

FR CHRIS' THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY

Jesus's words in the gospel are very sobering and seem more appropriate to the end of the church's year when we think about judgement and the last things. But he points to a daily attitude that we need: to be vigilant that is watching and spiritually awake in our lives as he says dressed for action with our lamps lit. The servants do not know when the master is coming. It could be at the first the second or the third watch of the night which is a long night indeed. But not only should he find us vigilant and awake for his coming but also doing what we should be doing: faithful to our employment. This is the sort of vigilance required. That is to say doing the work that we should be doing, our vocation whatever it is - living properly the present situation of our lives. And there is a particular warning that we should not procrastinate. Now is the time not tomorrow and specially to repent of our sins to cease doing wrong - misusing other people and misusing ourselves. But as we all know waiting is difficult and we are waiting for the fullness of Christ to come whether it is the time of death, a moment of grace or indeed the end of the world. We are awaiting the meeting with our master who is the bridegroom. Time can seem to drag on and the expectation can lessen. So how do we remain vigilant and awake with lamps lit, living the present realities properly?

We do this as did so many in the past whether the great figures such as Abraham and Sarah or in the New Testament such as Saint Paul or throughout the ages such as the great Saints, we do this through faith - a living faith. Faith gives life; faith makes us see. For it can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, it proves the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. The presence of God here and now in our lives and the blessings which are to come. Today we have the great example of Abraham. He received many great promises. Of descendants as many as the grains of sand on the seashore and that of the promised land. He listened to the call of God to leave his homeland. Simply put he obeyed that call leaving the past behind for an unknown future humanly speaking. He responded to the call of God and hearing that word of God, receiving it in his whole self, he experienced the inner certainty of the gift of faith. He realised that the promises of descendants and land were a token of the real homeland to come: the real promised land of heaven. This life is a journey where we do not have our final home but are heading for heaven. Faith leads us onwards and upwards to the greater blessings still to come. the faith of Abraham reminds us that indeed at the end of our earthly pilgrimage all of God's promises will be fulfilled. Faith gives us that inner certainty.

So how do we grow in faith? The catechism of the Catholic Church gives us some basic hints. *To live, grow and persevere in the faith until the end we must nourish it with the word of God; we must beg the Lord to increase our faith; it must be "working through charity," abounding in hope, and rooted in the faith of the Church.* (CCC 162). Scripture & prayer as starters that feed our faith. But faith must be alive. A living faith is made so by active love so that faith does not remain an intellectual abstraction but takes flesh in our lives. It is who we are. When we face difficulties we hope against hope as did Abraham in all the trials that he and Sarah faced. Finally faith though being deeply personal is also ecclesial. It is not individualistic but rooted in the faith of the community and that indeed gives an inner certainty. In our gospel today Jesus underlines the importance of our daily tasks. In the words of the founder of Opus Dei: *"The secret to living out the theological virtue of Faith is to see that the here and now is the place and time in which God wants us to meet Him and to serve Him. It is not in the past, which is over. It is not the future, which we can only imagine and so is not real. The person in the state of grace who washes the dishes well, because it is his job, and who offers this work to God for the sake of his neighbour, is living out the virtue of Faith and is prepared to meet Christ."* (St. Jose Maria Escriva)



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

Parish Priest: Fr. Chris O'Connor
Tel: House: 01858 462359
Email: parishpriest@olvic.com
Convent: Presentation Sisters 01858-462432
Parish Website: www.olvic.com
Safeguarding: safeguarding@olvic.com

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: finance@olvic.com
Parish Gift Aid Organiser: giftaid@olvic.com
Parish Pastoral Council Members: see photos on notice board

7th August 2022
19th Week of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 3

Times of Services

Sunday: 19th of Ordinary Time

Sat. 6.00pm: Father Kevin Eastell

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am Mass: Philip Green RIP

Monday: St Dominic

9.00am Mass: Personal Int

Tuesday: St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

10.00am Mass: Christopher Roberts & family

Wednesday: St Lawrence

10.00am Mass: Allen Winter RIP

Thursday: St Clare

10.00am Mass: Personal Int

Friday: Feria

7.00pm Mass: Thomas Murphy RIP (Marshall)

Saturday: Feria

6.00pm Mass: People of the Parish

Sunday: THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

9.00am Mass: Plowright Family RIP

11.00am Mass: William Mochan RIP



*You too must
stand ready.*

CONFESSIONS
11am &
5.15 - 5.45pm
Saturdays

Rosary at 4.30pm - This Week

PLEASE NOTE: Booking is no longer needed for Masses. However, please sanitise as you enter the church and we encourage people to wear masks but please respect those who do not. Please to not come to Mass if you have any symptoms of a viral infection

FR CHRIS WRITES: This week we had the feast of St John Vianney patron of the secular clergy. Please pray for all of us diocesan priests and for vocations to the priesthood. This week we are looking forward to the great feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven which will be celebrated on Sunday. It would be good to pray the rosary as a family in the run up to it. Also have you thought of a day out such as visiting the shrine of Walsingham this summer.

