



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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5 th January 2025 Psalter Week 2		The Epiphany of the Lord THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS – YEAR C	
First Reading	Prophet Isaiah 60:1-6 <i>The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.		
Second Reading	St Paul to the Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 <i>It has now been revealed that the Gentiles are fellow heirs of the promise.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship the king. Alleluia!		
Gospel	Matthew 2: 1-12 <i>We have come from the east to worship the king.</i>		
Saturday 4 th January +	6.00pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (Pro Populo)	
Sunday 5 th January +	10.30am	Mass – (Geoffrey & Olga Ayles RIP)	
Monday 6 th January <i>Monday in Christmas Time</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Morag Keeney Ints.)	
Tuesday 7 th January St Raymond of Penyafort - Priest	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (James (Jimmy) Brown RIP)	
Wednesday 8 th January <i>Wednesday in Christmas Time</i>		No Parish Mass today	
Thursday 9 th January <i>Thursday in Christmas Time</i>	10.00am 10.30am 12 noon	Mass (Fr Patrick & Rita's Ints.) Adoration with Confession	
Friday – 10 th January <i>Friday in Christmas Time</i>	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Frank & Peggy Cockings RIP)	
Saturday – 11 th January <i>Saturday in Christmas Time</i>	9.00am 9.30am	Adoration with Confession Mass (All who volunteer in the Parish)	
The Baptism of the Lord THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS – YEAR C			
Saturday – 11 th January +	6.00pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (John Fitzgerald RIP)	
Sunday – 12 th January +	10.30am	Mass – (Pro Populo)	

PLEASE NOTE: NEXT SATURDAY MORNING MASS IS AT 9.30am

Thank you for your Weekly Offering

21st/22nd December

- Offertory: £332.40
- Digital Collection Plate: £10.00
- Standing Orders of £487.00
- TOTAL: £829.40

28th/29th December

- Offertory: £344.10
- Digital Collection Plate: £55.00
- Standing Orders of £487.00
- TOTAL: £886.10



Jubilee Year –Pilgrims of Hope – As you will know, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has declared the year 2025 to be a Year of Jubilee with the theme, ‘Pilgrims of Hope’. Alive Publishing have produced a booklet to help pilgrims ponder and pray, focussing on the great themes of the Holy Year – hope and forgiveness, the figures of the Apostles Peter and Paul, and the key places of prayer and repentance. Free copies are available at the back of the church.

Jubilee Prayer 2025

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.
May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity
and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.
May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

Official prayer from Pope Francis for the Jubilee year 2025, "Pilgrims of hope"



Bishop David – as part of his visit to the Pastoral Area of St Paul (Milton Keynes) we warmly welcome Bishop David on Saturday 25th January and Sunday 26th January. The Parish council will give an overview of the ‘parish community’ to the Bishop on Saturday 25th. January prior to Saturday Vigil Mass, there will be an informal ‘Meet and Greet Bishop David’ with refreshments, all are welcome! On Sunday 26th 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 19th January. More details & timings for 25th/26th to follow!



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 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.



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.

Mass Intentions – If you would like a Mass said for a particular intention there are several available dates – 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 together with your contact details.



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 **29th September 2025 at the Cathedral**. Please ensure that you save the date in your diary. Further information will be available nearer the date.

Reflections on the Sunday Readings – The Epiphany of the Lord



From Fr. Biju's desk... This Sunday we celebrate the solemnity of Epiphany, and in a most special way, the day of the three kings who brought Jesus very costly and symbolic gifts of gold, mire, and frankincense. The term Epiphany is of Greek origin, epiphaninen. It is a verb which means "to reveal," or "to manifest."

This Sunday's Gospel teaches us how Christ enriches those who bring him their hearts. The adoration of the Magi fulfils the oracle of Isaiah prophesying that the nations of the world would travel to the Holy City following a brilliant light and would bring gold and incense to contribute to the worship of God.

The Responsorial Psalm includes a verse about kings coming from foreign lands to pay homage to a just king in Israel.

In the second reading, St. Paul expresses God's secret plan in clear terms that The Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.

The Gospel reminds us that if God permitted the Magi – foreigners and pagans – to recognize and give Jesus proper respect as the King of Jews, we should know that there is nothing in our sinful lives that will keep God from bringing us to Jesus.

There were three groups of people who reacted to the Epiphany of Christ's birth. The first group, headed by King Herod the Great, tried to eliminate the Child, the second group, priests, and scribes, ignored him, and the third group, represented by the shepherds and the Magi, came to adore him.

Let us make sure that we belong to the third group, by worshipping Jesus at Mass with the gold of our love, the myrrh of our humility, and the frankincense of our adoration. Let us also give a new direction to our lives. As the Magi chose another route to return to their homes, we need to choose a better way of life, abstaining from proud and impure thoughts, evil habits, and selfish behaviour.

Let us become stars leading others to Jesus as the star led the Magi to Jesus, removing the darkness of the evil around us and radiating Jesus' love through selfless service, unconditional forgiveness, and compassionate care.



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