)	
Fourth Sunday of Advent			
Saturday – 21 st December +	6.00pm 6.30pm	Confessions Mass – (Pro Populo)	
Sunday – 22 nd December +	10.30am	Mass – (Cicely Fowler Int.)	

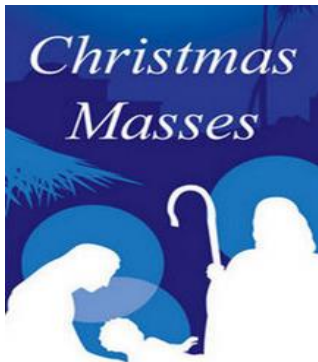
Please Note: Fr Biju is available for Confessions during Adoration

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

- Offertory: £343.45
- Digital Collection Plate: £11.00
- Standing Orders of £487.00
- TOTAL: £841.45
- CAFOD: £285.55
- Terry's Candle Sale: £67.40 (Donated to 'Olney is Kind')



Advent Penitential Service – an important part of our individual Spiritual Preparation for Christmas is to avail ourselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In addition to Fr Biju making himself available throughout the week during Adoration and prior to the Vigil Mass, a Penitential Service will be held here at Our Lady's this coming **Thursday 19th December at 7.00pm** – Fr Biju and Br John will be available to hear Confessions in preparation for the Christmas Season.



24 th December - Christmas Vigil Mass	6.00pm
24 th December – Mass During the Night	9.00pm
25 th December - Mass at Dawn	8.00am
25 th December – Mass during the day	10.30am



Many thanks to members of our Social Committee and parishioners who organised the Christingle Service held here last Saturday evening. We welcomed many parishioners both young and not so young to this special Mass and Service of Christingle as part of our parish advent preparations. We were particularly delighted to welcome our young parishioners who turned up in good number. Hot chocolate and mulled wine was much enjoyed after the Service.



Our annual parish Christmas Concert will be held on **Friday 20th 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.'

The Annual Senior Citizen Carol Service takes place on **Friday 20th December** at 2.00pm at the Cowper Memorial United Reform Church. This year it will be led by Fr Biju.



As is customary, the Christmas Offertory is our gift to Father Biju to show our appreciation for everything that he does for our parish – we are truly blessed to have such a good shepherd watching over us. There are several ways in which you can choose to donate; by using the planned giving envelopes; the

Digital Collection Plate; by standing order with a reference of Fr Biju; plain envelope clearly marked 'Fr Biju Christmas Offertory' - if by cheque please make payable to **Our Lady Help of Christians**.

giftaid

Did you know that if you 'gift aid' your offertory donation and are currently a UK taxpayer, our parish can claim a further 25% without any cost to you? That means for every £5 you give we can claim an additional £1.25 from the government. It is a very valuable source of income to the parish. If you are new to the parish and have not yet had

the chance to explore gift aiding with us, or indeed if you are already giving regularly but have never joined the scheme, then please speak with Toby Cooper or Denise Wallinger who will be happy to help explain how to register and answer any questions you may have.

Further details, including Gift Aid forms, can be found on the parish website at

<https://www.ourladysolney.co.uk/gift-aid/>



Mass Intentions – If you would like a Mass said for a particular intention there are plenty of available dates starting from the New Year – please complete one of the Mass Offertory envelopes. A reminder – if you use the Digital Collection Plate you will still need to complete an envelope so that we know details of the intention.



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 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.

Advent Reflection: Advent is a time of waiting for Our Lord, who will visit us all in our own hearts. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for Him!

Pope Francis

Scripture Reflections – Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday

This Sunday is called “Gaudete” Sunday. This Sunday the Mass begins with the Entrance Antiphon, “Gaudete in Domino semper” (“Rejoice in the Lord always”).

This Sunday we light the rose candle of the Advent wreath, and the priest may wear rose-coloured vestments, to express our communal joy in the coming of Jesus, as our Savior. Advent is a time for joy, not only because we are anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Jesus, but also because God is already in our midst. Christian joy does not come from the absence of sorrow, pain, or trouble, but from an awareness of the presence of Christ within our souls through it all.

Prophet Zephaniah 3:14-18a - In the first reading, the prophet Zephaniah says, “Shout for joy, O Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel.” Zephaniah made this prophetic proclamation at the height of the Jewish exile when things appeared hopeless and unbearable.

In today’s Responsorial Psalm, the prophet Isaiah instructs “Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

St Paul to the Philippians 4:4-7 - St. Paul echoes the same message of joy in the second reading, taken from his letter to the Philippians: “Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice... The Lord is in your midst... Fear not... be not discouraged... The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all...” Paul was imprisoned when he made this appeal for rejoicing!

Luke 3:10-18 - In the Gospel this Sunday, John the Baptist explains the secret of Christian joy as a wholehearted commitment to God’s Way lived out by doing His will. A sad Christian is a contradiction in terms. According to the Baptizer, happiness comes from doing our duties faithfully, doing good for others, and sharing our blessings with those in need. John challenges people to develop generosity and a sense of fairness, and to use these to give others reason to rejoice. John’s call to repentance is a call to joy and restoration. Repentance means a change in the purpose and direction of our lives. Filled with joyful expectation that the Messiah is coming near, the people ask John, “What should we do?” He tells them to act with justice, charity, and honesty, letting their lives reflect their transformation. For us, that transformation occurs when we recognise that Christ has already entered our lives at Baptism and that His Presence is to be reflected in our living in the ways Jesus teaches.



With our love and prayers, Fr Biju and Deacon Peter