The **OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PEACE, PILGRIMAGE** to Walsingham will resume this year on August Bank Holiday Monday, 29th August 2022. The pilgrimage will be led by Fr Anthony Meredith I C (Institute of Charity otherwise known as the Rosminians) and gather at the Catholic shrine at 1.15pm. See poster.

ST BERNADETTE RELIC TOUR 2022: In September and October this year, the relics of St Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage to England, Scotland, and Wales for the very first time. This very special once in a lifetime event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes, in a church or cathedral near them. The Relics will be in our diocese on:
 • Thursday 6th October, in Saint Bernadette's church, Scunthorpe; 8.00am – 5.00pm.
 • Thursday 6th October – Friday 7th October, in Saint Barnabas Cathedral; 6.30pm (Thursday) – 10.30am (Friday).



FROM PAX CHRISTI: At this time we remember the devastation caused in **Hiroshima and Nagasaki** when the atomic bombs were dropped, on 6 and 9 August 1945, and we pray that nuclear weapons will be abolished so that they can never be used again. In his message, 'A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace', Pope Francis asks, 'How many resources are spent on weaponry, especially nuclear weapons, that could be used for more significant priorities such as ensuring the safety of individuals, the promotion of peace and integral human development, the fight against poverty, and the provision of health care'. In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi. Their website suggests many ways we can all promote peace in our daily lives, including activities for families to do at home, and a 15-minute peace liturgy for young children. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2022/> Donations can be made at <https://tinyurl.com/yxfcw67x>

MARCH FOR LIFE: This year marks the sad milestone of 10 million abortions in the UK since the 1967 Abortion Act. It is more important than ever that all people of goodwill, and especially Catholics, give public witness to the inalienable dignity of human life. We can do so at the annual March for Life held on Saturday 3rd September. Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate Mass at 11.00am in Saint George's Cathedral, Southwark. LifeFest22 is a pro-life, family friendly festival held from 10.30am until 1.30pm at the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street SW1P 3DW. The March itself starts at the Emmanuel Centre at 2.00pm, proceeding to Parliament Square, where there will be testimony and speeches, with the day concluding at 4.30pm. Our witness is vital; please do encourage parishioners to attend this event, or to join in prayer on that day. More information can be found at: <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk>

KEY HOLDERS: We need to establish a list of key holders to Parish Property. I do not have one. Could those who hold keys to the Church Hall or Presbytery let me know what keys they hold. Many thanks

IRELAND PILGRIMAGES REUNION: Thursday 8th September in Lutterworth. 10.30am Parish mass followed by coffee. Catch up and buffet lunch. parking at the church which is right next to father John Joe's house at 28 Bitteswell road, Lutterworth, LE174EY. please tell any former pilgrims who you think might be able to come. Some people may need a lift if you can offer one. See poster in the porch.

CLERGY CHANGES: Further to last week more appointments this summer: **Father David Cain**, as Parish Priest of the parishes of Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Mere Road; and Our Lady of Good Counsel, Rushey Mead. • **Father Roji Kuttivayil MSFS**, as Parish Priest of the parishes of Saint Alban, Chaddesden; and Saint Hugh, Borrowash. From 4th October: • **Father Andrew Harding**, as Parish Priest of the parish of Our Lady of Mercy and Saint Philip Neri, Melbourne with Risen Lord, Castle Donington; continuing as Parish Priest of the parishes of Our Lady of Lourdes, Ashby-de-la-Zouch; and Saint Charles Borromeo, Measham. • **Father Joel Nwalozie**, as Parish Priest of the parishes of Saint Pius X, Narborough; and Our Lady of Victories and Saint Alphonsus, Lutterworth. • **Father Gabriel Ofori**, as Parish Priest of the parish of Holy Cross, Whitwick; continuing as Parish Priest of the parish of Saint Wilfrid of York, Coalville.

THE SOCIETY OF VINCENT de PAUL (SVP) are fundraising to redevelop their camp site and building in Mablethorpe, Lincs. The site provides holidays for up to 200 children from the diocese of Nottingham every summer. If you would like more information on the project or if you would like to donate to this appeal or are able to provide materials or resources for the project please contact Dom Merrison by email at mablethorpe@svp.org.uk.

CATHOLIC VOICES and WORD ON FIRE are hosting a conference called **Sharing the Church's Story**. Join Catholics who are passionate about the renewal of the Church in the UK, and a host of dynamic speakers including Bishop Robert Barron. This conference is for all: volunteers, parents, catechists, clergy, and religious. The Conference is being held on Saturday 17th September, 10.00am – 6.00pm, at Friends House, Euston Road, London; more details at: www.sharingthechurchsstory.com

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY - New admissions 2023: We are delighted to be holding an Open Morning on Friday the 16th of September to welcome parents / guardians and children who are looking for school places for August 2023. Please come along to see our wonderful school.
 Refreshments 9 - 9:30am, Welcome from Mrs. Dabbs, Headteacher 9:30, Tours of school 9:45 - 11am
 No bookings are necessary; please contact Mrs Liddle at the school office if you have any questions or would like to arrange an alternative time. 01858 465359
office@stjosephs.leics.sch.uk

