

Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence  
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| 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2025<br>Psalter Week 1    |  | Fifth Sunday of Lent – Year C                            |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| First Reading                                   | Isaiah 43:16-21<br><i>'Behold, I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my chosen people.'</i>  |  |  |
| Responsorial Psalm                              | What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.   |  |  |
| Second Reading                                  | Philippians 3:8-14<br><i>'For the sake of Christ, I have suffered the loss of all things, becoming like him in his death.'</i>   |  |  |
| Gospel Acclamation                              | Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the Living God. Even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, for I am gracious and merciful. Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the Living God. |  |  |
| Gospel  | John 8:1-11<br><i>'Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.'</i>   |  |  |
| Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> April +                | 6.00pm<br>6.30pm   | Confession<br>Mass – (Pro Populo)                        |  |
| Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> April +                  | 10.30am  | Mass – (Deceased family & friends of the Ayles family)   |  |
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April<br>Lent Feria      | 9.15am<br>10.00am  | Adoration with Confession<br>Mass (Hugh Mulholland RIP)  |  |
| Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> April<br>Lent Feria     | 9.15am<br>10.00am  | Adoration with Confession<br>Mass (Molly Wogan RIP)      |  |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April<br>Lent Feria   |  | No Parish Mass today                                     |  |
| Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> April<br>Lent Feria   | 6.15pm<br>7.00pm   | Adoration with Confession<br>Mass (Andrew Fowler Int.)   |  |
| Friday – 11 <sup>th</sup> April<br>Lent Feria   | 9.15am<br>10.00am  | Adoration with Confession<br>Mass (Terence Cockings RIP) |  |
| Saturday – 12 <sup>th</sup> April<br>Lent Feria | 9.00am<br>9.30am   | Adoration with Confession<br>Mass (Ben Luck Int.)        |  |
| Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord          |  |  |  |
| Saturday – 12 <sup>th</sup> April +             | 6.00pm<br>6.30pm   | Confession<br>Mass – (Pro Populo)                        |  |
| Sunday – 13 <sup>th</sup> April +               | 10.30am  | Mass – (Judy Ashford RIP)                                |  |

**Due to the School Holidays the planned Youth Mass scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> April has been postponed until after Easter. Revised date will be published next week.**

## Thank you for your Weekly Offering

- Offertory: £330.60
- Digital Collection Plate: £80.00
- Standing Orders: £502.00
- Total: £912.60
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**Myanmar Earthquake Appeal** - Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD has launched an emergency appeal, and is working through the Catholic Church to provide humanitarian aid. A basket is at the back of the church should you wish to donate.



### Tea & Coffee – Change of Date

Tea & Coffee will be served on **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April** after the 10.30am Mass when we will remember our dear parishioner and organist Judy Ashford.

Our thoughts and prayers will be with David and the family.



**Seminars on the Holy Spirit** – During Lent we are most fortunate to have Sr Josephine Walsh, DHS leading Seminars on the Holy Spirit. All the seminars will be held on **Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm – 8.45pm in the parish hall** on the following dates:  
**8<sup>th</sup> April – Transformation into Christ**

All are most welcome to sing, praise, thank God and experience new life in the Holy Spirit.

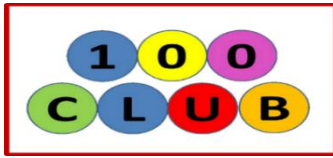
**Penitential Service for Holy Week** – as part of our parish preparations for the great feast of Easter, there will be a Penitential Service here at Our Lady's on the **Tuesday evening of Holy Week – 15<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm.**

Fr Biju has invited other priests to join him and encourages us all to avail ourselves of this great sacrament of grace and forgiveness.



### Mass of the Lord's Supper - Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm

We are looking for volunteers for the Washing of the Feet during the Mass. If you would like to assist, **please contact either Fr Biju or Deacon Peter direct.**



**News about the Parish 100 Club** - Would you like to support our parish and at the same time be in with a chance every month of winning £100? Then please consider joining our parish lottery.

