



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence
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Priest in Charge: Fr Biju Chittuparamban

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26 th January 2025 Psalter Week 3		Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD	
First Reading	Book of Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 <i>They read from the book of the Law, and gave the meaning.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.		
Second Reading	1 Paul to the Corinthians 12:12-30 <i>You are the body of Christ and individually members of it.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord has sent me to proclaim the good news to the poor; to proclaim liberty to captives. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21 <i>Today this Scripture has been fulfilled.</i>		
Saturday 25 th January +	5.45pm 6.30pm	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Pro Populo)	
Sunday 26 th January +	10.30am	Mass – (William Brooks RIP)	
Monday 27 th January St Angela Merici - Virgin	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Throckmorton family - Foundation Mass)	
Tuesday 28 th January St Thomas Aquinas – Priest & Doctor	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Darren Beckett Ints.)	
Wednesday 29 th January Feria		No Parish Mass today	
Thursday 30 th January Feria	10.00am 10.30am 12noon	Mass (Sally Leatherland Ints.) Adoration with Confession	
Friday – 31 st January St John Bosco - Priest	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Maureen & John Curtin Ints.)	
Saturday – 1 st February Feria	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (K C Mathew Mannathukran RIP)	
Presentation of the Lord – Year C			
Saturday – 1 st February +	6.00pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (Pro Populo)	
Sunday – 2 nd February +	10.30am	Mass – (Edward Follows RIP)	

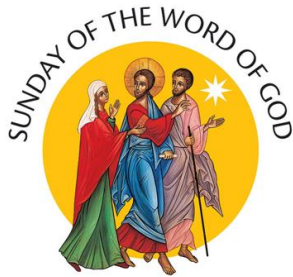
Thank you for your Weekly Offering

- Offertory: £493.65
- Digital Collection Plate: £20.00
- Standing Orders of £487.00
- TOTAL: £1000.65



The Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians
& St Lawrence extends a warm welcome
to Bishop David on the occasion
of his Pastoral visit to our Parish.
25th/26th January 2025

Beati Pauperes Spiritu 'Blessed are the poor in spirit.'



Sunday of the Word of God – 26th January – TODAY is devoted to the celebration, study, and dissemination of the word of God. Bishop David will lead a liturgical celebration in our **Cathedral today at 3pm**. All those who proclaim and/or teach the scriptures are invited to pray together and be commissioned for their ministry and are welcome to attend either in person or virtually – <https://northamptondiocese.org/>

Thank You!

Fr Biju & Deacon Peter are very grateful to our Parish Council who, along with the Social Committee & others have worked very hard in preparing for the visit of our Bishop. Thanks also to the parish for all your questions for the Bishop – the Parish Council have categorised the questions as 1. For the Bishop to respond; 2. Local Parish matters - we have noted and heard you. These will be discussed by the Parish Council with Fr Biju. It is not often that we are able to welcome the Bishop to our parish and it is as great opportunity for us all to engage with him. Bishop David is very keen to meet as many of you as possible and to spend time in conversation.



Confirmation Preparation – The parish Confirmation Preparation programme will begin on **Friday 31st 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 8th 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.

The Jubilee Prayer



**Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts
by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us
the blessed hope for the coming
of your Kingdom.**



The Presentation of the Lord

NEXT SUNDAY the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas Day, since the blessing and procession of candles is included in today's liturgy.

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is referred to as the "Purification of Mary." This is known as a "Christmas feast" since it points back to the Solemnity of Christmas. Many Catholics practice the tradition of keeping out the Nativity Crib or other Christmas decorations until this feast. **Fr Biju will bless candles at both the Vigil Mass & the Sunday Mass next weekend - if you have any candles you would like to have blessed, please do bring them along.**



A Year of Hope: Introduction to the Jubilee Year - How can we respond to Pope Francis' call to be **"tangible signs of hope"** in this Jubilee Year? Find out by watching this inspirational event (find it and other Jubilee resources at cafod.org.uk/jubilee). Featuring Fr Jan Nowotnik, Director of Mission at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, CAFOD Director Christine Allen and more. Discover how we can act in faith and in love as pilgrims of hope this Holy Year.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Scripture Reflections



From Fr Biju's desk... The readings challenge us to listen to the Word, accept it into our hearts, then put it into practice as we live out our lives, thus liberating ourselves and others.

Today's first reading, taken from Nehemiah, and Luke's Gospel each describe a public reading of Sacred Scripture which challenges the hearers to make a "*fresh beginning*" with a new outlook. In the first reading, after rebuilding the Temple and restoring the city, Ezra leads the people in a "*Covenant renewal*" ceremony by reading and interpreting the Law.

Today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 19) sings the praises of the Law of the Lord and its effects on those who accept it.

The Second Reading, taken from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, reminds us that "*together we are Christ's Body, but each of us is a different part of it.*" This suggests that, as different parts of Christ's Body, each of us has a share, as instruments in God's hands, in bringing the freeing and saving mission of Christ to our world in our times.

Today's Gospel, presenting Jesus' "*inaugural address*" in the synagogue of Nazareth in which he outlines a theology of total liberation, marks a great moment in Jesus' ministry. Jesus claims that he is One sent "*to bring glad tidings to the poor, liberation to captives, recovery of sight to the blind and freedom for the oppressed*" Jesus' mission is still to give liberation to everyone who will listen to his "*Good News,*" accept it and put it into practice.

We need to receive Christ's freedom, live it, and pass it on to others: As members of Christ's Mystical Body, we share in the freeing, saving mission of Jesus. But we are captives of sin. We need Christ to set us free. We are often blinded by our evil habits, addictions, and need for financial security. We need to let the power of the Holy Spirit fill us and then be ready to have miracles done through us.

Thought for the week: "*Let us pray, and let us ensure that the Bible does not remain in the library among the many books that speak of it, but rather that it runs through the streets of the world and waits where people live.*"

Pope Francis



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