		Sat. 6.00 pm	Sunday, 9.00 am	11.00 a.m.
Readers	6/7 August	J. Rowland	D. Chappell	R van der Liet
	13/14 August	M. Mihovilovic	M. Crook	C. Sellechia

FR CHRIS' THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY: A great Sign appeared in the heavens; a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. These words concerning a great mystery of faith were written by the apostle St John the beloved disciple and who took Mary into his home. These words touch on the mystery of Mary and the mystery indeed of the church for the woman is both Mary and the Church. We were taught by the 2nd Vatican council: "the Mother of Jesus in the glory which she possesses in body and soul in heaven is the image and the beginning of the church as it is to be perfected in the world to come. **Likewise, she shines forth on earth, until the day of the Lord shall come**" (no. 68). The Book of Revelation presents a vision of the struggle between the woman and the dragon. The woman represents the church that is us as both glorious and triumphant but also still struggling, in travail. We are both with the Lord in his glory in heaven but in history we continue to live through the difficulties trials and challenges of the battle between good and evil between God and the devil who seeks to attack the children of God. This is a very real struggle for all Christian disciples. However, Mary does not leave us alone in this; she is mother of Christ and our mother and is always with us. She walks with us and is with us as like St John we take her into our home - into our life. Mary is of course in glory body and soul in heaven experiencing the resurrection already, but this does not mean she is distant or far from us. Rather as we know through history Mary accompanies us and sustains us in our fight against the powers of evil against indeed the temptation to sin through her intercession. We draw close to Mary through the prayer of the rosary which should form part of our everyday prayer. It sustains us in the battle against the evil through her motherly intercession and because she teaches us the mysteries of Christ's life death and resurrection and glory in heaven.

Saint Paul writing to the Corinthians presents the central truth of the Christian faith that Jesus is risen the first born from the dead. He is the first fruit of a great harvest to come. We are destined to share in his resurrection as we belong to him through faith. But as in that expression "in their proper order", Mary stands as the first in that order. For she who gave life to her Son and followed him in faith throughout her life with all her heart and soul in her entire being was taken body and soul after her death into heaven to experience immediately the fullness of salvation. This was indeed fitting and proper for one who was so close to Jesus. She stood by him experiencing the martyrdom of the cross and her body and soul. She fully lived the passion of her son was united in his death indeed consented to that death and so was given the gift of resurrection. Christ is the first fruit from the dead and Mary is the first of the redeemed. She is the first disciple. Thus she stands as the first Christian disciple our representative, our sister indeed we could say our eldest sister.

And so we can say she shines in the heaven as the great sign of hope for all of us. That sign of hope for us who are struggling between life and death, Good and evil in the Church and world. She is the sign of the victory of God's grace in each of us. The revelation of the Church no longer stained by sin. She reveals the true nature of the Church. Thus we can rejoice with Mary and that's great hymn of praise which she sings ever and again in heaven to the wonder of all the angels and Saints. It is the hymn that the church sings every evening: the Magnificat. As Pope Francis says: *it is the song of hope, it is the song of the People of God walking through history. It is the song many saints, men and women, some famous, and very many others unknown to us but known to God: mums, dads, catechists, missionaries, priests, sisters, young people, even children and grandparents: these have faced the struggle of life while carrying in their heart the hope of the little and the humble. And there is the key to Mary's greatness: her humility. Those who know they have nothing, that all comes from God. Those who are Poor, lowly, hungry, who fear God, have a space for God because they know they need God. The proud the rich the self-sufficient have no need of God. the humble had great power because they are humble. On this great feast day perhaps we may ask ourselves how is my humility. What space indeed what emptiness have I in my heart that God can fill?*



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

Parish Priest: Fr. Chris O'Connor
Tel: House: 01858 462359
Email: parishpriest@olvic.com
Convent: Presentation Sisters 01858-462432
Parish Website: www.olvic.com
Safeguarding: safeguarding@olvic.com

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: finance@olvic.com
Parish Gift Aid Organiser: giftaid@olvic.com
Parish Pastoral Council Members: see photos on notice board

14th August 2022
20th Week of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 4

Times of Services

Sunday: THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Sat. 6.00pm: People of the Parish
9.00am Mass: Plowright Family RIP
11.00am Mass: William Mochan RIP
4.30pm Rosary

Monday: Feria

9.00am Mass: Kurian Joseph RIP

Tuesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Shaun Brook RIP (Hall)

Wednesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Devlin & Biddle family

Thursday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Tony Dolby RIP Birthday

Friday: Feria

7.00pm Mass: Toby Patten RIP (Gilligan)

Saturday: St Bernard

6.00pm Mass: Clive Blencowe RIP (Angela)

Sunday: 21st of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: Gurmen Sari RIP (Agatha)
11.00am Mass: People of the Parish