- Buy tickets for yourself, family, and friends
- Each ticket costs £24 for a year's worth of draws - that is 12 chances to win £100
- Draws will take place on the first Sunday of each month
- Look out for more information after Easter on how to join our Parish 100 club

## Holy Week Schedule

|   |                                      |  |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April +<br/>Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord<br/>Blessing &amp; Distribution of Palms</b> | <b>6.00pm<br/>6.30pm</b>             | <b>Confession<br/>Vigil Mass</b>                                     |
| <b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April +<br/>Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord<br/>Blessing &amp; Distribution of Palms</b>   | <b>10.30am</b>                       | <b>Mass</b>  |
| <b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April<br/><i>Monday of Holy Week</i></b>  | <b>9.15am<br/>10.00am</b>            | <b>Adoration with Confession<br/>Mass</b>                            |
| <b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April<br/><i>Tuesday of Holy Week</i></b>  | <b>9.15am<br/>10.00am<br/>7.00pm</b> | <b>Adoration with Confession<br/>Mass<br/>Reconciliation Service</b> |
| <b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April<br/><i>Wednesday of Holy Week</i></b>  | <b>12noon</b>                        | <b>The Cathedral, Northampton<br/>Chrism Mass</b>                    |
| <b>Maundy Thursday – 17<sup>th</sup> April<br/><i>Thursday of Holy Week</i></b>   | <b>2.30pm</b>                        | <b>No Parish morning Mass<br/>Stations of the Cross</b>              |
| <b>Sacred Pascal Triduum</b>  |                                      |  |
| <b>Maundy Thursday – 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>  | <b>7.00pm</b>                        | <b>Mass of the Lord's Supper</b>                                     |
| <b>Good Friday – 18<sup>th</sup> April</b>  | <b>3.00pm<br/>7.00pm</b>             | <b>The Passion of the Lord<br/>Stations of the Cross</b>             |
| <b>Holy Saturday – 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>  | <b>9.00am</b>                        | <b>Office of Readings – Morning Prayer</b>                           |
| <b>Easterime Begins</b>   |                                      |  |
| <b>Holy Saturday – 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>  | <b>8.00pm</b>                        | <b>The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night</b>                            |
| <b>Easter Sunday – 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>  | <b>10.30am</b>                       | <b>Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord</b>                 |



**Assisted Suicide Legislation** The important vote for all MPs on the assisted suicide legislation, known as the *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill*, is likely to take place on **25<sup>th</sup> April**. The charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to allow people to contact their Member of Parliament and it only takes a few moments to submit a message to ask an MP to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law. It can be accessed here: <https://righttolife.org.uk/asvote>. Also, to let you know, Right to Life is distributing postcards to parishes for the lay faithful to send to their MPs on this subject. **These are available in the porch.** A range of further resources on opposing assisted suicide is available here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/>

## Fifth Sunday of Lent – Scripture Reflections

*From Fr Biju's desk...* The central theme of all three readings of this Sunday is God's merciful steadfast love. The readings encourage us of God's readiness to forgive sin, give the sinner a second chance, bind up broken lives, and restore people to His friendship. And challenge us to show the same mercy to the sinners around us and to live as forgiven people, actively seeking reconciliation with God and one another.

Explaining how a merciful God forgives the sins of His chosen people and leads them back from the Babylonian exile, the first reading reminds us that we too, are forgiven, and we are saved from our own sinfulness. In the second reading, Paul presents himself as a forgiven sinner who has been completely transformed by his Faith in Christ Jesus. His life is an example of the Gospel exhortation, "*Sin no more.*" Paul loves Christ so much that he wants to share in His sufferings and even in His death so that he may share in Christ's Resurrection. The sinful woman's story of sin committed and sin forgiven in today's Gospel shows the inexhaustible mercy and compassion Jesus offers to repentant sinners. In addition, by making sinlessness the condition for throwing the first stone, Jesus forces the accusers to assess their own souls and to leave. Thus, He grants justice to the accusers and mercy to the sinful woman. We are called to become forgiving people, ready for reconciliation: Jesus has shown inexhaustible mercy and compassion to sinners by dying for our sins. But we are often self-righteous, like the Pharisees, and ready to spread scandal about others with a bit of spicy gossip. Let us practice to hate sin but love the sinners, showing them Jesus' compassion and working with the Holy Spirit to make our own lives exemplary so that we can help lead them to Jesus' ways.

We have no right to judge others because we often commit the very faults we condemn, we are often partial and prejudiced in our judgments, and we do not know the circumstances which have led someone to sin. Hence, let us leave the judgment to our merciful God Who does read people's hearts. We should show mercy and compassion to those who sin because we ourselves are sinners in need of God's forgiveness. Amen



*Thought for the week: "God's mercy is like an overflowing river. It carries souls along with it in its current."*

**St John Mary Vianney on the Sacrament of Confession**

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