



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

26th April 2020
23rd 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 07748591398 / 01858465637
Diocese of Nottingham: Company Number 7151646 Charity Number: 1134449
Registered Address: Wilson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham, NG1 5AW

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

AN ABBREVIATED VERSION OF TO-DAY'S GOSPEL: Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; **but something prevented them from recognising him.** He said to them, "What matters are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped short, their faces downcast

Then he said to them, "You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?" Then starting with Moses, and going through all the prophets, he explained to them all the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. "It is nearly evening" they said "and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were open, and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "**Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?**"

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, "**Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.**" Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of the bread. The Gospel of the Lord.

A TRULY WONDERFUL Gospel story: *as you read that Gospel story, I wonder what your thoughts were ! How did you react? Did you see something, or anything, of your own story in that Gospel. What kind of story would you relate, or could relate to the Lord Himself, if he was to meet you in person right now on your journey? Where would you start? Where would you finish? What is your story? What would you say? What would you tell him?*

Like all Gospel stories and indeed all Scripture passages, they are only meaningful if we can see ourselves in them, if we can apply the central God message, God story, the God guidance, the God call, to our own daily lives. Can we recognise him in His Word, in the Mass, in the Sacraments, in each face we see and meet on the every day journey of life.

*As many of you are now doing, so am I. As advised, many of us are trying to have some daily exercise, and can I say how pleasant it is to meet and greet, so many of you on your daily walk, keeping our social distance from each other. It has certainly given me lots of time to think, to reflect, to recall my own life story from the love and security of my childhood days, growing up on the farm in Co. Tipperary, recognising the Lord himself in the faith and practice of my wonderful parents and siblings, in the local neighbourhood, in the local parish. The Lord himself was a living, visible, tangible presence in our midst. This undoubtedly led me to consider a vocation to the priesthood, to Seminary in 1959, to ordination in June 1965, to the Diocese of Nottingham (my sponsoring Diocese, through the influence of a priest cousin of mine who was in the Diocese, now deceased for many years), to my various appointments in the Diocese over 55 years, to the present. How blessed I have been, to journey with the Lord himself, to meet him in the many wonderful people I have met in my years as a priest, to tell my story, and to say to each and all "**were it not for Jesus Christ, we would never have met!**" **What a story we all have to tell! How privileged we are! Thank you Lord.***

My dear Parishioners,

This will now be my 4th Newsletter to you since the Lockdown. It has been a hard time for all of us, and indeed it looks as if this situation will continue for some more weeks at least. As we are being constantly reminded, "we are all in this together". How very, very true that is. It is for the good and wellbeing of all of us, that we are being asked to observe the regulations imposed on us, during this unprecedented time. None of our generations have ever experienced such restraint, such impositions. But we know too, that we will overcome this Pandemic, that we will be "free" again, to do what we used to do, although we might have to do some in a different way. Many people might be looking at the life style they have enjoyed, for better or for worse. Some aspects might have to be changed. Again, it is obvious that the economy of the country is going to be hit hard. This in itself will demand change for all of us, and the standards of life that might have to be adjusted, or changed completely. Yes, we might have to adjust, we might have to change, but God willing, we will enjoy safety of health in mind, body and spirit. **We will be free!** What a gift that will be once again. For me personally, and I'm sure for many, many people, this Pandemic will be a constant reminder to all of us, to thank God for what we have enjoyed in the past, and to appreciate a little bit more, the wonder, the awe, the joy, the blessing of all that God has given to us, what God has provided for all of us, what God is asking from all of us. Maybe it is a wake up call to all of us to look at our planet, to our standards of living, to adjustment, to change, to be more aware of the needs of others, to care for the poor, to preserve what God has provided for us in the wonder of mother nature.

Again, I am humbled and most grateful for the many, many emails, Tel. calls etc. etc. I have received, enquiring about my own wellbeing. Thank you all so very much. Like so many of you, I am looking forward to the time, and the day, when I can freely move out and about again. I do find the days long, but at least I am healthy and happy, and I thank God for that. I have a good walk most days, a time for prayer, a time for reading, a time for communication, a time for T.V. etc. etc. Just now, as I am typing at my computer, the Radio is on and the speaker being interviewed is called the Reverend Susy, who was a doctor, has now been ordained a priest in the Church of England, but has gone back to work as a Doctor for this period of need. She has just reminded the nation "that we do not walk alone – we are all in this together". How true that reminder is. We are all in this together, and together, we will come through, and overcome this pandemic. We all have a part to play. We all must play that vital part requested, and expected from us.

Continued overleaf....