*The Almighty has done
great things for me, he
has exalted the lowly.*

CONFESSIONS

11am &
5.15 - 5.45pm
Saturdays

PLEASE NOTE: Booking is no longer needed for Masses. However, please sanitise as you enter the church and we encourage people to wear masks but please respect those who do not. Please to not come to Mass if you have any symptoms of a viral infection

FR CHRIS WRITES: : We celebrate the wonderful feast of the Assumption this weekend in which we thank God for the Gift of Mary and draw hope from her full redemption body and soul as she has followed her Son into glory. She is a sign of hope for us that we will enjoy the fulness of redemption in body and soul at the resurrection of the dead and also, she exercises by will of her Son as special role as Intercessor for all of us. In the image we see the light of Christ shine through her maternal heart for her children. Let us all pray a family Rosary for Church and for peace and family life.
Please pray for Michael Everitt who died . His funeral will be on Wed 24th August 2.00pm

The **OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PEACE, PILGRIMAGE** to Walsingham will resume this year on August Bank Holiday Monday, 29th August 2022. The pilgrimage will be led by Fr Anthony Meredith I C (Institute of Charity otherwise known as the Rosminians) and gather at the Catholic shrine at 1.15pm. See poster.

STEP INTO THE GAP is a fully funded year of volunteering with CAFOD in a UK placement with immersive and interactive experiences, developing leadership skills while learning about global justice and inspiring others to use their faith in action. CAFOD's **Step into the Gap** program offers young people a chance the volunteer with CAFOD for a year, in our diocese, and based at The Briars. There is still a vacancy for this opportunity in 2022-23, and applications are open.cf Further information from Will Cruddace – 07710 094455. To find out more go to: youngleader-ship@cafod.org.uk; www.cafod.org.uk/gapyear

RETRouvILLE: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 13 - 16 October or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 24 - 26 February 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

MARCH FOR LIFE: This year marks the sad milestone of 10 million abortions in the UK since the 1967 Abortion Act. It is more important than ever that all people of goodwill, and especially Catholics, give public witness to the inalienable dignity of human life. We can do so at the annual March for Life held on Saturday 3rd September. Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate Mass at 11.00am in Saint George's Cathedral, Southwark, LifeFest22 is a pro-life, family friendly festival held from 10.30am until 1.30pm at the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street SW1P 3DW. The March itself starts at the Emmanuel Centre at 2.00pm, proceeding to Parliament Square, where there will be testimony and speeches, with the day concluding at 4.30pm. Our witness is vital; please do encourage parishioners to attend this event, or to join in prayer on that day. More information can be found at: <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk>



Victory Prize Draw Winners August: 1st Prize £70 J Rowland ticket number 73; 2nd Prize £30 S McGlone ticket number 177; 3rd Prize £20 J Nowakoski ticket number 126

IRELAND PILGRIMAGES REUNION: Thursday 8th September in Lutterworth. 10.30am Parish mass followed by coffee. Catch up and buffet lunch. parking at the church which is right next to father John Joe's house at 28 Bitteswell road, Lutterworth, LE174EY. please tell any former pilgrims who you think might be able to come. Some people may need a lift if you can offer one. She poster in the porch.

PARISH CHANGES: The Bishop has also created **several New parishes** which are formed from the joining together of other Parishes: **Parish of Most Blessed Sacrament and Saint Peter**, West Leicester, taking in the former parishes of Most Blessed Sacrament, Gooding Avenue; and Saint Peter, Hinckley Road; with effect from 8th September 2022. Fr John Cahill will be parish priest. **Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Charles Borromeo, Ashby-de-la-Zouch**, taking in the former parishes of Our Lady of Lourdes, Ashby-de-la-Zouch; and Saint Charles Borromeo, Measham. Fr Andrew Harding will be PP. **Parish of Saint Mary and Saint Augustine Webster**, North Lincolnshire, taking in Saint Augustine Webster, Barton-upon-Humber; and Saint Mary, Brigg; with effect from 8th September 2022. Father Michael Gilligan will be parish priest of this new parish, Also sadly a few Churches are being closed: **Church of Saint Bernadette, Bolsover** and **Church of Saint George, Rainworth**, Please pray for them.

KEY HOLDERS: We need to establish a list of key holders to Parish Property. I do not have one. Could those who hold keys to the Church Hall or Presbytery let me know what keys they hold. Many thanks

CATHOLIC VOICES and WORD ON FIRE are hosting a conference called **Sharing the Church's Story**. Join Catholics who are passionate about the renewal of the Church in the UK, and a host of dynamic speakers including Bishop Robert Barron. This conference is for all: volunteers, parents, catechists, clergy, and religious. The Conference is being held on Saturday 17th September, 10.00am – 6.00pm, at Friends House, Euston Road, London; more details at: www.sharingthechurchsstory.com

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY - New admissions 2023: We are delighted to be holding an Open Morning on Friday the 16th of September to welcome parents / guardians and children who are looking for school places for August 2023. Please come along to see our wonderful school.
Refreshments 9 - 9:30am, Welcome from Mrs. Dabbs, Headteacher 9:30, Tours of school 9:45 - 11am
No bookings are necessary; please contact Mrs Liddle at the school office if you have any questions or would like to arrange an alternative time. 01858 465359
office@stjosephs.leics.sch.uk

