



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

Fr Patrick Hutton – Retired

Parish Website: www.ourladysolney.co.uk

Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

parish.olney@northamptondiocese.org

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

Parish Safeguarding: Janet Goodland

safeguarding.olney@northamptondiocese.org

SVP Contact: 07469 717760

22 nd December 2024 Psalter Week 4	Fourth Sunday of Advent 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 21 st December +	6.00pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday 22 nd December +	10.30am	Mass – (Cicely Fowler Int.)
Monday 23 rd December Fourth Monday of Advent	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration Mass – (Deacon Peter Int.)
Tuesday 24 th December Morning: Fourth Tuesday of Advent		No Parish Morning Mass
The Nativity of the Lord		
CHRISTMAS EVE Tuesday 24 th December	6.00pm 9.00pm	Christmas Vigil Mass (Tancredo Alima RIP) Mass During the Night (Pro Populo)
CHRISTMAS DAY Wednesday 25 th December	8.00am 10.30am	Mass at Dawn (Altar Servers Int.) Mass During the Day (Thressiakully Chacko RIP)
Thursday 26 th December St Stephen – The First Martyr	9,15am 10.00am	Adoration Mass – (Myrna Kelly RIP)
Friday – 27 th December St John – Apostle & Evangelist	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration Mass – (Canon Micael Griffiths RIP)
Saturday – 28 th December The Holy Innocents - Martyrs	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration Mass – (Thelma van Reyk RIP)
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph		
Saturday – 28 th December +	6.00pm 6.30pm	Confessions Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday – 29 th December +	10.30am	Mass – (Intention of family & friends of Sonia van Reyk)



Christmas Mass Readings

Children's Vigil Mass (6.00pm)

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm: I will sing forever of your mercies, O Lord
Second Reading: Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17. 22-25
Gospel Alleluia: Alleluia, Alleluia! Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed: the Saviour of the world will reign over us. Alleluia!
Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Mass During the Night (9.00pm)

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm: Today a saviour has been born to us; who is Christ the Lord.
Second Reading: St Paul to Titus 2:11-14
Gospel Alleluia: Alleluia, Alleluia! I bring you good news of great joy: for unto us is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!
Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

Mass at Dawn (8.00am)

First Reading: Isaiah 62:11-12
Psalm: Today a light will shine upon us; for the Lord is born for us.
Second Reading: St Paul to Titus 3:4-7
Gospel Alleluia: Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased! Alleluia!
Gospel: Luke 2:15-20

Mass During the Day (10.30am)

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6
Gospel Alleluia: Alleluia, Alleluia! A hallowed day has shone upon us. Come, O nations and adore the Lord, for today a great light has come down to earth. Alleluia!
Gospel: John 1:1-18



IN HIM WE SEE OUR GOD MADE VISIBLE

Father all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
In the wonder of the incarnation
your eternal Word has brought to the eyes of faith
a new and radiant vision of your glory.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in love of the God we cannot see.

Preface of Christmas I – The Roman Missal

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

- **Offertory: £371.20**
- **Digital Collection Plate: £15.00**
- **Standing Orders of £487.00**
- **TOTAL: £873.20**



Very many thanks to our wonderful choir & musicians for all their hard work in preparing & performing our parish Christmas Concert last Friday evening. Thanks also to our young people who did the readings; the parish Social Group & helpers for preparing the seasonal refreshments afterwards – and, of course, thank you to everyone who came along and supported the concert. Another very successful parish event.



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**.

A thank you from the parish CAFOD Group - Following on from the recent Advent CAFOD collection we have been able to purchase 7 Bundles of Firewood for Winter, 4 Watering Cans & essential equipment to aid farming and 2 Back to school packs. **Total £288.00** - Thank you for your continued support.

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 one of the envelopes with details of the intention.

Scripture Reflections – Fourth Sunday of Advent

In the first reading, the prophet Micah assures the Jews that God is faithful to His promises and that from the unimportant village of Bethlehem He will send to them the long-expected ruler. The second reading, taken from Paul's Letter to the Hebrews, reminds us to be thankful for Jesus Christ's Self-offering, the perfect sacrifice of loving obedience that liberated us from sin. In obedient, willing eagerness to do God's will, Christ gave Himself in the place of all other ritual sacrifices offered as the means of sanctification. In the Gospel, Luke tells us how two seemingly insignificant women met to celebrate the kindness and fidelity of God. We see here how sensitive Mary was to the needs of Elizabeth, her older cousin who had miraculously become pregnant in her old age. For Luke, discipleship consists in listening to God's word and then carrying it out, and Mary does both, to become the most perfect disciple.

We need to carry Jesus to others as Mary did. Christmas is the ideal time for us to be filled with the Spirit of Christ, through Whom Christ is reborn in us and thus enables us to share His love with all whom we encounter. We do so by offering each of them humble and committed service, unconditional forgiveness and compassionate, caring love. We need to bless and encourage the younger generation. Elizabeth demonstrates the responsibility of the older generation to inspire the younger generation. Grandparents, parents, teachers, and leaders are responsible for encouraging those around them. By complimenting and encouraging one's spouse, children, and friends, let us show them how valuable they are to us and to God. Finally, we need to recognize the Real Presence of the Emmanuel (God is with us) in the Holy Eucharist, in the Bible, in the Sacraments, and in the praying community. The hill country of Judea is right here in our surroundings. Let us convey Jesus to people around us by our acts of love, kindness, and forgiveness.

Scripture Reflections – Christmas

Christmas is the Feast of God's sending us a Savior. God undertook the Incarnation of Jesus as the True God and true man to save us from the bondage of sin. The Hindus believe in ten incarnations of God. The purpose of these incarnations is stated in their Holy Scripture, Bagavath Geetha or Song of God. "God incarnates to restore righteousness in the world whenever there is a large-scale erosion of moral values." But our Scripture teaches only one Incarnation and its purpose is given in John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." As our Savior, Jesus liberated us from slavery to sin and atoned for our sins by his suffering, death, and Resurrection. So, every Christmas reminds us that we need a Savior every day, to free us from our evil addictions and unjust, impure, and uncharitable tendencies. Christmas 2024 also challenges us to accept Jesus in the manger as our saving God and personal Savior and to surrender our lives to him, allowing him to rule our hearts and lives every day in 2025, the coming New Year.



Fr Biju, Deacon Peter and the Sisters
wish you and your loved ones a very Blessed and Holy Christmas
together with a Blessed and Peaceful New Year