

**FOR EASTER SUNDAY: "ALLELUIA: ALLELUIA: ALLELUIA:**  
**The Lord is truly risen. To him be glory and power for all the ages of eternity.**  
**ALLELUIA: ALLELUIA: ALLELUIA:" (Lk. 24.v34)**

**A READING FROM ST. JOHN'S GOSPEL (Ch. 20 v. 1 – 9)**

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb" she said, "and we don't know where they have put him". So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right in to the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloth but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment, they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead. *The Gospel of the Lord.*

**THE EASTER HYMN: ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, GIVE THANKS TO THE RISEN LORD**

***Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,  
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.***

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
He is the King of creation. *Refrain.*

Spread the good news o'er all the earth.  
Jesus has died and has risen. *Refrain.*

We have been crucified with Christ.  
Now we shall live forever. *Refrain.*

God has proclaimed the just reward:  
Life for all men, alleluia! *Refrain.*

Come, let us praise the living God,  
Joyfully sing to our Saviour. *Refrain.*



# Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

12th April 2020  
1st Week of Easter  
Psalter Week 3

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

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

My dear Parishioners,

What a strange week it has been. On Monday night last we were told that our Prime Minister, who was in hospital with Coronavirus, was admitted to intensive care. Whatever our Politics, our thoughts and prayers were being offered for him and for all Coronavirus victims. It truly is an anxious and worrying time for every country, every nation, every person on our planet. It is a time for personal care, for social care, for community care, for medical care of the highest quality, and for spiritual care. It is the spiritual care aspect that I wish to focus on in this letter to you.

Our faith assures us of the power of prayer. Time and time again in the Scriptures, we find Jesus Himself at prayer, and encouraging his followers to pray. Prayer can be very simple or very complicated. Prayer is simply talking, chatting to God, as we talk and chat to those we love. We share our inner thoughts, feelings, anxieties, our dreams, our hopes, our sorrows, our joys, our successes our failures with each other. Prayer is simply sharing those same thoughts, emotions etc. with the Lord Himself, with the assurance of our faith, that He hears us, inspires us, encourages us, and heals us, if not physically, most certainly with a spiritual grace, strength and hope. He did say **"come to me all you who are struggling and I will give you rest"**. And of course, we always have those lovely prayers we learnt at our Mother's knees when we were children, or from our "simple prayer books". And of course we have a wonderful source of prayer in the Scriptures, and especially so in the Gospels themselves. Every word, every phrase, every sentence is a prayer in itself.

This Holy Week for all of us, has been so different from previous years. From the joy of **Holy Thursday night with the Institution of the Eucharist**, and the empowering of his Apostles to do likewise **"in memory of Him"**, to the Cross on the hill of **Calvary on Good Friday**, with the passion, crucifixion and death of our Saviour; through the loneliness and emptiness of Holy Saturday; through the joy, the mystery of **the Risen Christ on Easter Sunday**. Sorrow, betrayal, suffering, crucifixion to Resurrection...hope, loneliness, rejection, ending in triumph, victory, everlasting celebration for us, and to us, every time we celebrate Mass, the re-enactment of the first Holy Week, the means by which, and through which, the **"fruits of our redemption"** are applied to us, and made available for us. What love the Lord has given to us! What a precious gift he has left us in the Mass! How He still lives on for us, with us, and in us. Such love! That is why we say and sing **"Lord, by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world"**.

**FROM FR. OWEN AND THE SISTERS AT THE CONVENT TO ALL OUR PARISH-IONERS.** *May peace, blessing and Easter joy, fill your hearts, your homes and your families, with great hope and expectation, remembering always, that “The Lord is our Shepherd”, and that day and light, always follows the night and darkness.*

*Fr. John in Ghana, sends his Easter greetings, good wishes and prayers to all of us. Like ourselves, they are also in lockdown in Ghana.*

*May God bless you and yours.*

*Be safe. Keep well.*

*Fr. Owen*

**MAY THE LORD HAVE MERCY ON HER SOUL:** I commend to God's mercy and to your prayers, the soul of Yvonne Dowling, who had lived in our Parish for the past 12 years or so. Yvonne died peacefully at Peaker Park, where she had lived for the past 9 months or so. Her nearest family member is her nephew. Yvonne was a regular at the 6.30 p.m. Saturday evening Mass, for as long as she was able. For a number of years, she came on her mobility scooter, and in recent years, shared a taxi with another resident at Marshall Court, where they lived. Yvonne's funeral will be a quiet Cremation service. Later on, when the Coronavirus is under control, and we will have the freedom to worship together again, we will be having a memorial Mass for the happy repose of Yvonne's soul. May she rest in peace.

