



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

Parish Website: [www.ourladysolney.co.uk](http://www.ourladysolney.co.uk)

Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

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St Joseph's Convent – Sr Eileen Gorman DHS - 01234 711267

Parish Safeguarding: Janet Goodland

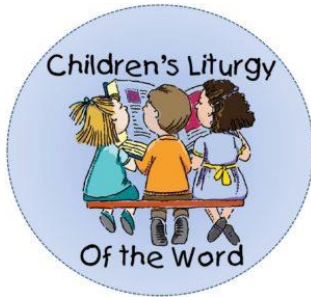
[safeguarding.olney@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:safeguarding.olney@northamptondiocese.org)

SVP Contact: 07469 717760

16 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 Psalter Week 2		Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time~ Year C	
<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Jeremiah 17:5-8</b> <i>Cursed is the man who trusts in man; blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord.</i>		
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.</b>		
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>1 St Paul to the Corinthians 15:12, 16-20</b> <i>If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile.</i>		
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	<b>Alleluia, alleluia! Rejoice and leap for joy, says the Lord, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia!</b>		
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Luke 6:17, 20-26</b> <i>Blessed are you who are poor. Woe to you who are rich.</i>		
<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February +</b>	<b>5.45pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Adoration with Confession</b> <b>Mass – (Pro Populo)</b>	
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Ludwik &amp; Ruth Grabowiecki RIP)</b>	
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order</b>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Adoration with Confession</b> <b>Mass (Sharonne van Reyk RIP)</b>	
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Feria</i>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Adoration with Confession</b> <b>Mass (Terence Cockings RIP)</b>	
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Feria</i>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>	
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Feria</i>	<b>10.00am</b> <b>10.30am</b> <b>12 noon</b>	<b>Mass (Hilary Wyllie Healing)</b> <b>Adoration with Confession</b>	
<b>Friday – 21<sup>st</sup> February</b> <b>St Peter Damian - Bishop</b>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Adoration with Confession</b> <b>Mass (Joan Littlejohn RIP)</b>	
<b>Saturday – 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b> <b>THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE</b>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Adoration with Confession</b> <b>Mass – (Matthew Shock RIP)</b>	
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time~ Year C			
<b>Saturday – 22<sup>nd</sup> February +</b>	<b>6.00pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Confession</b> <b>Mass – (Pro Populo)</b>	
<b>Sunday – 23<sup>rd</sup> February +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Una Kearns RIP)</b>	

## Thank you for your Weekly Offering

- Offertory: £339.50
- Digital Collection Plate: £45.00
- Standing Orders of £487.00
- TOTAL: £871.50



**Children's Liturgy** - Over the last few weeks we have restarted children's liturgy. We offer the opportunity for pre-first communion children to join us in the parish room for their own Liturgy of the Word during the Sunday Mass. Parents are welcome to join their children in children's liturgy. We are looking for volunteers to help us. Parents of children attending the children's liturgy may find this arrangement especially convenient. This will not be a

commitment for every Sunday, but what works around individual schedules. If you are interested, please contact Denise, Mike Galvin, or Mary Smedley.



**Parish Gardening Club** - as part of the 'Helping Hands' initiative and following on from discussions that we had with Bishop David on his recent visit to our parish, we are hoping to form a Parish Gardening Club with the idea of keeping what we currently have in good order and to see

how we can better develop the garden to better serve our parishioners and the community that we serve. We do appreciate that this may well be a long-term project but it has enormous potential for good. If you are interested, please put your name on the list at the back of the church - alternatively speak to either Fr Biju or Deacon Peter.

*Weekly tip from a parish gardener: - Have a bird box or bird feeder in your garden?"*



## Confirmation Preparation

**Are you 12 years old or older?**

**Would you like to be Confirmed this year?**

If the answer to both questions is YES, then please come along to the church on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm** to find out more. The session will last no more than one hour. Future sessions will be held once per month. **IMPORTANT:** If your son/daughter; grandson/granddaughter; God Son/God Daughter; or simply someone you know who has been Baptised a Catholic & has received their First Holy Communion please do encourage them to come along or contact either Fr Biju or Deacon Peter for further information.



The Parish SVP invite for Tea/Coffee & Cake on **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March** after the 10.30am Mass to say 'thank you' for your wonderful support throughout the year. We very much look forward to seeing you.



On the **1st/2nd March** we have the annual Bishop's Missionary Appeal. This year the appeal is on behalf of the Comboni Missionary sisters and Sr Asmeret will be visiting us that weekend. Is there anyone who would be able to collect her from Milton Keynes railway station on the 1st and take her back on the 2nd. **Please contact Denise if you can assist. Thank you.**



**Jubilee Icon** – To celebrate the Jubilee Year 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope, VAFOD commissioned an icon from Ethiopian artist Mulugeta Araya for the Catholic church in England and Wales. Ethiopia was chosen for its rich iconographic tradition and to highlight the Jubilee's global significance. The Icon will be in our diocese from **26th May to 4th June 2025** and will be displayed in each of our Jubilee churches over this period.

**26th-29th May at the Cathedral, 29 May-1st June The Holy Child and St Joseph Bedford and 2nd June-4th June St Peter Marlow**



### CAFOD Big Lent Walk - Challenge yourself and take on The Big Lent Walk!

Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends. Raise money to help people as they overcome poverty. Further information:

<https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/about>



**CASPAR** – In line with the decision made by the Diocese, we are now using CASPAR. We are very grateful to those parishioners who have already registered. We will now send out the weekly parish newsletter via CASPAR but to ensure that you receive it you will need to Subscribe – this is a quick & easy process but if you need help please do ask. 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.

## Sixth Sunday of the Year – Scripture Reflections

**From Fr Biju's desk...** This Sunday's readings teach us that true happiness, or beatitude, lies in the awareness that we are all children of a loving Heavenly Father. We will be happy only when we share our blessings with our brothers and sisters in need, and work to uplift them, thus declaring our "*option for the poor*," as Jesus did. Contrary to popular belief, wealth, health, power, and influence are not the sources of true happiness. The word "beatitude" means "blessedness" in a double sense: both enjoying God's favour and true or supreme happiness.

In the First Reading, Jeremiah tells us that true happiness consists in our placing our trust in God and in putting our trust in His promises. The Responsorial Psalm finds beatitude in keeping God's Law.

In the Second Reading, St. Paul warns us that true beatitude is obtainable only in Heaven and that Christ's Resurrection gives us our assurance of reaching Heaven for an everlasting life of happiness.

In today's Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples in the paradoxical blessedness of poverty, hunger, sorrow, and persecution. "*Blessed are those who are poor, hungry, weeping, hated, excluded, insulted and denounced*," because in poverty, we recognize our dependence on God; in hunger God's providence; in sorrow for sins reconciliation with God; and in persecution the true joy of standing for the Faith with heroic convictions. The Beatitudes consist of humble selflessness and compassionate, generous sharing of our blessings with the needy.

The Beatitudes teach us how we should live, and what we should do. What makes one blessed is not simply poverty or hunger or sadness or suffering for the Faith but living these in the context of our commitment to Jesus and in His spirit of sharing. **As Christians, we need to respond to the challenge of the Beatitudes in our daily life.**

Millions are starving, persecuted, homeless, and leading hopeless lives. The only way the promises of the Beatitudes can become a reality for them is through the efforts of people like us. Hence, let us remember that each time we reach out to help the needy, the sick, or the oppressed, we share with them a foretaste of the promises of the Beatitudes here and now.



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