On Sunday afternoon last, on returning from my walk, I met a Parishioner on Coventry Road, delivering our Newsletter to two of our Parishioners, who do not have access to a computer, or any kind of Technology. I was thrilled to know that those who have that access, are sharing the Newsletter with those who have not. Maybe, there is somebody you know in that situation. So very important to keep all our Parishioners informed, to let them know they are not forgotten, to remind them that although they maybe housebound, or unable to be an active member of the parish for whatever reason, they are still very much a member of our parish, and the Newsletter is a vital reminder to them of that fact. So maybe you can respond, you can make some member happy, important, and still feel a vital member of our parish.

I may have mentioned already that 10 weddings, were booked for this year in our parish. Already 3 have definitely been postponed, 2 are being decided on re. postponement, and the rest are still waiting and hoping, that their wedding can, and will take place on the dates arranged in June, July, August and September.

All the Baptisms arranged for the next few months have now been postponed.

The following reflection sent to me by a Parishioner, will I'm sure help and encourage all of us at this time.

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK: (sent to me by a Parishioner.)

Let nothing disturb, let nothing upset you.

Everything changes, God alone is unchanging.

With patience all things are possible.

Whoever has God lacks nothing. God alone is enough (St. Teresa of Avila)

"To live is to change, and to mature is to have changed often" (St. John H. Newman)

*"People should not worry about what they should do, just about what they should be".
(the late Cardinal Basil Hume)*

WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS: Our sincere congratulations and very best wishes to Robert and Susan Constable Maxwell, as they celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary at this time. Thank you for your inspirational example and dedication to your vocation of marriage, to the sanctity of your commitment, and consecration to God and to each other, over the past 60 years. May God bless you in a special way at this time, and grant you both good health and strength for many more years to come.

FURTHER CONGRATULATIONS and very best wishes to Keith and Rose Williams as they celebrate 40 years of married life and love, at this time. Keith and Rose, God bless you both, have been truly blessed in their married life and love. I know you were hoping to have a Mass of Thanksgiving around this time, and a party with your family and friends. But all that is now on hold for the time being. Thank you Keith and Rose for your inspirational example and witness to your vocation and to the importance and sacredness of family life and friends. All the very best as you now set off on the next "40" years of life and love together.

MASS INTENTIONS: Mass intentions to be fulfilled this week in no particular order:

The Parishioners; Personal Int.; Personal int.; Susan Kelly. R.I.P. (4th. anniv.); Mary Plunkett. R.I.P.; Mary Scott. R.I.P.; Dennis Bennett R.U.I.P. (1st. anniv).

WANTED: WANTED: WANTED: A small group of our Parishioners are very busy indeed making "" **washing bags**" for N.H.S. staff in Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Hospitals, to store their special clothing when they finish their shift on the Ward or in I.C. Their special clothing or uniforms, can then be put straight into the "**washing bags**" and can be put directly into the washing machine, without being mixed or mingled with any other family wash. But they need help. **If you have any unused flat sheets that are spotlessly clean, any pillow cases likewise or duvet covers, they would be most grateful to receive them.** All such items can be dropped off via the car park, at the back door entrance to the Octagonal Hall, underneath the canopy. If you pop them into some kind of bag, they will be promptly picked up from there. Thanking you in anticipation.

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.

S.P.U.C. SAVE INNOCENT LIVES: Friends on 25 April Nottingham SPUC were planning to hold our annual pro life chain on Trent Bridge, between 10am and midday. Because of the lockdown, we will be unable to do this. So we are asking pro lifers to pray instead for an end to abortion from their own homes. The date will be MONDAY 27TH APRIL. This is because 27th is the anniversary of the actual implementation of the Abortion Act (in 1968). Since then there have been over 9 million babies who have lost their lives from this barbaric practice, in the UK alone. Please pray with us for an end to abortion in our community, our country, and our world. We will start praying at 10am and will continue until midday (as we would have done on Trent Bridge). If you cannot pray for two hours, pray for one, or for whatever time you have available. When you start praying please sign on in Whatsapp, so that we can pray as a community - as we would in a church. If there are others who would like to join us, they are welcome to do so. As we did during the Stapleford vigil, let's storm heaven for this great cause of justice for the unborn.

OUR MASS READINGS FOR THIS 3RD. SUNDAY AFTER EASTER:

The first Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles Ch. 2. v. 14, 22 – 28

On the feast of Pentecost, Peter preaches to the Jews about the resurrection of Jesus.

The second Reading is from the 1st. letter of St. Peter Ch.1 v. 17 – 21.

The benefits we enjoy as Christians were won by Christ through the shedding of his blood. Our response should be a life of holiness

The Gospel Reading is from, St. Luke Ch. 24. v. 134 – 35.

The risen Jesus joins two of his disciples on the journey, and shows them that it was by dying that he entered into glory.