		Sat. 6.00 pm	Sunday, 9.00 am	11.00 a.m.
Readers	13/14 August	M. Mihovilovic	M. Crook	C. Sellechia
	20/21 August	N. Williamson	P. Green	R. Lewin

		Sat. 6.00 pm	Sunday, 9.00 am	11.00 a.m.
Readers	20/21 August	N. Williamson	P. Green	R. Lewin
	27/28 August	M. Atkins	T. Snell	B. Tyrrell

FR CHRIS' THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY: *A great Sign appeared in the heavens; a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on Jesus is continuing along the road to Jerusalem and some lucky man has the chance to ask him a question. I wonder what we would ask him, what would be a good question? This man is concerned about salvation how many will be saved or will only a few be saved? It is not a silly question. Indeed, there is a somewhat heated debate amongst some Catholic thinkers about this. Are there people in hell how many if any? Jesus does not answer the man's question and he would not answer our question about hell. Really, it's none of our business. CS Lewis in the Narnia books writes about this when Aslan the lion who in some way represents Christ will never tell one person about another person's story. Rather what should concern us our own choices and decisions and what we make of life. Jesus' answer is: "Strive to enter the narrow gate!" We should not worry about abstract questions like the exact number or percentage of people who will end up being saved which will not help us but rather our concern should be for our own salvation because indeed that road that path is not easy. It is narrow. It is the road that Christ takes the road of sacrificial love that takes us to Jerusalem. It is a faith made alive by Charity.*

The narrow gate is not something complicated but rather we must respond to the very simple call of Jesus throughout the gospel: repent and believe the good news, deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Jesus. It is a call which implies a choice yes or no: to live his teaching as in the Sermon of the Mount to take his words seriously. This is the narrow gate as it implies rejecting many things which are incompatible with the Gospel. Each choice involves the narrow door of personal responsibility every day. We cannot just slip in with the crowd passively and unnoticed as in the great gates of Jerusalem doing what everyone else does. We know what we should be doing, our conscience tells us. The easier way of going with the flow of the crowd will not save us. Still less should we presume. Jesus warns his listeners who might say that they ate and drank in his company and hears his teaching when the moment of judgement comes. They will find themselves cast out because they did nothing about it. They did not repent. These words speak to us Christians who in the Eucharist eat and drink with him. We hear his teachings in the scripture, we are familiar with him. But that is not enough we have to take his words seriously not only hear them but do them. And the shock is there will be many at the heavenly banquet who might surprise us totally when we find ourselves outside. The words of Jesus are strong and urgent as he said throughout his ministry: **now is the time**. Mere faith in Jesus and membership in His Church by Baptism cannot guarantee salvation. We must persevere in Charity.

The "narrow road" or "narrow gate" concerns our everyday living—our relationships with God and with one another as in the Sermon of the Mount. To enter the narrow gate involves being with the blessed ones (poor, peacemakers, persecuted, etc), being salt and light consistently, following Jesus' radical way about anger, lust, divorce, truth-telling, choosing mercy over revenge, loving enemies. It involves pursuing the Kingdom and God's justice instead of fame and fortune; and it involves not condemning others. It involves repentance, obedience, humility, righteousness, truth and discipleship. All this through grace. It is through the grace of Christ that we can live out God's Life in us — a grace that is fortified every time we participate in the Holy Eucharist, are reconciled with God in Confession, and meditate on His Word.

Venerable Bishop Fulton J. Sheen says that we will have three surprises in Heaven: 1) There will be many there whom we never expected; b) there will be many absent whom we expected to see; and c) we will be surprised to find that we ourselves have got in!



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

21st August 2022
21st Week of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 1

Parish Priest: Fr. Chris O'Connor
Tel: House: 01858 462359
Email: parishpriest@olvic.com
Convent: Presentation Sisters 01858-462432
Parish Website: www.olvic.com
Safeguarding: safeguarding@olvic.com

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: finance@olvic.com
Parish Gift Aid Organiser: giftaid@olvic.com
Parish Pastoral Council Members: see photos on notice board

Times of Services

Sunday: 21st of Ordinary Time

Sat. 6.00pm: Clive Blencowe RIP (Angela)
9.00am Mass: Gurmen Sari RIP (Agatha)
11.00am Mass: People of the Parish

Monday: The Queenship of Mary

9.00am Mass: Personal Int

Tuesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Anne Hill RIP (Wallace)

Wednesday: ST BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE

10.00am Mass: Personal Int
2.00pm Funeral Michael Everitt RIP

Thursday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Anne Hill RIP (Masding) with our school staff

Friday: Feria

7.00pm Mass: Clive Blencowe RIP (Angela)

Saturday: St Monica

6.00pm Mass: Boswell Family

Sunday: 22nd of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: Mary Lai (Sari)
11.00am Mass: People of the Parish



