



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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Parish Safeguarding: Janet Goodland

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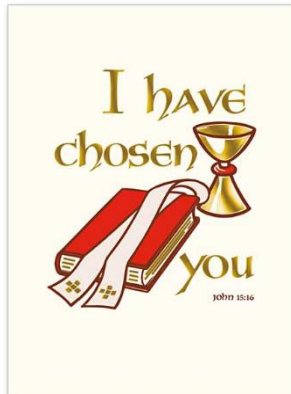
29th December 2024 <i>Psalter Week 1</i>	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS	
First Reading	Prophet Zephaniah 3:14-18a <i>The Lord will exult over you with loud singing.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	Shout aloud and sing praise, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.	
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 28th December +	6.00pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday 29th December +	10.30am	Mass – (Intention of family & friends of Sonia van Reyk)
Monday 30th December <i>Sixth day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord.</i>		No Parish Mass
Tuesday 31st December <i>Seventh day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord.</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration Mass – Fr Biju's Intentions – Anniversary of Priestly Ordination
Wednesday 1st January MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration Mass – (Bishop David Int.)
Thursday 2nd January Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen <i>– Bishops & Doctors</i>	6.15pm 6.45pm	Adoration Mass – (Denise Wallinger Int.)
Friday – 3rd January THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration Mass – (Frank & Violet Griffin RIP)
Saturday – 4th January <i>Feria</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration Mass – (Ben Luck Int.)
The Epiphany of the Lord		
Saturday – 4th January +	6.00pm 6.30pm	Confessions Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday – 5th January +	10.30am	Mass – (Geoffrey & Olga Ayles RIP)



Thank You – a huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way to prepare our church for the worthy celebration of Christmas in our Parish. Fr Biju and the team wish you, your families & friends a very blessed & peaceful New Year.

A special thank you from Fr Biju for the generous Christmas offering.

Ad Multos Annos



This coming Tuesday, 31st December Fr Biju celebrates the 16th anniversary of his priestly ordination. We are very fortunate to have been blessed with such a caring and loving Parish Priest as our spiritual shepherd. We thank God for Fr Biju's priestly ministry and pray for him, his family, and friends. God bless you Fr Biju.

Deo Gratias

"O, how great is the priest! ... If he realised what he is, he would die. If we had faith, we would see God hidden in the priest like a light behind glass, like wine mixed with water. Without the priest, the passion and death of our Lord would be of no avail."

St John Vianney

First Thursday Club - The First Thursday Discussion Club meets **this coming Thursday**, at **7.30pm**, after Mass at 6.45pm. All are welcome. Central to our discussion will be Pope Francis's theme of Pilgrims of Hope for the new Jubilee Year. Our January talk revolves around the parable "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few," with the opportunity to share thoughts about how this translates into our local & regional standing and beyond. Our parishioner Salah Hayek will lead the discussion from the experiences and stories that he has encountered while living in Iraq and Britain. Please join us.

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.



Altar Servers – We are very proud of all our Altar Servers, young & not so young, who perform such an important ministry at the Lord's Altar. If anyone would like to join our ever-growing team of Altar Servers please speak to Deacon Peter.

ST THOMAS BECKETT – Bishop and Martyr

Patron of the English Pastoral Clergy



St Thomas Beckett was born in London in 1118. He was a cleric of the Church of Canterbury and became Chancellor of the kingdom and then in 1162 was chosen to be Archbishop. He strenuously defended the rights of the Church against King Henry II and he was exiled to France for six years. On his return to his country, he again had to bear many trials and finally, in 1170, following the infamous trial in Northampton, he was murdered by the king's followers in Canterbury Cathedral itself. St Thomas Beckett is the Secondary Patron of the Diocese and so we especially pray today for Bishop David, Bishop Emeritus Peter, the Priests, Deacons,

Religious and people of our Diocese & Parish. **Bishop David will be celebrating the Solemnity of St Thomas of Canterbury at the Cathedral on Sunday 29th December at 11.00am. You are welcome to attend or you can view via:**

<https://northamptondioces.org/>



Home & Hospital Visiting - As people get elderly, we appreciate that it may be difficult for them to attend Mass. If you have an elderly family member who is not able to come to Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact the parish office on **01234 711212**. If any parishioner is expecting to be admitted to hospital for planned treatment, and would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, please contact Father Biju before you go in. Also, if you are admitted to hospital, please make the hospital admissions team aware that you are a Catholic, so that you can be offered the opportunity to receive Holy Communion.



