

'SYNOD AND SYNODALITY' on **Wednesday 6th December**. Caritas Leicester and Leicestershire invite all who are interested to Saint Wilfrid of York in Coalville (LE67 3JB) for an evening of reflection and discussion on the Synod and Synodality. Facilitated by Father Jonathan Cotton, it is a chance to talk about the Synod on Synodality and what it means for us. The evening will last from 7.00pm until 9.00pm.

Calling all young people, families and friends to join **LACY (Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth)** at St. Thomas More Church, 75 Knighton Road, Leicester, LE2 3HN for an afternoon of craft and liturgy, on **Sunday 10th December 2023** creating cards with Christmas messages to be distributed to the sick and housebound, both at home and in hospital. Help us to pass on the Christmas message of hope, love and peace. Our afternoon begins at 3.00 p.m. and ends with a short liturgy at 4.30 p.m. The LACY team will be joined by one of the Chaplains from the Leicester Hospitals, Ed Pike, and your presence will make the afternoon very special. Christmas treats, mince pies and drinks will be served in the hall during the afternoon. **We're looking forward to seeing YOU!** More information if required from Pauline Payne – Tel: 07885 187374 or e mail joshearer@hotmail.com paulinepayne@hotmail.com.

The local Prison Fellowship group will be running the **ANGEL TREE PROJECT** this year at **HMP Gartree and Five Wells Prison in Wellingborough** and would like your help. The purpose of this project is to purchase Christmas presents for children of some of the prisoners. The gifts will be sent to the children as from their dad's. The value of each gift will be approx £15. The aim is to alleviate some of the sadness experienced by prisoners and their families at Christmas time. Angel Tree provides a crucial link between innocent children and their imprisoned father. If you would like to help with this project, either with a **monetary donation or a suitable gift** you will be given a gift tag with the first name, age and gender of the child. **The gift can be wrapped by yourself in Christmas paper** if you wish, but we do need to have a photo of the gift for security reasons otherwise a member of Prison Fellowship will wrap the gift. A handwritten gift tag from their dad will be attached to make it extra special. **All presents will be posted so please keep them light.** Local bank account details: Prison Fellowship (Gartree Angel Tree) Sort code: 40 32 04 Account: 91564005 For your donation to be **Gift Aided** contact info@prisonfellowship.org.uk Thank you for your kindness this is very much appreciated by prisoners, their families, staff and chaplaincy. Maureen Douglas, Angel Tree Co-ordinator 43 Gardiner St, Market Harborough, LE16 9QN Tel 07966 515115 maureen.e.douglas@btinternet.com

FINANCE	26/11/23	READERS		
Envelopes	£289.53	Sat. 6.00pm	Sunday	10.00am
Loose	£258.72	2/3 Dec	C. Baldam	R. van der Liet
Standing Order	----			C. Sellechia
Total	£548.25	9/10 Dec	M. Mihovilovic	J. Thayaseelan
				P. Green



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

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent

6.00pm Mass: In Thanks and Prayers for God's Blessing

10.00am Mass: People of the Parish

Coffee after Mass

3.30pm: Rosary

Monday: Advent Feria

9.00am: November Dead List

Tuesday: Advent Feria

11.00am Mass: Funeral of Catherine Ford

Wednesday: Advent Feria

10.00am Mass: Sister Carmel Ruane RIP

School joining us for Mass

2.00pm: School Nativity (Foundation)

Thursday: St Ambrose

9.45am: Rosary

10.00am Mass: John Wagstaff RIP (Maureen & Christine)

Coffee after Mass

2.00pm: School Nativity (Foundation)

No Holy Hour (Chapter meeting)

Friday: THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

6.30pm: Pro-life Holy Hour

7.00pm Mass: Martin Joe Murphy (Brooks family)

Saturday: Advent Feria

6.00pm Mass: Jim McCabe RIP (Joan)

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

10.00am Mass: People of the Parish

3.00pm: Parish Carol Service by the Catenians



*Stay awake!
You never know
when the Lord will
come.*

CONFESIONS

11.00am

5.15pm



FR CHRIS WRITES: We begin Advent this weekend and indeed the Church's Year. Advent is a time of hope and expectation and above all encounter with Christ. Advent is a spiritual season to grow closer to Christ and prepare for his coming to us in a new or deeper way. The words of John the Baptist ring true for this time: *prepare away for the Lord. Can we make space and time for him in these coming weeks? See the resources in this Newsletter.*

Also the Weekly Rosary Group meets every Sunday 3.30-4.00pm outside in front of the statue of Our Lady praying especially for Peace & Reconciliation in Society. Contact Maureen Douglas

The funeral of **CATHERINE FORD** from Evington in Leicester will take place on Tuesday 5th of December 11:00am. May she rest in peace.

WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS for adults and also children's booklets & calendars are available at church. They have a meditation for each day based on the readings for Mass each day including the Christmas period. They are a great resource to help us pray in this special season.

Also From the start of December **CAFOD** is sharing **daily Bible reflections**, stories of our global family, prayers and practical ideas for action, as we create a space to prepare for the coming of Christ. This **online Advent calendar** of daily prayer and reflection will offer an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. To sign-up for the Calendar, visit: <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-calendar>

A REFLECTION FROM POPE FRANCIS FOR THE YEAR OF PRAYER: The world is divided in two: those people who do not give thanks and those who do; those who take everything as if it is owed them, and those who welcome everything as a gift, as grace. The prayer of thanksgiving always begins from here: from the recognition that grace precedes us. A prayer sheet is available.

THIS FRIDAY: A Half Hour for Life on Friday 8th December (The Feast of the Immaculate Conception with exposition from 6.30 -7pm followed by Holy Mass at 7.00pm. An Opportunity to meet Our Lord and pray for the respect for human life from its beginning to its natural end!



Our Parish **CAROL SERVICE** organised by the Catenians is scheduled for **Sunday 10th December at 3.00PM**. St Joseph's children will also be taking part. Come along to take part and listen to the Christmas readings and the wonderful words of the carols



ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL invites you to their Nativities which this year are taking place in our church: **Foundation** (reception Class) on Wednesday and Thursday at 2.00pm. **Year 1 & 2** Nativity on Wednesday 13th December at 2.00pm, Thursday 14th December at 11.00am & 6.30pm.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Thanks to our safeguarding coordinators, we have nearly got through our DBS checks. I thought we could have an initial meeting to take it forward **after the 10.00am Mass on 17th December**. Many thanks to Fr. Chris.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: We are now looking forward to First Holy Communion in 2024. Application forms are now available from Fr Chris after any of the Masses. Please return the form by **7 January 2023**. It is for children in year 3 and above. The first meeting for parents will take place on **Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 7.00pm in the Octagonal Hall** when we will introduce the course and give out the plan. The first session for children will take place on Sunday 21 January 2023 from 9.20am - 10.20am and the children will join their parents and the congregation after the Liturgy of the Word .

If you are a **Gift Aid Declaration Holder** please advise your parish office, or the Diocesan Gift Aid Department (parish.giftaid@dioceseofnottingham.uk) of any change in your circumstances, such as **name change / address change / no longer a taxpayer**. If your spouse has died and the GA Declaration was in his / her name, and you wish to continue to contribute because you are a taxpayer, then a new GA Declaration Form will need to be completed. Please also advise of the date of your spouse's death. **Your continued support of both parish and Diocese is always very much appreciated – thank you!** If you do not Gift Aid your contributions, and you are a taxpayer, and wish to do so, please speak with your parish priest, or contact the parish office for a Gift Aid Declaration Form.



A REGISTER OF CHURCH VOLUNTEERS **A register of CHURCH VOLUNTEERS:** Many thanks to all who have completed their forms. Last volunteers to fill out your details? Registration forms are now available **In the Narthex or by email**. Who does this apply to? Really anyone who helps in any way in the Parish! From Church Cleaner, flower arranger reader, Coffee volunteer, church collection Bazaar Offertory PPC, welcomer and so on.. You can also receive the form by email from parishpriest@olvic.com **PS Just one form is necessary for all your roles in the parish.**

RED BOXES: Many thanks to everyone who continues to find coins to put into their Red Boxes (increasingly difficult in post Covid/card only times) to help the poor and needy in our world. Your support is so much needed and very greatly appreciated. As always, please leave your box on the table in the Cloister and it will be returned after emptying, to the same place. Should anyone wish to help by taking a box, please speak to Father Chris or to Bob and Chris Shepherd. Thank you very much once more.

School admissions to Catholic Primary Academies (Reception Year) - Children born between 01/09/2019 and 31/08/2020 The deadline for submitting your application for a school place is **15th January 2024**. Application forms are available on your 'home' Local Authority website. For every Catholic school you apply for if you wish your child to be considered and ranked under a **faith criterion** you **should also complete a supplementary information form**, and return this form to the school by the deadline, (forms are available from the LA and the school). You **MUST** also include the supporting **evidence*** as required with this form, eg baptism certificate (photocopies acceptable). Failure to supply the required supporting evidence will mean your child is ranked in a lower criterion which may affect your chance of a place. *If you do not have the required evidence please contact the parish where your child was baptised for a copy certificate in good time.