*Men from east and west
will come to take their
places at the feast in the
Kingdom of God.*

CONFESSIONS
11am &
5.15 -5.45pm
Saturdays

Rosary at 4.30pm

This Sunday in front of Our Lady's statue outside the Church

PLEASE NOTE: Booking is no longer needed for Masses. However, please sanitise as you enter the church and we encourage people to wear masks but please respect those who do not. Please to not come to Mass if

A RUMMAGE SALE will take place in the octagonal hall on **Saturday 3rd of September 9.00am – 12 noon**. Good as New items, bric-a-brac, tea and coffee, cakes, raffle. All welcome. please bring items for Sale by Friday prior two sale



EVENTS FOR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE DIOCESE: Following the great successes of the men's and women's Lenten retreats, and the desire for distinct events focused on fraternity and sorority support in faith, the Diocese of Nottingham has organised events this October for men and women. On **Saturday 8th October** our men's ministry team has organised a walking pilgrimage to the Shrine of Saint Joseph in the Peak District for Men (total 5 mile walk) followed by a pub lunch. On **Saturday 29th October** our women's ministry team will host a talk and discussion at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Bulwell (Nottingham) on the role of Women Leadership in the Church, followed by Afternoon Tea. For more information and to book a place visit www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events, call 0115 953 9841, or email adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk

The **OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PEACE, PILGRIMAGE** to Walsingham will resume this year on August Bank Holiday Monday, 29th August 2022. The pilgrimage will be led by Fr Anthony Meredith I C (Institute of Charity otherwise known as the Rosminians) and gather at the Catholic shrine at 1.15pm. See poster.

STEP INTO THE GAP is a fully funded year of volunteering with CAFOD in a UK placement with immersive and interactive experiences, developing leadership skills while learning about global justice and inspiring others to use their faith in action. CAFOD's **Step into the Gap** program offers young people a chance the volunteer with CAFOD for a year, in our diocese, and based at The Briars. There is still a vacancy for this opportunity in 2022-23, and applications are open. Further information from Will Cruddace – 07710 094455. To find out more go to: youngleader-ship@cafod.org.uk; www.cafod.org.uk/gapyear

RETRouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 13 - 16 October or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 24 - 26 February 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk



IRELAND PILGRIMAGES REUNION: Thursday 8th September in Lutterworth. 10.30am Parish mass followed by coffee. Catch up and buffet lunch. parking at the church which is right next to father John Joe's house at 28 Bitteswell road, Lutterworth, LE17 4EY. please tell any former pilgrims who you think might be able to come. Some people may need a lift if you can offer one. See poster in the porch.

MARCH FOR LIFE: This year marks the sad milestone of 10 million abortions in the UK since the 1967 Abortion Act. It is more important than ever that all people of goodwill, and especially Catholics, give public witness to the inalienable dignity of human life. We can do so at the annual March for Life held on Saturday 3rd September. Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate Mass at 11.00am in Saint George's Cathedral, Southwark, LifeFest22 is a pro-life, family friendly festival held from 10.30am until 1.30pm at the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street SW1P 3DW. The March itself starts at the Emmanuel Centre at 2.00pm, proceeding to Parliament Square, where there will be testimony and speeches, with the day concluding at 4.30pm. Our witness is vital; please do encourage parishioners to attend this event, or to join in prayer on that day. More information can be found at: <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk>

KEY HOLDERTS: We need to establish a list of key holders to Parish Property. I do not have one. Could those who hold keys to the Church Hall or Presbytery let me know what keys they hold. Many thanks

CATHOLIC VOICES and WORD ON FIRE are hosting a conference called **Sharing the Church's Story**. Join Catholics who are passionate about the renewal of the Church in the UK, and a host of dynamic speakers including Bishop Robert Barron. This conference is for all: volunteers, parents, catechists, clergy, and religious. The Conference is being held on Saturday 17th September, 10.00am – 6.00pm, at Friends House, Euston Road, London; more details at: www.sharingthechurchsstory.com

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY - New admissions 2023: We are delighted to be holding an Open Morning on Friday the 16th of September to welcome parents / guardians and children who are looking for school places for August 2023. Please come along to see our wonderful school.

Refreshments 9 - 9:30am, Welcome from Mrs. Dabbs, Headteacher 9:30, Tours of school 9:45 - 11am

No bookings are necessary; please contact Mrs Liddle at the school office if you have any questions or would like to arrange an alternative time. 01858 465359

office@stjosephs.leics.sch.uk

ST BERNADETTE RELIC TOUR 2022: In September and October this year the relics of St Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage to England, Scotland, and Wales for the very first time. This very special once in a lifetime event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes, in a church or cathedral near them. The Relics will be in our diocese on: • Thursday 6th October, in Saint Bernadette's church, Scunthorpe; 8.00am – 5.00pm. • Thursday 6th October – Friday 7th October, in Saint Barnabas Cathedral; 6.30pm (Thursday) – 10.30am (Friday). A preview of the Relics Tour can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFRMlvD9Ail>, and booking to visit the relics can be made via the link here: <https://stbernadette.org.uk> Do consider coming to this unique spiritual event, giving thanks to God for the miracles of Lourdes, and praying for healing in so many ways in our own lives and in our world.



