



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence  
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**Priest in Charge: Fr Biju Chittuparamban**  
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Fr Patrick Hutton – Retired

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8 <sup>th</sup> December 2024 Psalter Week 2	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> REVISED SUNDAY LECTIONARY: YEAR C (YEAR OF LUKE)	
<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Prophet Baruch 5:1-9</b> <i>God will show your splendour</i>	
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.</b>	
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>St Paul to the Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11</b> <i>Be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.</i>	
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	<b>Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!</b>	
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Luke 3:1-6</b> <i>All flesh shall see the salvation of God.</i>	
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December +</b>	<b>6.00pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Confession</b> <b>Mass – (Pro Populo)</b>
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Bruce Kelly RIP)</b>
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>The Immaculate Conception of the BVM</b> <b>Principle Patron of the Diocese</b>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b> <b>1.00pm</b>	<b>Adoration</b> <b>Mass – (Daughters of the Holy Spirit Int.)</b> <b>Funeral Service – Eric Humphries RIP</b>
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>Our Lady of Loreto</b> <b>St John Roberts – Priest &amp; Martyr</b>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Adoration</b> <b>Mass – (Liam Ryan RIP)</b>
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>St Damasus I - Pope</b>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Adoration</b> <b>Mass – (Sr Marie Hayes RIP)</b>
<b>Friday – 13<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>St Lucy – Virgin &amp; Martyr</b>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Adoration</b> <b>Mass – (Tom Dix RIP)</b>
<b>Saturday – 14<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>St John of the Cross – Priest &amp; Doctor</b>	<b>9.00am</b> <b>9.30am</b>	<b>Adoration</b> <b>Mass – (Fr John Fowler RIP)</b>
<b>Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete)</b>		
<b>Saturday – 14<sup>th</sup> December +</b>	<b>6.00pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Confessions</b> <b>Mass – (Pro Populo)</b>
<b>Sunday – 15<sup>th</sup> December +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Family &amp; Friends of the Ayles family)</b>

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

## LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

- Offertory: £403.73
- Digital Collection Plate: Nil
- Standing Orders of £487.00
- TOTAL: £890.73

**Tea / Coffee after Sunday Mass** - The Social Committee will be serving tea and coffee and Christmas treats after Mass **this Sunday – 8<sup>th</sup> December** - Everyone is welcome to join us.



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

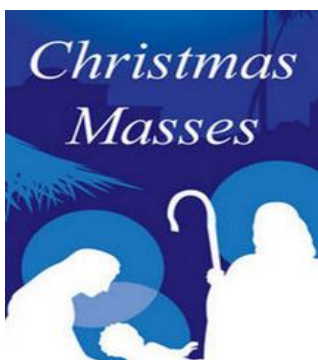
On **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December**, we celebrate this wonderful solemnity, that Mary, whose conception was brought about in the normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain—that is what “immaculate” means: without stain. When we meditate on the Immaculate Conception, we might ponder 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/>

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day** - All are invited to attend the National Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St Joseph’s Catholic Church in Bedford on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December** as we celebrate her Feast Day Mass. Rosary will be at 7pm, before the Mass at 7.30pm followed by refreshments after Mass.



**Christmas Penitential Service** – a Penitential Service will be held here at Our Lady’s on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm** – Fr Biju and Br John will be available to hear Confessions in preparation for the Christmas Season.



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

**The Outdoor Nativity** returns on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2:30pm** in Guinea Orchard (behind The Swan). Come and meet Joseph, Mary, Shepherds, and Wise Men and sing a few carols too. As it is outdoors, please dress appropriately. It is free and there is no need to book - just turn up and join in!



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.'

*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/>



**Advent Resources** - The Bishops' Conference has a set of reflections looking forward to Christ's coming at Christmas – <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/advent/>

- **First Sunday – The Gift of Your presence: Hope T Bishops' Conference**
- **Second Sunday – The Gift of Your presence: Peace**
- **Third Sunday – The Gift of Your presence: Joy**
- **Fourth Sunday – The Gift of Your presence: Love**
- **Christmas Day – The Gift of Your presence: The Nativity**

**The National Office for Vocation (NOV)** have put together their Advent resource: '**Journeying through Advent: Pilgrimage and Discernment.**' As we journey through Advent, there is a set reflections for each week, which can be found at: [www.ukvocation.org/advent](http://www.ukvocation.org/advent). Sunday Gospels, prayer and an inspirational quote will be included in each week.

## Scripture Reflections – Second Sunday of Advent

**Baruch 5:1-9** - This part of the Book of Baruch is a meditation on Isaiah's promises for Jerusalem at the return of Israel from exile in Babylon. It is, of course, taken up by John the Baptist in his proclamation that the high mountains will be flattened and the valleys filled in to make a smooth road for the Messiah to cross the desert to Jerusalem. In the Hebrew tradition there were many aspects to the Messiah (the harbinger of God's kingship), expected by the people of Israel. For Isaiah the Messiah was a conquering hero, his garments stained with the blood of his victories. In this prophecy from Baruch the reign of God is more peaceful, a heartfelt dedication to God and the values of the divine sovereignty; for at this coming of God Jerusalem is renamed 'Peace through Integrity (or Justice)' and 'Honour through Devotedness'. True peace is possible only through the saving justice of God, when the People of God truly act as God's representatives, made in the image of God and the envoys of his saving values. The ideal of God's kingdom appears in the Garden of Eden before the Fall, when his representatives (Adam and Eve) lived in perfect harmony with one another and with God's whole creation.

**Philippians 1:4-6. 8-11** - Saint Paul always begins his letters with a commendation and a blessing. The Philippians to whom he is writing were Paul's favourite community; the letter is full of friendship and affection. Here he commends the Philippians for their partnership with him in the work of the Gospel, and prays that God's work in them may be completed so that they may be ready for the Day of the Lord, which Saint Paul envisaged to be imminent. Today's passage is chosen by the Church as a preparation for the coming of the Lord Jesus at Christmas – and Christmas shopping leaves no doubt about the imminence of that Coming! This serves as a reminder that the traditional three comings of Christ cannot be separated: the coming in history was the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem; the coming in mystery is the coming of Christ into our hearts as we endeavour to mould ourselves as his faithful followers and to live out his values; the coming in majesty is the final coming of Christ in glory to gather his elect to himself, either at our homecoming in death or at the end of all things. The three comings lead on, one to another: the coming in history gives a new impetus to the Kingdom of God; the coming in majesty brings the Kingdom to its climax; the coming in mystery is our own repeated response to the Kingdom here and now.

**St Luke 3:1-6** Each year the two middle Sundays of Advent centre on John the Baptist, preparing the way for Jesus. Saint John the Baptist came to prepare a community of repentance, of those who would be ready for the Messiah. This was to be a community not of those who went around moping about their sinfulness, but a community of those who had changed their ways, that is, their whole system of values and priorities. The Hebrew concept of repentance which John proclaimed was a matter of turning round and going in the opposite direction. To be ready for the Messiah meant – and still means – just such a radical change of attitude. John himself had prepared by going out into the desert, for the Messiah was to come striding across the desert, as did Israel at the Exodus from Egypt. John's clothing and his whole way of life showed his rejection of current materialism and his single-minded dedication. His is not primarily a negative point of view, for his quotation of Isaiah (reflected also in today's first reading from Baruch), shows that the flattening of the hills and the filling of the valleys is a preparation for the Kingdom of peace and justice. A good deal of positive planning and of spade-work is needed if we are to be ready to welcome that Kingdom.

*With our love and prayers, Fr Biju and Deacon Peter*