



FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

On this Sunday, *Laetare* Sunday, the penitential colour of purple is replaced by the colour of rose.

But why?

Firstly, because this Sunday is rejoicing Sunday or joyful Sunday.

Secondly, because the colour rose is symbolic of joy and, as we draw to the end of Lent and look towards Holy Week and Easter itself, we can rejoice for we know that our salvation is near at hand.

This sense of joy is expressed in the Gospel presented to us by the Church for this Sunday where Jesus heals the man born blind.

In this encounter, there are two things for us to consider. The first is that Jesus sees a man who has been born blind. In ancient times, this was seen as a divine punishment for something either he or his parents committed.

The man, therefore, is a sinner and an outcast from respectable society.

The second thing for us to consider is that the Jewish religious elite brought this man to Jesus on the Sabbath; this was a day in which people could perform no works at all. They were trying to catch Jesus out and prove that by breaking the commandments, Jesus was nothing but a charlatan.

Jesus, never one to follow societal convention, does not judge the man a sinner, but as a child of God in need. He does not hesitate to heal him even on the sabbath because he sees someone in need of his healing grace.

In this encounter, we are reminded of the joy of our faith. That Christ sees us as we are and desires to love us perfectly. He does not condemn us, he does not judge us, but rather wants to bring about our healing and our salvation.

On this *Laetare* Sunday, let us truly be a people of joy!

PARISH OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Monday - 10 am - 12 pm
Tuesday - 10 am - 12 pm
Wednesday - 10 am - 12 pm
Thursday - CLOSED
Friday - CLOSED
Sat. / Sun. - CLOSED

**Pastor of the Parish, Diocesan
Chancellor, and Tribunal Judge**
Very Rev. Brendan Seery, JCL
frbrendan.seery@northamptondiocese.org

Parish Administrators
Mrs Charlotte Seery
Mrs Sally Smedley
parish.ourladyhelpofchristiansluton@northamptondiocese.org
01582 723254

**Parish Safeguarding
Representatives (PSR)**
Dr Rob Simpson
07760763529
Elizabeth Redmond
safeguarding.ourladyhelpofchristiansluton@northamptondiocese.org

www.olhc.uk
www.lutonpastoralarea.org
www.northamptondiocese.org

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION
WWW.OLHC.UK

MOTHERS DAY

As we celebrate Mothers's Day this Sunday, we pray for all the mums of the parish! May the Lord continue to strengthen you in the beautiful vocation that he has given to you!

We also pray for those who have been spiritual mothers for us as well as for those mothers who have entered into eternity!

LENT RESOURCES FOR THE FAMILY

The link below will take you to a free downloadable family activity pack of resources from Celebrate@Home.

The pack includes creative ways to count down the days in Lent, reflective prayer and discussion, craft, games, books and movies to help families draw close to God.

<https://www.celebratetrust.org/shop/len-family-pack-celebratehomes45pm>

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During the Lenten Season, the Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday in the church at 6 pm.

The Stations of the Cross is a beautiful way in which we can journey with Christ to the cross and be reminded of His love for us.

PRIESTHOOD VOCATIONS

Are you a man who is wondering whether God may be calling you to the priesthood? Northampton Diocese warmly invites you to "Come and See" — a day of prayer, reflection, and questions for men who are thinking about or discerning a vocation to the priesthood.

Date: Saturday 28th March, 2026

Programme: A day including prayer, reflection, input on priestly vocation, and an open Q&A

Who is it for? Men who are exploring, questioning, or discerning a call to the priesthood

Where? Our Lady of Christian and St Lawrence, Olney

This day offers a relaxed and supportive opportunity to reflect on God's call, to learn more about priestly life, and to ask honest questions in a prayerful setting.

To register your interest or for more information, please contact:

Fr Pius Amoako

vocationsdirector@northamptondiocese.org

01753 523147

TENNYSON PRIMARY

SCHOOL VISIT

We are delighted to be able to welcome Tennyson Primary School for a visit of our church on Monday 16th of March.

The visit will take place between 10 am - 12 pm.

Please be aware that due to the visit, there may be some noise in the church.

SUNDAY VESPERS AND BENEDICTION

Every Sunday at 4.15 pm, there is an opportunity to pray Vespers (Evening Prayer) of the Church and to receive benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

OPEN HOUSE

The next Open House will take place on Monday 14th of April in the Father O'Connor Centre.

The Open House will run from 5.30 pm - 6.30 pm.

No appointments are necessary.

This is an opportunity for anyone interested in celebrating sacraments to find out more, or to have forms signed.

PARISH PRAYERS

Please pray for: Jesse & Catherine Coulson, Danny Harding, Sally Rhodes, Robert Roe, Alexander El-Lamaa, Christopher Parfitt, Jimmy, Tina, John McCormick, Mary Williams, Michael Curtin, and all who are sick.

Please pray for: Johanna O'Leary, Caterina La Viola, Thomas O'Boyle, Francis Farrell, Augustine Abara, Bill Molloy, Mary Marshall, Jane Matthews, Margarette Spring, Brandon Cassian, and all our loved ones who have died.

