



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

5th April 2020
Palm Sunday &
Holy Week,
Psalter Week, 2

Parish Priest: Fr. Owen O'Neill
Tel: House: 01858 - 462359
Email: owen@olvic.com
Mobile: 07949136147
Catholic Club: 01858 463 601
Parish Website: www.olvic.com
Safeguarding Representatives: Christine Reed and Theresa Kendrick 07748591398 / 01858465637

Schools:
Parish Primary: St. Joseph's Academy 01858-465359.
Deanery Comprehensive: St. Paul's 0116 241 4057
Parish Accountant: Angela Wade: 0777 322 9041
Parish Gift Aid Organiser: Stephen McGlone 01858-465939
Parish Pastoral Council Members: see photos on notice board

Diocese of Nottingham: Company Number 7151646 Charity Number: 1134449
Registered Address: Wilson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham, NG1 5AW

OUR MASS READINGS FOR TO-DAY, PALM SUNDAY:

The first Reading is from the Prophet Isaiah Ch.50. v.4 – 7. The Prophet suffers in carrying out his mission, but is sustained by the firm belief that God will not abandon him.

The second Reading is from St. Paul to Philemon Ch.2 . v. 6 – 11. Because Jesus took on Himself our human condition, and accepted death on a cross, the Father has raised him up and made Him Lord of heaven and earth.

The Gospel is from St. Matthew Ch. 26 to v.14 & ch.27 to v.66. Follow the events of this coming week as told in the Gospel of love. As people of faith and hope, we can be reunited with each other in a very beautiful spiritual union. God will hear our prayer, unite us in faith and love, as each one of us relives again Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day. Live, love. celebrate the joy of your faith. That is what God is asking us to do.

That is why Jesus calls us, and exhorts us "to follow Him", to listen to his word, to live each day in his love, to celebrate the joy of our faith.

MASS INTENTIONS fulfilled by Fr. Owen this past week, and those that will be fulfilled this coming week.

LAST WEEK:

The Parishioners.
Thomas Murphy.R.I.P.
John And Jose in Australia.
Ivan Carnall R.I.P.
Mary Henegan R.I.P.
Margaret Elliott R.I.P.

THIS WEEK:

The Parishioners
Dec.d members of the Bojar
& Nowakowski families
Jimmy Prendergast R.I.P.
Carmen Edwards R.I.P.

READING THAT TAKE US THROUGH HOLY WEEK:

First of all for the Gospel Reading from St. Matthew ch. 26.v. 14 to ch. 27 to v. 26. takes us through Holy Week, following Jesus from Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to the Upper Room on Holy Thursday, to His Passion and death on Good Friday.

**JOIN WITH FR. OWEN SPIRITUALLY @ 8P.M. ON HOLY THURSDAY EVENING AS HE CELEBRATES THE MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER PRIVATELY.
ON GOOD FRIDAY @ 3P.M. AS HE MAKES THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN PRIVATE
ON EASTER SUNDAY @ 10A.M. AS HE CELEBRATES MASS OF THE RESURRECTION IN PRIVATE.**

**LOTS AND LOTS ON YOUR T.V. BY MANY, MANY CHURCHES STREAMING THROUGH-
OUT HOLY WEEK AND ON EASTER SUNDAY.
GOOGLE CHURCH SERVICES.COM AND TAKE YOUR PICK.
WALSINGHAM IS STREAMING ALL HOLY WEEK SERVICES. I HAVE BEEN INFORMED
THAT VIA YOU TUBE FROM WALSINGHAM IS PARTICULARLY GOOD AND SHARP.**

My dear Parishioners,

As I begin this Newsletter to you, my first reaction is – what a strange week it is going to be for Holy Week – no public Church Holy Week celebrations, no Act of Witness in Harborough Town Square, no Easter Sunday celebrations. How very strange for all of us! Although we cannot physically be together, we can all be spiritually united together in thought, in prayer and in love. Let us all endeavour to “do something special, spiritually,” during this coming week, to read, assuming you have the means to do so, the Readings for the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday evening, the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday, the joy of the beautiful Readings of Easter Sunday. You can, I’m sure follow all the ceremonies on line. Google **CHURCHSERVICES.TV** and take your pick from the many Churches streaming live. I know that many people find this means comforting, and helpful, in the present circumstances.

I know too, that you would wish me to reach out to all the Churches in Harborough at this time, assuring them of our thoughts, prayers and good wishes for, and to them, knowing that they too are praying for us, and with us, in faith and love. “**Churches Together in Harborough**” is something very beautiful and special, as together we strive to give witness to the joy of our faith.

I hope you are all coping reasonably well with the restrictions, confinement and isolation, that we now find ourselves in. Normality as we lived it, has now become abnormality. Freedom that we have enjoyed, has now been greatly hampered. The catalogue of change and adaptation has now become the “normal”, at least for the present. Not in our wildest dreams could we ever have foreseen or imagined, or anticipated, such drastic changes to our “normal” way of life.

As I wrote in my letter last week, all is well with me, though of course, like all of you, I find the restriction of movement, frustrating. But it is essential. It has to be for the wellbeing and safety of all of us.

Thanks again to the many for your concern, care and love, expressed for me, and to me, in so many different means of communication. I am truly humbled, truly grateful – bless you all.

