



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

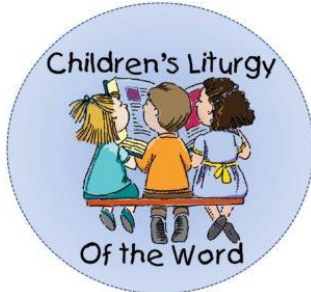
[safeguarding.olney@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:safeguarding.olney@northamptondiocese.org)

SVP Contact: 07469 717760

| 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2025<br>Psalter Week 1  |   | Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C                          |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| First Reading  | Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8<br><i>Here I am! Send me.</i>  |   |  |
| Responsorial Psalm   | In the presence of the angels, I praise you, O Lord.  |   |  |
| Second Reading   | 1 St Paul to the Corinthians 15:1-11<br><i>Se we preach and so you believed.</i>            |   |  |
| Gospel Acclamation   | Alleluia, alleluia! Follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of men. Alleluia! |   |  |
| Gospel   | Luke 5:1-11<br><i>They left everything and followed him.</i>                                |   |  |
| Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> February +  | 5.45pm<br>6.30pm  | Adoration with Confession<br>Mass – (Pro Populo)                |  |
| Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> February +  | 10.30am   | Mass – (Deceased family & friends of the Ayles family)          |  |
| Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February<br>St Scholastica - Virgin  | 9.15am<br>10.00am   | Adoration with Confession<br>Mass (Catherine Botts Ints.)       |  |
| Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February<br>Our Lady of Lourdes   | 9.15am<br>10.00am   | Adoration with Confession<br>Mass (Carol & Gerry McGrady Ints.) |  |
| Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February<br>Feria   |   | No Parish Mass today  |  |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February<br>Feria  | 7.00pm<br>7.30pm  | Mass (Cicely Fowler Ints.)<br>Adoration with Confession         |  |
| Friday – 14 <sup>th</sup> February<br>Ss Cyril, Monk, & Methodius – Bishop<br>Co-Patrons of Europe | 9.15am<br>10.00am   | Adoration with Confession<br>Mass (Dinah Kean Ints.)            |  |
| Saturday – 15 <sup>th</sup> February<br>Feria  | 9.00am<br>9.30am  | Adoration with Confession<br>Mass – (Joyce White – Healing)     |  |
| Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C   |   |   |  |
| Saturday – 15 <sup>th</sup> February +   | 6.00pm<br>6.30pm  | Confession<br>Mass – (Pro Populo)                               |  |
| Sunday – 16 <sup>th</sup> February +   | 10.30am   | Mass – (Ludwik & Ruth Grabowiecki RIP)                          |  |

## Thank you for your Weekly Offering

- Offertory: £394.85
- Digital Collection Plate: £75.00
- Standing Orders of £487.00
- TOTAL: £956.85



**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. The parish 'Laudato Si Group' which was formed during Lent last year to study Pope Francis' encyclical letter on the environment, are meeting again on **Tuesday 11 February at 7.30** in the parish Room to discuss among other things the possibilities of developing the parish garden. You are all most welcome to join us



### 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, 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.



### 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 CASPER 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.



**From Deacon Peter's desk...** have you ever wondered what Deacon Peter does on his day off? Maybe not – after all it is not particularly important. However, I thought that I would share with you what I did last Wednesday – 5<sup>th</sup> February (Fr David's Birthday!). Some time ago, Fr David very kindly invited me to spend time with him at Allen Hall on his birthday – this seemed like a great opportunity to 'catch up with him & so I gratefully accepted. I arrived at Allen Hall shortly after 11am & saw Fr David standing on the pavement outside the Seminary cheerfully waving at me – I was, just for a moment, tempted to drive on but I resisted this and pulled over, parked my car & we warmly greeted each other. He was even more delighted when I

opened the boot & handed him two enormous boxes containing cakes – courtesy of Veronica. He could not wait to get inside & put the kettle on – we sat together enjoying our coffee & cake (especially the cake) – interestingly I was not offered another one! Shortly after this 'refreshment break' we went into the Seminary Chapel where Fr David celebrated Mass for the Feast of St Agnes. The congregation was made up of 30+ Seminarians who are at various stages of their training. I was particularly struck as to how prayerful the Mass was & how inspirational it was for me to be in the company of the seminarians – the Lord does indeed look after his Church. Please do keep the seminarians in your prayers. Later in the afternoon we spent time at a Spiritual Conversation with Fr Anthony Doe, the Spiritual Director at Allen Hall – a very informative and uplifting talk was given by Fr Anthony to which I felt most privileged to have been able to attend. We then joined the students for evening supper – which was delightful. As you can perhaps imagine, Fr David & I spent much time in conversation and banter – I was so fortunate to spend time with him on his 'special day.' He spoke so lovingly about his time in Olney and of you, the parishioners & indeed Fr Biju. Whilst he misses the parish enormously, he knows that he is doing the right thing by responding to God's call to help in the formation of the seminarians at Allen Hall – all of whom think the world of him as indeed do we all. He particularly asked me to send you his love and assurance of his prayers. I just wanted to share this with you all to assure you that Fr David is well and very happy to be at Allen Hall. As for my day off? I would not have wanted to spend it any other way!

*Vivamus in Spe – Let us live in hope*

## Fifth Sunday of the Year - Scripture Reflections

**From Fr Biju's desk...** The central theme of this Sunday's readings is God's call with people's response. The Scripture readings present three of the greatest witnesses in the Bible Isaiah, Paul, and Peter expressing their own worthlessness. A Seraph cleanses Isaiah's lips with burning coal, Paul experiences Jesus in a vision and then is cleansed after three days of fasting and prayer in physical blindness, and Jesus has a cleansing word for Peter. When Isaiah had his vision, Paul had his and its result, and Peter had his epiphany, each experienced deep humility, fear, respect, and reverence in short, *awe* of God.

**In the First Reading**, the Prophet Isaiah is called by God, but he looks at himself and says, "I am not worthy" and so, in response, God sends an angel to touch Isaiah's lips with a smoking-hot ember and tells him that God has now made him worthy. It is God's judgement to deem him worthy of the task he is being assigned, and it is not for Isaiah to second-guess his own usefulness to God.

**The Second Reading** describes the call of another great apostle, Paul, who judges himself to be unworthy of the name or the call as he was a former persecutor of the Christians. It was by giving these three men a strong conviction of their unworthiness and of their need for total dependence on His grace that God prepared them for their missions.

**The Gospel** illustrates the miraculous catch of fish. Jesus told Simon to fish in deep water. They caught so many fish that their nets almost broke. Simon, James, and John were amazed. Jesus said they would now catch people. They left everything to follow him.

The calls of these various ministers of God are set before us so that we can reassess our own call from God and our response to Him. The Second Vatican Council teaches that we are *all* called to ministry by virtue of our Baptism into Jesus Christ *to the best of our ability and carry on the mission of the whole Christian people in the Church and the world.*

It is important that we acknowledge our sinfulness. God, Who calls us and commissions us for His service, wants us to realize His presence everywhere and in everyone, to repent of our sins, and to remain in readiness to speak and act for Him in our life circumstances as He shall direct.



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