

**A PEOPLE WHO HOPE IN CHRIST - A Message from the Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England and Wales :** Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, The radiance of the risen Lord shines upon us. At a time when so many shadows are cast into our lives, and upon our world, the light of the resurrection shines forever to renew and restore our hope. In the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis: 'In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side.' (27 March 2020) The impact of Covid-19, both nationally and internationally, has been immense. So much of what we take for granted has changed. Our health and physical interaction, our capacity to travel and gather, have all been affected. There is uncertainty in our future, especially with work and the country's economy. As we know, very sadly, large numbers of people have died because of the coronavirus, and others have been or remain seriously ill. Keyworkers, not least in the National Health Service and care sectors, are serving selflessly to sustain the life of our nation. Our hearts and prayers go out to everyone who is suffering because of Covid-19, and to all those battling to overcome its effects. May those who have died rest in peace and those who are bereaved find comfort. When the Prime Minister announced the lockdown, this included places of worship and therefore Catholic churches. These measures were put in place to stem the general transmission of the virus. It is right that the Catholic community fulfils its role in contributing to the preservation of life and the common good of society. This must continue until the restrictions applied by the Government are lifted. None of us would want to be in the situation in which we find ourselves. While the live-streaming of the Mass and other devotions is playing an important part in maintaining the life of faith, there is no substitute for Catholics being able to physically attend and participate in the celebration of the Mass and the other sacraments. Our faith is expressed powerfully and beautifully through 'seeing, touching, and tasting.' We know that every bishop and every priest recognises the pain of Catholics who, at present, cannot pray in church or receive the sacraments. This weighs heavily on our hearts. We are deeply moved by the Eucharistic yearning expressed by so many members of the faithful. We thank you sincerely for your love for the Lord Jesus, present in the sacraments and supremely so in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The bishops and priests of every diocese are remembering you and your loved ones at Mass each day in our churches as we pray 'in hope of health and wellbeing.' We thank our priests for this faithfulness to their calling. As the Government's restrictions are relaxed step by step, we look forward to opening our churches and resuming our liturgical, spiritual, catechetical and pastoral life step by step. This will also be of service to those beyond the Catholic Church who depend on our charitable activity and outreach through which much goodness is shared by so many volunteers from our communities. None of us knows, as yet, how or when the lockdown will end. There is likely to be a phased return to travelling and gathering. As a church, we are now planning for this time and our discussions with the statutory public health agencies and Government representatives are ongoing. Together with Catholics across England and Wales we desire the opening of our churches and access to the sacraments. Until then, we are continuing to pray and prepare. We want to acknowledge with gratitude the service of our fellow bishops and priests, our deacons and religious, our families and lay faithful, together with all our parish and school communities, for the wonderful ways the life of the faith is being nourished at this time, especially in the home. We also pay tribute to the Catholic organisations and networks that are working to support the vulnerable and needy. On that first Easter day, the disciples were in lockdown and the doors were closed. In their isolation the Lord Jesus came among them and said 'Peace be with you.' May the peace of the risen Lord reign in our hearts and homes as we look forward to the day we can enter church again and gather around the altar to offer together the Sacrifice of Praise.

We unite in asking the intercession of Our Blessed Lady and assure you of our prayers and blessing  
Yours devotedly in Christ,

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster ✠ Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool  
✠ Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham ✠ George Stack, Archbishop of Cardiff ✠ John Wilson,  
Archbishop of Southwark



# Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

10th May 2020  
Fifth week of Easter  
Psalter Week 1

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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  
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My dear Parishioners,

As the nation celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE DAY on Friday last, many of the survivors of that time will recall stories, images, scenes and memories of the tragedy of war, the loss of life, the heroism of those who lost their lives, the courage and bravery of those who fought and survived, the support of all who were involved in anyway at any time, with any kind of input in supporting the war effort. But above all and beyond all, we celebrate the freedom, the joy, the independence, the quality of life that has been ours since the end of the war, the standard and prosperity of life that we are now rejoicing in, and have come to expect. Again, in our heart of hearts, we hope and pray, that we will never, ever, have to engage in war again. Little wonder that we speak in terms of time since the end of the war. We shape and make our history with reference to the war. **VE DAY, was, is, and always will be a demarcation line, a historical date never to be written out of our history.**

I was somewhat intrigued to read in the Tablet (a Catholic Weekly publication) a letter referring to the possibility of future generations referring to time as BC. and PC., that is "**Before Coronavirus and post Coronavirus**". As I have said it is purely a reference. But is it beyond the bounds of possibility to think of this time as a demarcation time because of it's impact on society! Are those on the front line caring for those with this dreadful virus, the heroic soldiers of our time, fighting the terrible enemy which is Coronavirus. Are all those who are supporting our N.H.S. in anyway, in any capacity, those who are keeping our essential public services going, doing so to ensure our freedom, our ongoing independence? I could continue on with many more observations, parallels, call them what you will. Draw your own conclusions, your own futuristic insights.

