



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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23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2025 Psalter Week 3		Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time~ Year C	
First Reading	1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 <i>The Lord gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the Lord's anointed.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm	<b>The Lord is compassionate and gracious.</b>		
Second Reading	1 St Paul to the Corinthians 15:43-49 <i>Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.</i>		
Gospel Acclamation	<b>Alleluia, alleluia! A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Alleluia!</b>		
Gospel	Luke 6:27-38 <i>Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.</i>		
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February +	6.00pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (Pro Populo)	
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February +	10.30am	Mass – (Una Kearns RIP)	
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February Feria	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Fr David Barrett Int.)	
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February Feria	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Ian Hewitt – Healing)	
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February Blessed Robert Drury - Martyr		No Parish Mass today	
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> February St Gregory of Narek – Abbott & Doctor	10.00am 10.30am 12 noon	Mass (Caroline Villers Ints.) Adoration with Confession	
Friday – 28 <sup>th</sup> February Feria	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass (Joan Littlejohn RIP)	
Saturday – 1 <sup>st</sup> March ST DAVID – Bishop Patron of Wales	9.15am 10.00am	Adoration with Confession Mass – (Maria Cahill RIP)	
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time~ Year C			
Saturday – 1 <sup>st</sup> March +	6.00pm 6.30pm	Confession Mass – (Pro Populo)	
Sunday – 2 <sup>nd</sup> March +	10.30am	Mass – (Kathleen Mullan RIP)	

## Thank you for your Weekly Offering

- Offertory: £375.60
- Digital Collection Plate: £65.00
- Standing Orders of £487.00
- TOTAL: £927.60



The Parish SVP invite for Tea/Coffee & Cake **next 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.



**Next Weekend - 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. 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.**



### CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY AND SOUP LUNCH

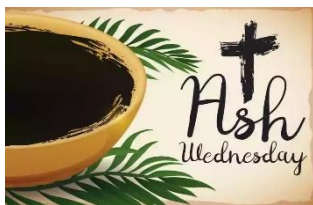
CAFOD Family Fast Day is **Friday 14th March**. Envelopes will be given out at Masses 8/9 March and we ask you to return them the weekend of 15/16 March. This year we have also a Lenten Soup Lunch - Welcome back! A list has been placed at the back of the Church. Please sign up to confirm you will be joining us.

Prior to lunch on this day there will be morning Mass followed by a Lenten Reflection Talk discussion leading us up to our midday social gathering. Parish CAFOD Support Group.



**Parish Gardening Club** – The first planning meeting for the proposed parish Gardening Club has taken place and there is much interest from parishioners for which we are grateful. On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, after the 10.30am Mass, there will be a display in the parish hall of some of the suggestions we have received to develop the garden. The first undertaking is to set up a rota of volunteers to keep the grass mown – a lawn mower etc will be available all that is needed are willing volunteers to sign up please. A list is available at the back of the church.

*Weekly Tip from a Parish Gardener: 'plant nectar rich blooms like cosmos, foxgloves, and lavender - bees, butterflies and other pollinators love them.'*



**Ash Wednesday** – will be on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March**. As is usual, Mass will be celebrated here at Our Lady's at **10am and 7pm** with the distribution of ashes at both Masses. Whilst not a Holy Day of Obligation it remains a most fitting way to begin our Lenten Journey.

**Mary's Meals Emergency in Southern Africa** - Southern Africa is experiencing its worst drought in 100 years, with an estimated 21 million children in the region suffering from malnutrition. Mary's Meals is working in the worst affected countries - Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe providing vital daily school meals to hungry children. To help Mary's Meals continue providing these life changing meals and reach more children, please keep their work in your prayers and consider supporting this appeal. More details can be found at: <https://www.marysmeals.org/>

**Old Missals** - Do you have any of the old Sunday/Weekday Missals at home? Have you purchased a new Missal and you simply don't know what to do with your old one? Well, help is at hand! If you wish to donate your old Missal(s) we can arrange to send them to St Agatha's Parish in Zambia, where they still use the Jerusalem Bible translation of the Scriptures, in use in the UK until last Advent. Please leave any old Missals in the box in the porch.



**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 **26<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025** and will be displayed in each of our Jubilee churches over this period.

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



**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.

## Seventh Sunday of the Year – Scripture Reflections

*From Deacon Peter's desk...* Today's gospel reading is a continuation of the teaching that began in last Sunday's Gospel. We continue to hear Jesus' Sermon on the Plain. Recall that in Luke's Gospel, this teaching is addressed to Jesus' disciples. This contrasts with the parallel found in Matthew's Gospel, the Sermon on the Mount, in which Jesus' words are addressed to both the disciples and to the crowds.

These words from Jesus' teaching are familiar to us. They constitute the crux and the challenge of what it means to be a disciple: Love your enemies, turn the other cheek, give to those who ask, do unto others, lend without expecting repayment, judge not lest you be judged.

There are several similarities between Luke's and Matthew's report of Jesus' great teaching. Both begin with the Beatitudes. Matthew includes nearly all the content that Luke does; the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel is longer than Luke's Sermon on the Plain. There are, however, differences in language and nuance. For example, Matthew presents this portion of the teaching as a contrast between Jesus' teaching and the teachings of the law and the prophets. This is in keeping with Matthew's concern to address his predominantly Jewish audience. It is likely that Luke omits this contrast because it was unnecessary for the Gentile believers for whom Luke is writing.

Another point of contrast between Matthew and Luke's presentation is the terminology. In Luke, Jesus contrasts the behaviour of his followers with the behaviour of "sinners." In Matthew, Jesus contrasts the behaviour desired with the behaviour of tax collectors and Gentiles. Matthew concludes the teaching about love of enemies with the admonition to be perfect as God is perfect; Luke concludes by emphasizing God's mercy.

In both Gospels, Jesus' words challenge those who would follow him to be more like God. God loves us beyond our expectations, beyond anything we can possibly imagine. In response to God's love, we are to love as God loves, beyond expectations and with a depth beyond imagining.



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