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FINANCE	November
Envelopes	£972.38
Loose	£1007.91
Standing Order	£3579.50
Total	£5559.79

	READERS		
	Sat. 6.00pm	Sunday	10.00am
9/10 Dec	M. Mihovilovic	J. Thayaseelan	P. Green
16/17 Dec	C. Baldam	R. van der Liet	C. Sellechia



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TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

6.00pm Mass: Jim McCabe RIP (Joan)

10.00am Mass: People of the Parish

Coffee after Mass

3.00pm: Parish Carol Service by the Catenians

Monday: Advent Feria

9.00am: November Dead List

Tuesday: Advent Feria

9.00am Mass: Phil Danks RIP (Mary)

Wednesday: St Lucy

9.45am: Morning Prayer

10.00am Mass: Mikki English (Family)

Thursday: St John of the Cross

9.45am: Rosary

10.00am Mass: Gerald Andrews RIP (Blamires)

Coffee after Mass

11.00am & 6.30pm: Nativities Y1 & 2

No Holy Hour

Friday: Advent Feria

7.00pm Mass: Annie & Wilfred Wagstaff RIP (Joan)

Saturday: Advent Feria

6.00pm Mass: Boswell Family

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

10.00am Mass: People of the Parish

All mankind will see the salvation of God.

CONFESIONS

11.00am

5.15pm



2nd Collection for Poor & Needy Parishes this weekend

FR CHRIS WRITES: What a wonderful day we had on Saturday for our Bazaar. It was wonderful to see so many people come to celebrate and meet each other and have fun from the oldest right through to the youngest baby in a pram. I don't know if you spotted the lovely twins! A big thank you to everybody involved from our committee led by Alan, Stephen and Robert, all arts tool holders and those who worked getting everything ready and clearing up in the end. Optically thank you to our school and the children who provided so many prizes and our after school club who do such a wonderful job with the grotto. There are so many thank yous to make with all the refreshments as well of different sorts including the wonderful cakes. Our final total seems to be about £11,299 after all the costs. But what was a wonderful memory to watch people reaching each other and hugging each other. Many, Many thanks to everyone who supported in whatever way! **NB Prize sheets are on the notice board.**

Next weekend we will have a retiring Collection for the Christmas flowers.

Also the **WEEKLY Rosary Group** meets every Sunday 3.30-4pm outside in front of the statue of Our Lady praying especially for Peace & Reconciliation in Society. Contact Maureen Douglas 07966 515115.

READERS WANTED: I shall soon be compiling the Readers' Rota for 2024. Please would anyone who would like to read at Saturday evening or Sunday morning mass please give their name and contact details to Fr. Chris or Margaret Atkins. If you don't catch me at church, email or call me on margaretatkins52@gmail.com or 01858 446369."

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Sunday Masses at normal 6.00pm sat; 10.00am Sunday

Christmas eve (Sun): 6.00pm & 10.00pm. (Preceded by carols 9.30pm)

Christmas day: 10.00am:

St Stephen's day (Boxing day) 7.00pm

CONFESIONS FOR CHRISTMAS: We are going to have to have a special service for the Sacrament of reconciliation **on Tuesday 19 December 7.00pm**. There will be visiting priests available. Many parishes have the celebrations in advent and lent and it is an opportunity to go to another priest other than the parish priest. We can make it a great opportunity to prepare for Christmas in a special way this year with the sacrament of confession. There will be a little introduction a couple of prayers and examination of conscience and the blessed sacrament will be exposed while its confessions are heard. Come along and meet the merciful Lord.

DECEMBER 2023 VICTORY PRIZE DRAW:

Winners for the December 2023 Prize Draw

1st Prize £90 M Ockenden ticket number 272; 2nd Prize £50 R Sanbrook ticket number 113;

3rd Prize £30 P Clifton ticket number 110

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CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Thanks to our safeguarding coordinators, we have nearly got through our DBS checks. I thought we could have an initial meeting to take it forward **after the 10.00am Mass on 17th December**. Many thanks to Fr. Chris.