FATHER O'CONNOR HALL HIRE

If you are interested in hiring the Father O'Connor Centre for an event, please contact Praetorium who will be happy to help you - 01372 457651

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Please pray for all of those who have died. In a particular way, please pray for those whose funerals will take place here at Our Lady's over the next few weeks.

-Maryanne Gray RIP whose Funeral Mass will take place on Friday 20th of March at 10 am.

-Philip Bradley RIP whose Funeral Mass will take place on Friday 20th of March at 2 pm.

-Esther Small RIP whose reception into church will take place on Tuesday 24th of March at 5 pm followed by their Funeral Mass on Wednesday 25th of March at 12.30 pm.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen!

GUILD OF ST STEPHEN

It is a great joy to announce that our parish has been enrolled in the Guild of St Stephen.

Please pray for all of our altar servers!

WAR MEMORIAL

In the next few weeks, a new war memorial will be installed in the narthex.

This war memorial will not be to glorify war, but rather to give thanks to all of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to defend the freedoms we take for granted.

PARISH OFFERTORY

If you would like to make an offering to the ministry of the parish online, please use the bank details below:

Bank: Natwest

Account Name: Our Lady Help of Christians

Sort Code: 60-06-11

Account Number: 91052181

SECOND COLLECTION

The second collection this weekend will be to support the work of The Friends of Our Lady Help of Christians.

The Friends of Our Lady Help of Christians supports the refurbishment of our church and other buildings within the parish.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Please note that the offertory envelopes have been sent out to all of those who signed up to the scheme.

If you would like to join the scheme or know more about it, please contact the Parish Office.

HOLY WEEK

It is a great joy to be able to welcome Fr Christian Hamrick, Deacon Reed Robinson, Joseph Richter, Joseph Schon, and Zavior Franck to our parish during Holy Week. They are currently studying at the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

A reminder that the reception of Holy Communion is for Catholics who have already celebrated their First Holy Communion.

If we receive Holy Communion on the hand, please consume the Sacred Host as soon as possible and in front of the priest

PARISH FINANCES

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

We encourage all taxpayers enrolled on the scheme to register for Gift Aid in order for our parish to claim 25% extra on donations. Please ask at the Parish Office for a Gift Aid declaration form to complete.

Anyone interested in joining the scheme is invited to make contact with the Parish Office.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS MARCH

For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

PARISH REGISTRATION

Please use the QR code below to register as a parishioner here at Our Lady's! It is simple and will only take a few moments to do!

By registering, we are able to send the electronic newsletter straight to your email!



MASS READINGS AND PRAYERS

Please scan the QR code to access the daily Mass readings and prayers.



CONTACTLESS DONATIONS

If you would like to make your offering via card, this can be done using the Dona Card Machine

All cards accepted. Please Gift Aid if eligible - it is simple and only has to be done once on the machine.

"Do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased!"

LITURGIES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

<p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY 15th March</p> <p>4th Sunday of Lent <i>Laetare Sunday</i></p>	<p>9 am ADORATION 9.30 am MASS</p> <p>11 am ADORATION 11.30 am MASS</p> <p>4.15 pm Vespers and Benediction 5 pm MASS</p>	<p>Una Monahan RIP, Dave Brady RIP.</p> <p>Pro Populo, Mary Okoli Int, Chichi Jimoh Int.</p> <p>Bridget Duffy RIP, William O'Donnell RIP.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">MONDAY 16th March</p>	<p>7 am MASS (Latin)</p> <p>10 am - 12 pm Tennyson Primary School Visit</p> <p>12 pm ADORATION & CONFESSIONS 12.45 pm MASS</p>	<p>Fr Barrie McKenzie Int.</p> <p>Vocations to the Religious Life.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">TUESDAY 17th March</p> <p style="text-align: center;">S. Patrick</p>	<p>7 am MASS (Latin)</p> <p>9.30 am MASS</p>	<p>The Church in Ireland.</p> <p>Luton Irish Forum Int., Kathleen & Martin Mohan Int., Sean McMahon RIP.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">WEDNESDAY 18TH March</p> <p>S. Cyril of Jerusalem</p>	<p>7 am MASS (Latin)</p>	<p>Patrick McDonnell RIP.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">THURSDAY 19th March</p> <p style="text-align: center;">S. Joseph</p>	<p>No Public Mass</p>	<p>Please note that the church will be open for private prayer</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">FRIDAY 20th March</p>	<p>10 am Funeral Mass</p> <p>2 pm Funeral Mass</p> <p>6 pm Stations of the Cross</p>	<p>Marion Gray RIP</p> <p>Philip Bradley RIP</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SATURDAY 21st March</p>	<p>9 am ADORATION & CONFESSIONS 9.30 AM MASS</p> <p>11 am FHC Programme</p> <p>1 pm Confirmation Programme</p>	<p>Fr Ben Grist RIP.</p> <p>Father O'Connor Centre.</p> <p>Father O'Connor Centre.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY 22nd March</p> <p>5th Sunday of Lent</p>	<p>9 am ADORATION 9.30 am MASS</p> <p>11 am ADORATION 11.30 am MASS</p> <p>4.15 pm Vespers and Benediction 5 pm MASS</p>	<p>Pro Populo.</p> <p>Vocations to the Priesthood. Kathleen Dowling RIP</p> <p>Bridget Seery RIP. Fatli Aliko RIP</p>