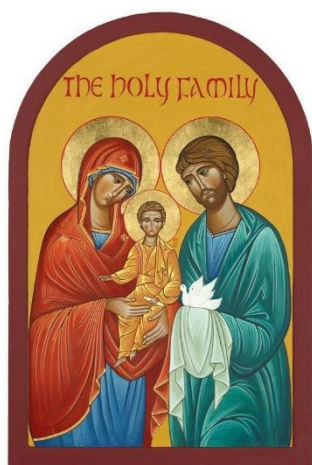
Moveable Feasts 2025

Baptism of the Lord – 12th January
Ash Wednesday – 5th March
Palm Sunday – 13th April
Easter Triduum – 17th – 19th April
EASTER SUNDAY – 20th April
Ascension of the Lord – 29th May
Pentecost – 8th June
Trinity Sunday – 15th June
Corpus Christi – 22nd June
Sacred Heart of Jesus – 27th June
Christ the King – 23rd November

Reflection on the Holy Family – 'God has become a child so that we might love Him, and, as a child He places Himself trustingly in our hands.'

Pope Benedict XVI

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



It is right and fitting that soon after the great event of History, Christ's incarnation, that we should turn our minds to the natural occurrences which this Birth initiated, Christ becoming part of a human family, and Mary, though human, being the Mother of God. These two things, so familiar, motherhood and family, are beautiful points of meditation for us, when we contemplate the reality of these mysteries ... God as a child raised by human parents, and God as an infant, nurtured and fed at the breast of a human mother. Blessed John Henry Newman aids us in our meditation: *"When, for our sakes, the Son came on earth and took our flesh, yet He would not live without the sympathy of others. For thirty years He lived with Mary and*

Joseph and thus formed a shadow of the Heavenly Trinity on earth. O the perfection of that sympathy which existed between the three! Not a look of one, but the other two understood, as expressed, better than if expressed in a thousand words—nay more than understood, accepted, echoed, corroborated. It was like three instruments absolutely in tune which all vibrate when one vibrates, and vibrate either one and the same note, or in perfect harmony."

Cardinal Newman then reminds us that this unity on earth is an image of the eternal divine unity of the three divine Persons: *"Sympathy may be called an eternal law, for it is signified or rather transcendently and archetypically fulfilled in the ineffable mutual love of the Divine Trinity. God, though infinitely One, has ever been Three... The devil only is barren and lonely, shut up in himself—and his servants also."*

Each family on earth should reflect in some way the unity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To be part of a human family is the opposite of being alone. It is to be a part of a whole. Due to pride and selfishness, however, so many families are divided. The Holy Family teaches us the humility and love that should permeate every home.

Perhaps our own human families are more occasions of suffering, than of joy; nevertheless, Newman teaches us that we too may take part in the Holy Family's sympathy, of their shared feelings, of their love. What an eternal joy! To so strive to conform ourselves to this family, that we become more holy, for Mary is our Mother too. Considering that this is in large measure the fruit of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Newman prays to Mary: *"O Holy Mother, stand by me now at Mass time, when Christ comes to me, as thou didst minister to Thy infant Lord—as Thou didst hang upon His words when He grew up, as Thou wast found under His cross. Stand by me, Holy Mother, that I may gain somewhat of thy purity, thy innocence, thy faith, and He may be the one object of my love and my adoration, as He was of thine."* In this Octave of the Nativity of Christ which includes the feast of the Holy Family, and closes with the solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, let us try to conform our hearts and minds to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph so that we may become worthy members of this Holy Family, and that we may be pleasing to Mary, our Mother, the Mother of God. Let us think of some specific trait that we need to acquire or increase to live in sympathy with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

**Fr Biju, Deacon Peter and the Sisters
wish you and your loved ones a very Blessed and Peaceful New Year**