FR CHRIS' THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

I find myself moved by the passage of the letter to the Hebrews which begins with the words, *What you have come to is nothing known to the senses*. The author is describing the reality of the Christian community of the new covenant. He seeks to encourage Christian community towards the end of the 1st century as they are suffering from persecution both from the Jews and the Romans. They are somewhat battered under pressure and mostly Jewish Christians. Perhaps they are missing the visibility and status that they had as Jews with the synagogues and of course the temple. But what they have come to what they have been given is far greater even though it is not something according to the senses. Certainly, the old covenant was something that had all sorts of glorious manifestations. It was given on Sinai to Moses where great signs of fire, storm, darkness and trumpet and voice such that they begged that God would speak to them no more. It was too much. They sent Moses as their representative and would not and could not approach the mountain. One could characterise the covenant by fear of God and of course the curses and punishment that awaited failure. The experience of Temple worship must have been awesome. The letter to the Hebrews tells us that the new covenant is something much greater even though it's surrounded by none of these great wonders. At the time they are living as small hidden communities celebrating their prayer in hidden houses. The great liturgies of the Temple are far distant. The author of the letter is saying what they have is far greater in the new Covenant than the old. The covenant is sealed with the blood of Christ which has healed the rift caused by sin which the covenant of Moses could not do with all its temple sacrifices with the blood of so many animals offered. The blood of Christ overcomes the cry of the blood of Abel which was spilt by Cain. It heals the rift with God and brings us into communion with him so much so that we are all first born sons and citizens of heaven. That is the great dignity that we have. Despite the outward conditions of these primitive communities which were often hidden suffering all sorts of oppression. They were in fact as members of the Church present at Mount Zion the new and heavenly Jerusalem. All of them whether Jew or Gentile rich or poor. This was not outwardly visible, but it was true nonetheless and is true for us. We all gather for the festival or feast with the angels and saints at Mount Zion. This is of course the Mass where all are invited to receive the blood of Christ which pours forth for us mercy and not condemnation as did the blood of Abel. In celebrating the Mass, we are joining the angels and Saints who themselves join with Christ who is offering his Sacrifice once and for all in the presence of the Father. At our Mass we are able to experience the priesthood of Christ who cleanses of sin and unites us to him in Holy Communion. Even though we are living our lives amidst the tribulations of this earthly life we are in communion with Christ and the Church in glory. This is something that cannot be perceived by the senses only by faith. Such is our humble worship. Our Mass. Now it is of course wonderful to experience a great liturgy but the great choir and singing and wonderful vestments. It is something I love and loved as a child especially at school which created an atmosphere of great awe. We may have experienced such things. There have been great celebrations at the cathedral such as the chrism mass or an ordination. We have had great papal Liturgies in Rome. However, what we're saying is as true when Mass is celebrated at the bedside of a dying person or in a concentration camp in Germany of Vietnam or on the back of lorry during war. When we come to mass, we come to the city of the living God wherever and however it is celebrated. We come to that city whoever we are poor or rich gentle or Jew, Sinner or Saint. We encounter Christ under the simplest and humblest of signs of bread and wine which through the power of the Holy Spirit bring us to heaven. This is the very humility of God such that we need not be afraid as were the Israelites at Sinai but rather we are invited to draw close to Christ.



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

Parish Priest: Fr. Chris O'Connor
Tel: House: 01858 462359
Email: parishpriest@olvic.com
Convent: Presentation Sisters 01858-462432
Parish Website: www.olvic.com
Safeguarding: safeguarding@olvic.com

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: finance@olvic.com
Parish Gift Aid Organiser: giftaid@olvic.com
Parish Pastoral Council Members: see photos on notice board

28th August 2022
22nd Week of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 2

Times of Services

Sunday: 22nd of Ordinary Time

Sat. 6.00pm: Boswell Family
9.00am Mass: Mary Lai (Sari)
11.00am Mass: People of the Parish
4.30pm Rosary outside the Church

Monday: The Passion of St John the Baptist

10.00am Mass: Private Intention

Tuesday: THE DEDICATION OF OUR CATHEDRAL

10.00am Mass: Anne Hill RIP (Lowe)

Wednesday: Feria

7.00pm Mass: Betty Crosse RIP (Sisters)

Thursday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Doris & Stanley Wood RIP

Friday: Feria

7.00pm Mass: Rani & Simon Wedding anniv

Saturday: ST GREGORY THE GREAT

6.00pm Mass: Phil Danks RIP (Mary)

Sunday: 23rd of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish
11.00am Mass: Baby William & Mochan Family (Sisters)



*Everyone who exalts himself
will be humbled, and the
man who humbled himself
will be exalted.*

CONFESSIONS

11am &
5.15 - 5.45pm
Saturdays

PLEASE NOTE: Booking is no longer needed for Masses. However, please sanitise as you enter the church and we encourage people to wear masks but please respect those who do not. Please to not come to Mass if you have any symptoms of a viral infection

FR CHRIS WRITE: Our school goes into full swing on Tuesday although the children were in briefly on Friday and the Staff have been preparing last week with INSET days. Please pray for St Joseph's. also please pray for the Pope and the Cardinals who meet this weekend with many new cardinals meeting each other for the first time. They will of course elect a future Pope and help the Holy father with their counsel.