**CANON JOHN BERRY R.I.P.** Canon John Berry, a priest of our Diocese for over 60 years, has now been called to his eternal reward. A kind, endearing, committed Priest, a gentleman to each and all, John lived a long and happy and fulfilled life, as a priest in our Diocese. He was a gifted Organist and musician. I was in fact, his curate for 6 months, at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Nottingham, a very happy 6 months indeed. I have many lovely memories of John's kindness and care of me. Because of the pandemic, Canon John was unable to have a Church funeral service with Mass and his brother Priests to concelebrate with the Bishop. His body was cremated at Bramcote Crematorium in Nottinghamshire on Tuesday last. Because of the restrictions, only his family members, and our Bishop Patrick, who conducted a short service, were allowed to be present. Our Bishop. did of course, represent all the Priests of the Diocese. There will be a Memorial Mass for him at a later date, when most Priests of the Diocese, will be able to attend and concelebrate. May John now share in the eternal Priesthood of the Risen Lord, in the company of the Angels and Saints in Heaven.

**MY THANKS AND APPRECIATION** to each and everyone of you for your many phone calls, emails, good wishes, concern, and general enquiries about my health and wellbeing. So very grateful to you all – bless you. Yes I'm doing well, trying like everybody else, to do and observe, what has been requested from us, and indeed imposed on us, for the wellbeing of all. However, as I wrote last week, I do find it frustrating, not being able to visit the sick, the elderly and the housebound, and of course the Care Homes. But such is the way for the present, which each one of us has to live by, and respect, for the safety of all of us.

**PRAYERS FOR THE MANY:** As I prepare this week's Newsletter, I am mindful that it is Holy Week. My thoughts are directed towards the Good Friday afternoon solemn Liturgy, with the Reading of the Passion, the Solemn Intercessions, the veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion. Good Friday will have come and gone by the time you read this Newsletter, but I hope you might be able to remember, and say a little prayer of your own, for some of the solemn Intercessions in the liturgy, and the ones I have added on:

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. For the Church.                             | 9. For those in public office.      |
| 2. For the Pope.                               | 10. For those in tribulation.       |
| 3. For all Orders and degrees of the Faithful. | 11. For our own loved ones          |
| 4. For Catechumens.                            | 12 For Churches Together at home.   |
| 5. For the Unity of Christians                 | 13. For Coronavirus victims.        |
| 6. For the Jewish People.                      | 14. For our National Health Service |
| 7. For those who do not believe in Christ.     | 15 For a cure for the Coronavirus.  |
| 8. For those who do not believe in God.        | 16. For each other.                 |

**THE FOLLOWING MASS INTENTIONS** will be fulfilled this week: The Parishioners; Terry Ferguson. R.I.P. (12<sup>th</sup>. anniv.) Bogush and Mirek Nowakowski R.I.P.; Mary Cunningham R.I.P.; Eugene Gatens R.I.P.; Francis Hanlon R.I.P. Deacon Peter Allen R.I.P (b./day mem.)

**A CALL FOR YOUR GOOD WILL AND HELP:** Dear Parishioners, as you are only too well aware, because our Church doors are currently closed, apart from those who contribute by direct debit, there is no income to the Church. I understand and appreciate only too well, the uncertainty of the future for many wage earners, for many families, and for future employment for many of you. I know you will do your best to continue your giving to your Church, for it's ongoing upkeep and maintenance. For those of you who use Weekly Envelopes for your giving, please either pop your envelope through the Presbytery post box (it is secure) if you are passing by this way, or keep them to return, when it might be convenient and safe for you, to do so. I know too that you will do your best to safe your Easter gifts (your Easter Offerings for Fr. Owen) for when, it is possible for you to get them to him, in whatever way, and however you possibly can. Thank you all, for your ongoing support, generosity, encouragement and love, for, and to your Church, to you beautiful gift of faith, and to me personally. Bless you all.

#### **FINITA JAM SUNT PROELIA**

Battle is O'er, hell's armies flee;  
Raise we the cry of victory  
With abounding joy resounding, alleluia.  
Christ, who endured the shameful tree,  
O'er death triumphant welcome we,  
Our adoring praise outpouring, alleluia.  
On third morn from death rose he,  
Clothed with what light in heaven shall be,  
Our unswerving faith deserving, alleluia.

Hells' gloomy gates yield up their key,  
Paradise door thrown open wide we see;  
Never-tiring be our choring, alleluia.  
Lord, by the stripes men laid on thee,  
Grant us to live from death d=et free,  
This our greeting still repeating, alleluia.