One thing we can be sure of is that as the War caused the loss of so many lives and such pain, horror and suffering for so many, it also inspired a spirit of determination to rebuild a future in so many and wonderful ways. With God's help, with the togetherness of a nation at this time, we too, can and will, build a future that our young generation can be proud of. And if, by any stretch of the imagination, they do mark their future time as BC. and PC., nothing can or ever will belie, or smother, or cover over in anyway **VE DAY, May 8th, 1945. It will always be part of history as long as time exists.**

In to-day's Gospel, Jesus tells us "**Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God and trust in me**". Further on he says "**I am the Way, the Truth and the Life**". Let us take courage and great hope from these words of Jesus. He has shown us the way in good times and in bad, in times of celebration, and in times of sadness. Strength of faith drives us to follow him THE WAY to the Father. He also reminds us that "He is THE TRUTH".

The ways of the world, the promises of the world, can, and do, very often lead us astray. Promises built on sand, can be very shallow, very disappointing, very painful at times. Not so with Jesus who is TRUTH, his words, his ways, his promises are always TRUTH. He also reminds us that he is THE LIFE. For all who follow Jesus as the Way and the Truth, there is the absolute guarantee of eternal LIFE. That is our dream, our hope and our promised reward. Little wonder we speak of "**the joy of our faith**".

Have a good week, a safe week, a happy week. God bless you all.. Fr. Owen

**PETER GIBBON R.I.P.** Our sympathy and condolence are offered to Judith Branston and her family, and to Elizabeth Kenward and her family, on the death of their beloved Dad - Peter, who has now gone to share eternal life with his dear wife Kathleen, who predeceased him by just 8 months. Peter and Kathleen had a long, happy, blessed and fulfilled married life. Their love for each other throughout their married life, was as strong as it was on their wedding day. That love was temporarily dimmed for their 8 months of separation, but has now been renewed again in a different way, in a new way, through, in and with eternal love in the presence of the Risen Lord, in the company of the Angels and Saints. Kathleen and Peter were special people in life, on this earthly planet. My faith assures me that they are now special in death, God's chosen saints in eternal love. Thank you Kathleen and Peter for what you gave to your family in life, and for what you gave to the many who knew you, and shared some of your beautiful, and happy life with you. Rest in peace and intercede for us on our onward pilgrim journey of faith and hope.

**DR. ANDREW (Andy) MITCHELL R.I.P.** Our heartfelt sorrow and prayers are offered to Sylvia Mitchell and her family, on the unexpected death of her son Dr. Andy. Dr. Andy was an eminent Doctor and Specialist, highly respected, greatly loved, and nationally and internationally acclaimed for his Specialism. A friend to many, acclaimed and famed for his particular attention to detail, and to treating each patient as a person, as if he/she were a member of his own family. He will be greatly missed by his sorrowing family, by his medical colleagues, but most of all by his broken hearted mother dear Sylvia, who will be very much in our thoughts and prayers at this sad time. May God grant Dr. Andy a merciful welcome into Paradisum.

**MARGARET LUNN R.I.P.** After poor health in recent years, dear Margaret was called to her eternal home last week end. On behalf of the entire parish, I extend our deepest sympathy and condolence to Margaret's family, relatives and friends. Margaret was a kind, gentle soul, full of faith, hope and love. She struggled to the 10 a.m. Mass for as long as she possibly could, fully aware that her time in this life was drawing to a close. She has now gone to re-join her late husband who died approx. 6 years ago, and also to join her son who died approx. 7 years ago. As a chain on earth has been broken, so a new chain in Paradisum is now being re-joined again. May they rest in peace, and share in eternal happiness and love.