We welcome this week Revds Vicki and Phil Bryson as the new Team Vicars with responsibility for St Dionysius Church. Their service of welcome will be on Thursday 1st September at 7pm.

A RUMMAGE SALE will take place in the octagonal hall on **Saturday 3rd of September 9.00am – 12 noon**. Good as New items, bric-a-brac, tea and coffee, cakes, raffle. All welcome. please bring items for Sale by Friday prior two sale



EVENTS FOR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE DIOCESE: Following the great successes of the men's and women's Lenten retreats, and the desire for distinct events focused on fraternity and sorority support in faith, the Diocese of Nottingham has organised events this October for men and women. On **Saturday 8th October** our men's ministry team has organised a walking pilgrimage to the Shrine of Saint Joseph in the Peak District for Men (total 5 mile walk) followed by a pub lunch. On **Saturday 29th October** our women's ministry team will host a talk and discussion at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Bulwell (Nottingham) on the role of Women Leadership in the Church, followed by Afternoon Tea. For more information and to book a place visit www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events, call 0115 953 9841, or email adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk

STEP INTO THE GAP is a fully funded year of volunteering with CAFOD in a UK placement with immersive and interactive experiences, developing leadership skills while learning about global justice and inspiring others to use their faith in action. CAFOD's **Step into the Gap** program offers young people a chance the volunteer with CAFOD for a year, in our diocese, and based at The Briars. There is still a vacancy for this opportunity in 2022-23, and applications are open.cf Further information from Will Cruddace – 07710 094455. To find out more go to: youngleader-ship@cafod.org.uk; www.cafod.org.uk/gapyear

RETRouvILLE: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 13 - 16 October or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 24 - 26 February 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk



Please pray for Tony Burke who died on 14th Agust. His funeral will take place on Friday 9th September at 2.15pm

MARCH FOR LIFE: This year marks the sad milestone of 10 million abortions in the UK since the 1967 Abortion Act. It is more important than ever that all people of goodwill, and especially Catholics, give public witness to the inalienable dignity of human life. We can do so at the annual March for Life held on Saturday 3rd September. Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate Mass at 11.00am in Saint George's Cathedral, Southwark, LifeFest22 is a pro-life, family friendly festival held from 10.30am until 1.30pm at the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street SW1P 3DW. The March itself starts at the Emmanuel Centre at 2.00pm, proceeding to Parliament Square, where there will be testimony and speeches, with the day concluding at 4.30pm. Our witness is vital; please do encourage parishioners to attend this event, or to join in prayer on that day. More information can be found at: <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk>

IRELAND PILGRIMAGES REUNION: Thursday 8th September in Lutterworth.10.30am Parish mass followed by coffee. Catch up and buffet lunch. parking at the church which is right next to father John Joe's house at 28 Bitteswell road, Lutterworth, LE17 4EY. please tell any former pilgrims who you think might be able to come. Some people may need a lift if you can offer one. See poster in the porch.

CATHOLIC VOICES and WORD ON FIRE are hosting a conference called **Sharing the Church's Story**. Join Catholics who are passionate about the renewal of the Church in the UK, and a host of dynamic speakers including Bishop Robert Barron. This conference is for all: volunteers, parents, catechists, clergy, and religious. The Conference is being held on Saturday 17th September, 10.00am – 6.00pm, at Friends House, Euston Road, London; more details at: www.sharingthechurchsstory.com

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY - New admissions 2023: We are delighted to be holding an Open Morning on Friday the 16th of September to welcome parents / guardians and children who are looking for school places for August 2023. Please come along to see our wonderful school. Refreshments 9 - 9:30am, Welcome from Mrs. Dabbs, Headteacher 9:30, Tours of school 9:45 - 11am. No bookings are necessary; please contact Mrs Liddle at the school office if you have any questions or would like to arrange an alternative time. 01858 465359 office@stjosephs.leics.sch.uk

The Market Harborough Educational Trust would like to thank everyone who supported the latest lunch at Marston Trussell Hall. We raised £3428.80. All Monies go towards our school, St. Joseph's with different projects. This year's project is to create a forest school area for the children to experience learning in the outdoor environment. Once again thank you.

KEY HOLDERS: We need to establish a list of key holders to Parish Property. I do not have one. Could those who hold keys to the Church Hall or Presbytery let me know what keys they hold. Many thanks

		Sat. 6.00 pm	Sunday, 9.00 am	11.00 a.m.
Readers	27/28 August	M. Atkins	T. Snell	B. Tyrrell
	3/4 September	J. Rowland	C. Goddard	K. Lilley