Thanks for the many positive comments received about our Newsletter on the website, to all whose email addresses we have; so very encouraging indeed. All I do is write it. Lisa types it, and Paul, bless him does all the technical side in getting it to you. Some 250 emails were sent by Paul. If we only had all your email addresses, everybody could receive the link to the Parish website if they do not already have it. By the way, some of our senior Parishioners will not have access to the internet. Please run off a copy for them, and pop it through their door. Keep them in the loop, in contact with the Parish, so very, very important to keep them informed.

Well that’s my letter for this week. Keep your chin up!!! Keep going!!

Let me finish with some words from St. Paul, 1 Cor. 16: 13.

“Be alert, stand firm in the faith, be brave, be strong. Do all your work in love”.

Bless you all.Fr. Owen

For clarity: Emails with copies of the Parish Newsletter are not being sent each week but all the information in the Newsletter (and more) can be found on the Parish website <https://www.olvic.com> where you can also download and print your own copy of the Newsletter and copies for any of your neighbours who do not have access to the internet.

OUR CONDOLENCE AND PRAYERS are offered to Mike and Mary Hall on the recent death of Mike's older brother Peter, who died recently. Peter lived in Preston. Over the last 12 months or so, his health deteriorated, so death was a welcome call to eternal peace and rest. May God give him a merciful welcome to Paradisum, and in the prayers of Final Commendation and Farewell at funeral services, we pray "may the Saints and Angels welcome you to where Christ has gone". We now make that our prayer for Peter. May you rest in peace and rise in glory.

HOLDING ALL OUR SICK, ELDERLY AND HOUSEBOUND IN OUR PRAYERS: Prayer is a powerful weapon, a strengthening comfort, a genuine act of love, for all in need. To know that others are praying for us is a healing love. To pray "**Walk with them O Lord, through the darkest night and brightest day. Keep them close to you. Give them the strength, courage, faith and hope to come through this time of darkness. Lay your healing hands gently upon them, and if it be your will, grant them healing and recovery. Amen**".

SOME PRAYERS AND A POEM FOR YOU AT THIS TIME:

1. A THANK YOU PRAYER: Thank you Lord, for life, for love, for family, for friends, and especially for knowing You. Amen.

2. A PRAYER FOR THIS COMING WEEK: Dear God, prepare us for this coming week. Bless those who are quarantined; bless those who are complying with stay at home orders and bless those who have to go out to work. Heal those infected with the virus and make their recovery fast and pain free. Give your strength to all the doctors, nurses and care providers who are caring for all infected with virus. Keep them safe and free from exposure. Be with us in our homes as we protect ourselves, and our families. May we use this time to bond with our loved ones, and may we have your peace and joy each day. Help us to remember that our strength and our joy are found in you. Restore our hope, renew our faith, and remind us that better days are coming. Take away our worries and fears and cover us with your grace and mercy. May we be blessed this week, as we pray in the name of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

POEM:

Slow down, it's COVID Time
This is the time to be slow,
Lie low to the wall
Until the bitter weather passes.
Try, as best you can, not to let
The wire brush of doubt
Scrape from your heart
All sense of yourself
And your hesitant light.
If you remain generous,
Time will come good;
And you will find your feet
Again on fresh pastures of promise,
Where the air will be kind
And blushed with beginning.
(John O'Donohue)

MY THANKS TO A PARISHIONER FOR OUR REFLECTION ON THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Reflection on part of the Gospel for Palm Sunday.

Jesus, with his disciples, had made his way to Jerusalem knowing what would happen there. On the outskirts of the city, he sent two of his disciples to bring a donkey and its foal to him, and on that donkey, consciously fulfilling the prophecy, Jesus rode into Jerusalem. His welcome was tumultuous. 'Who is this?', the crowd asked and the answer; 'This is the prophet, Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee'.

What was going through the minds of the disciples at that moment? Jesus had been welcomed before, but never like this. Did they think that he was now, at last, going to answer the prayers of the Jewish people and become the king who would save them from oppression? But how quickly things would change!

Jesus knew that he had come to Jerusalem, not to be enthroned, but to be condemned to death and executed. And yet, although later it did not seem so, Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem was the beginning of salvation.

Once in Jerusalem, Jesus continued to teach, to heal and to preach. He constantly challenged the Scribes and the Pharisees, both in word and action. We don't have a definite time-frame for those events between Palm Sunday and Passover, but one wonders if the disciples were at all conscious that time was running out. They must have begun to realise too, that Jesus was not going to take, or be handed, any kind of earthly power. On the contrary, he seemed to be almost deliberately on a collision course with the Jewish, and thereby the Roman authorities.

Then it was Passover, a celebration meal laden with symbolism and religious and historical importance for the Jews.

The Gospel for Sunday opens with Judas' betrayal of Jesus. Much has been written about Judas' betrayal: was it for money? Was it because Judas was disillusioned by the path Jesus had taken in Jerusalem? Was it something darker? There doesn't seem to be one simple answer.

Jesus and his disciples gathered in the borrowed room to celebrate the Passover. It was to be the last meal that they would eat together. A few hours later Jesus would be facing death and they would all be scattered. One wonders what the atmosphere in the room was like. Jesus knew it was his last meal, the disciples didn't, although there must have been feelings of anxiety and suspicion, since Jesus had stated that one of them would betray him. They had all been together a long time; they had walked with Jesus, watched him heal, listened to him, eaten with him, yet one of them was going to betray.

In the middle of this, Jesus took charge. He blessed the bread, broke it and gave it to his disciples: 'Take it and eat it, this is my body. He gave thanks for the wine and gave it to them, 'Drink all of you from this, for this is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.' Before Jesus was handed over to his enemies, he handed himself over to his friends, to us. And in the Mass, he continues to do just that.