**FURTHER RECENT DEATHS** notified to me are Annette Wolsey, Patricia (Pat) Jones and Lynn (nee Reilly). On behalf of the entire Parish, I extend our condolence and prayers to their families and loved ones. May they rest in peace. Since the afore-mentioned deceased were not known to me, I am unable to say anything about them, apart from entrusting their souls to God's eternal mercy and care.

**INFORMATION:** As you are aware, we are currently unable to have any kind of funeral service (or any other service) in Church. Short burial services with family members only at the grave side are permitted. Likewise for Cremation services. The numbers allowed to be present are decided by the Cremation authorities or the local Council. Fr. John Owens will preside at the graveside service for Peter Gibbon, since he was known to Kathleen and Peter during his time here as a Deacon, and having taken them Holy Communion on a few occasions. Deacon Kevin O'Connor will preside at the service for Patricia Jones and Margaret Lunn. The Deacon in St. Edward's Parish in Kettering, since the cremation of Annette Woolsey will take place there, will preside at that service. Because of Fr. Owen's age, and being on lock down, he is not allowed to take funeral services or visit hospitals or care homes of any kind.

**PRAYER:** As we thank God for the freedom we have enjoyed because of the sacrifice of so many, we pray that we will respect that freedom, for the glory of God and for our own salvation. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. Amen

**FURTHER ACTION:** The same team are now busy making **RE-USABLE FACE MASKS**. They can be very easily hand washed and dried after each use. All masks are being made from new material. They are being sold at £1 each, with all profit going to a chosen charity. If you wish to buy some, **please contact Mrs. Maggie Lane on Harborough 461909.**

**SENSITIVE LETTER:** A letter from the Diocesan Finance Secretary has been received by all parishes in the Diocese. The letter has been sensitively written, aware and empathising with many Parishioners, whose jobs may not be there for them, and the resulting consequences for many in the future. He also writes about Parish income at this time, with our Church doors closed and no public services, no Masses on Sundays, no Parish income. He is fully aware that Churches and Church property has to be maintained, that bills will have to be paid etc. etc., and all this despite no regular parish income at this time. He realises that many parishes may struggle. He has suggested that perhaps Parishioners, who are regular givers to the Church plate, either by weekly envelope or by cash directly into the Collection basket, might consider, if they are in a position to do so, of paying by direct debit from their bank account. This would ensure a continuous income for the parish on a weekly basis, and would help to alleviate the current financial income for the Parish. For those who might like to do so, or to consider that possibility, **We bank at Lloyds Bank; our Parish Account no. is 00068953; our sort code is: 30 95 47.** Thank you for your attention and consideration to this possibility.

**VICTORY PRIZE DRAW WINNERS:**

APRIL - 1st Prize: £70. Ticket No 57 - J Mitchell; 2nd Prize: £30 Ticket No 180 - S McGlone; 3rd Prize: £20 Ticket No 108 - Y Shiers.

MAY - 1st Prize: £70 Ticket No 70 - D England; 2nd Prize: £30 Ticket No 259 - T Davis; 3rd Prize: £20 Ticket No 78 - P Hamer.

**BOWER HOUSE - \*\*NEW SUPPORT PHONE LINE\*\***

**From Monday 4th May we are providing a new service which is available to anyone. Our Support Line will be manned by trained volunteers who will be there to listen to and support you.**

**If you are feeling lonely, anxious, afraid for whatever reason and would like someone to talk to then do ring us on  
(01858) 469257 or 463708  
Monday/Wednesday/Friday - 9am - 4pm**

**MASS INTS. FOR THIS COMING WEEK:** (in no particular order). The Parishioners; Mirek Nowakowski R.I.P.; Dec.d Sawicz and McEvoy family members; Peter Hall R.I.P.; Peggy Guilfoyle R.I.P.; Pat Curran R.I.P.; Personal int.

**OUR MASS READINGS THIS SUNDAY :**

*The 1<sup>st</sup>. Reading* is from the Acts of the Apostles Ch. 8 v. 5 -8 & 14 – 17. We learn about the joy and enthusiasm with which the Samaritans received the Gospel.

*The 2<sup>nd</sup>. Reading* is from the first letter of St. Peter Ch. 3. v. 15 – 18.. Peter encourages Christians to remain steadfast under pressure in their attachment to Christ.

*The Gospel Reading* is from St. John Ch. 14. v. 15 – 21. To love Christ is to listen to his words and to put them into practice in our lives.