



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)

**Deacon: Rev. Peter Griffin – 07850 499414**

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

12 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 Psalter Week 1		The Baptism of the Lord THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS – YEAR C	
First Reading	Prophet Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7 <i>Behold my servant, in whom my soul delights.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	The Lord will bless his people with peace.		
Second Reading	Acts 10:34-38 <i>God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered: 'This is my beloved Son; listen to him.' Alleluia!		
Gospel	Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 <i>When Jesus had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened.</i>		
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> January +		6.00pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Mass – (John Fitzgerald RIP)
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> January +		10.30am	Mass – (Pro Populo)
THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS ENDS FIRST WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME – Lectionary Year 1			
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> January St Hilary of Poitiers – Bishop & Doctor		9.15am	Adoration with Confession
		10.00am	Mass (Mary Guiry RIP)
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January Feria		9.15am	Adoration with Confession
		10.00am	Mass (Terry Teague RIP)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January Feria			No Parish Mass today
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January Feria		7.00pm	Mass (Kaylen Dennis RIP)
		7.30pm	Adoration
		8.00pm	Jubilee Year Discussion Group
Friday – 17 <sup>th</sup> January St Anthony of Egypt - Abbot		9.15am	Adoration with Confession
		10.00am	Mass (Murray family Ints.)
Saturday – 18 <sup>th</sup> January Feria		9.15am	Adoration with Confession
		10.00am	Mass – (No Intention)
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C			
Saturday – 18 <sup>th</sup> January +		6.00pm	Confession
		6.30pm	Mass – (Pro Populo)
Sunday – 19 <sup>th</sup> January +		10.30am	Mass – (Fr Don Breen RIP)

## Thank you for your Weekly Offering

- Offertory: £368.15
- Digital Collection Plate: £20.00
- Standing Orders of £487.00
- TOTAL: £875.15

### Next Weekend: Second Collection - White Flower Appeal (SPUC)



**Bishop David** – as part of his visit to the Pastoral Area of St Paul (Milton Keynes) we warmly welcome Bishop David on Saturday **25<sup>th</sup> January and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January**. The Parish council will give an overview of the ‘parish community’ to the Bishop on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>. January prior to Saturday Vigil Mass, there will be an informal ‘Meet and Greet Bishop David’ with refreshments, all are welcome! On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January during mass the Bishop will share his vision for the Diocese and answer parishioners’ questions. Following Sunday Mass there will be another informal ‘Meet and Greet’ with light refreshments, again all are welcome! One ask, ahead of time, is for parishioners to share questions they would like to ask the Bishop. Please email these to Denise, or verbally share with any member of the Parish Council (Father Biju, Deacon Peter, Denise, Paul Young, Veronica Tarrant, Aine & Toby Cooper, Dave Pendlington) **before 19<sup>th</sup> January**. More details & timings for 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> to follow!



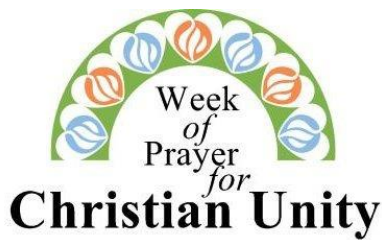
**Jubilee Year – Pilgrims of Hope** – Twenty-five years ago many of us were privileged to experience that once in a thousand years event, the turn of the millennium. Pope John Paul II also declared it a year of Jubilee, in fact it was the Great Jubilee. The Church has been declaring Jubilee years since 1300 – first it was every 100 years, then 50, finally in 1470 the Church decided every quarter of a century would be a Jubilee year. We are excited to invite you to our monthly meetings dedicated to prayer and discussion of the core themes of the Jubilee here in our Parish Hall – the first of these will be **next Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 8.00pm until 8.30pm** the theme being: **Modern Slavery**. These gatherings are a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a community, deepen our faith, and reflect on the significance of the Jubilee. Each session will include a time of prayer with the celebration of mass, followed by a discussion where we can share our thoughts and insights on the Jubilee themes. We will also take some actions from the discussions to ensure that we actively respond to the core themes. For further details and dates of the monthly prayer meetings, please see the handout at the back of the church. We look forward to seeing you there!



**Confirmation Preparation** – The parish Confirmation Preparation programme will begin on **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 7.30pm** here in the parish hall. If there is any young person aged 12 and above who may want to be confirmed, **please contact either Fr Biju or Deacon Peter** direct. We plan to hold one class per month ending in July – the Confirmation Mass will be held in the Parish on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September** when Bishop David will celebrate the Mass and Confirm our young people. Please keep our young people in your prayers as they journey towards the Sacrament of Confirmation.



**CASPAR** – In line with the decision made by the Diocese, we have started 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. We are very grateful to those of you who have already ‘signed up.’ Thank you.



our parish.

### OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Begins this coming **Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> January** and runs until **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January**. This year’s theme is: **Do you believe this?** We are asked to pray for the unity of all our Christian brothers & sisters across the world – we think especially of the entire Christian Community here within

*May they all be one. Father, may they be one in us, as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.* **John 17:21**



We are always delighted to welcome new parishioners – if you are new to our parish, please make yourself known to either Fr Biju or Deacon Peter. Of course, you may simply be visiting family or friends, but we would still like to welcome you so please do make yourself known.



**Diocesan 175th Anniversary** - 2025 will be the 175th Anniversary of the Restoration of the Hierarchy in our Diocese of Northampton. We will be hosting a special Mass at noon on **29<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at the Cathedral**. Please ensure that you save the date in your diary. Further information will be available nearer the date.

Thought for the week: *Grant that we may be one flock and one shepherd! Do not allow your net to be torn, help us to be servants of unity!*

**Pope Benedict XVI**

## Reflections on the Sunday Readings – The Baptism of the Lord



From Fr. Biju's desk... The Christmas season, celebrating the Self-revelation of God through Jesus, comes to an end with the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord.

Christmas is the feast of God's Self-revelation to the Jews, and Epiphany celebrates God's Self-revelation to the Gentiles. At his Baptism in the Jordan, Christ reveals himself to repentant sinners and it marks as well the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. The liturgical season of Christmas concludes this Sunday with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord.

Jesus' baptism by John was a very important event in the life of Jesus. It was a **moment of identification** with us sinners.

Sinless, Jesus received the baptism of repentance to identify himself with his people who realized for the first time that they were sinners.

There are great saints in the Catholic Church like St. Damien, and St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) who identified with the people whom they served. The baptism of Jesus was a **moment of God's affirmation** of His identity and mission: that He is the Son of God and His mission is to preach the Good News of God's love and salvation and to atone for our sins by becoming the "suffering servant." God the Father's words, "This is my beloved Son," confirmed Jesus' identity as God's Son, and the words "with whom I am well pleased," pointed to Jesus' mission of atoning for the sins of the world by His suffering and death on the cross.

**The baptism of Jesus reminds us of our identity.** It reminds us of who we are and to whom we belong. By Baptism, we become sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus, members of his Church, heirs of heaven and temples of the Holy Spirit.

**Jesus' baptism reminds us also of our mission:** a) to experience the presence of God within us, to acknowledge our own dignity as God's children, and to appreciate the Divine Presence in others by honouring them, loving them, and serving them in all humility; b) to live as the children of God in thought, word, and action. c) to lead holy and transparent Christian lives and not to desecrate our bodies (the temples of the Holy Spirit and members of Jesus' Body), by impurity, injustice, intolerance, jealousy, or hatred; d) to accept both the good and the bad experiences of life as the gifts of a loving Heavenly Father for our growth in holiness.



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