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JUBILEE FOOD BANK: You are asked to leave food bank items in the trolleys at various supermarkets when you shop. Henderson Connellan on the High Street, Spar on Coventry Road, Eco Village, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Both Coop supermarkets, B&M, Everyone's Active: leisure centre cf <https://www.jubileefoodbankmh.uk/> Shopping List: **WE HAVE AN URGENT NEED FOR:** Dried Potato (like Smash), Tinned chicken in sauce, Tinned Veggie Meals **Other Suggested Food Donations:** Tinned Custard, Tinned Ham, Corned Beef, Tinned Rice Pudding, Tinned/Jarred Hot Dogs, Crackers, Jars of Coffee, Sandwich Paste (small jars), Sugar (small bags if possible, 500g) Jam, Tinned Fruit, Snacks such as small bags of nuts, cereal bars, chocolate bars, dried fruit for lunch boxes and homeless. Mayonnaise, Tinned Potatoes, Tinned red meat (bolognaise, mince, stewed, chilli), UHT milk (semi-skimmed and whole), Tins of beans (red kidney beans, chickpeas... etc.), Porridge oats, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Shower gel, Feminine products--sanitary towels and tampons, Used, clean, strong 'bags for life', strong carrier bags, Jars or pouches of baby food, Packets of Rice (500g if possible), Cereal, Jars of curry sauce to go with rice, Tinned potatoes, Tinned meatballs, Hot chocolate, Angel Delight, Microwave Sponge Puddings, Packets of dried custard, Packet Rice, Tinned Carrots, Marmalade, Cordial / Juice Drinks, Biscuits, Sweetcorn, Fray Bentos Pies

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Loose	£195.69	16/17 Dec	C. Baldam	R. van der Liet
Standing Order		23 /24 Dec	J. Rowland	C. Sellechia
Total	£470.38		C. Goddard	M. Crook



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17th December 2023
3rd Sunday of Advent
Psalter Week 3
Year B

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TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

6.00pm Mass: Boswell Family

10.00am Mass: People of the Parish

Coffee after Mass

Monday: Advent Feria

9.00am: Michael Gatens RIP (Taylor)

Tuesday: Advent Feria

9.00am Mass: November Dead List

7.00pm Mass: Penitential Service with visiting priests

Wednesday: Advent Feria

9.45am: Morning Prayer

10.00am Mass: Charles Thomas (Jopling)

Thursday: Advent Feria

9.45am: Rosary

10.00am Mass: Malcolm Wallace RIP Anniv.

Coffee after Mass joining the school in Hall

7.00pm: Holy Hour

Friday: Advent Feria

6.30pm: Confessions

7.00pm Mass: November Dead List

Saturday: Advent Feria

6.00pm Mass: Boswell Family

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve

10.00am Mass: People of the Parish

Sunday: Christmas Eve

6.00pm Mass: People of the Parish

9.30pm Carols

10.00pm Mass: Michael & Greg O'Connor RIP

Monday: Christmas Day

10.00am Mass: Bill Reed RIP (Rosaleen)



There stands among you - unknown to you - the one who is coming.



CONFESIONS
Sat 11.00am &
5.15pm

2nd Collection for Flowers this weekend

FR CHRIS WRITES: We are moving closer to the last days of advent which begins on 17th December when we look directly to the Feast of Christmas especially with Mary as we seek to open our hearts to the word made flesh. As you can see there are opportunities for Confession this week with Fr Michael and Fr Peter joining us for confession on Tuesday evening. We were blessed to host the school nativities this week which were wonderful. We were also blessed to host the Montessori pre school nativity. Well done everyone and have a good school holiday.

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COLLECTION AT ALL OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES will be your Christmas gift to Fr Chris. Envelopes available as you come into Church. Thank you in anticipation.

The **ONGOING REORGANISATION OF THE DIOCESE**, enabling us all to become more missionary in a way which recognises that we now have fewer clergy and fewer parishioners, continues to make steady progress. To date the 108 parishes we had in 2017 have been reduced to 88, with 32 parishes having been amalgamated to form 12 new larger parishes. Parishioners in all our parishes are on a journey of working more closely together, in a more missionary fashion, in our united effort to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ, and to put that love into practice across the East Midlands.

Also From the start of December CAFOD is sharing **DAILY BIBLE REFLECTION**, stories of our global family, prayers and practical ideas for action, as we create a space to prepare for the coming of Christ. This **online Advent calendar** of daily prayer and reflection will offer an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. To sign-up for the Calendar, visit: <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-calendar>

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CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Thanks to our safeguarding coordinators, we have nearly got through our DBS checks. I thought we could have an initial meeting to take it forward **after the 10.00am Mass on 17th December**. Many thanks to Fr. Chris.



SCHOOL ADMISSIONS TO CATHOLIC PRIMARY ACADEMIES (Reception Year) - Children born between 01/09/2019 and 31/08/2020 The deadline for submitting your application for a school place is **15th January 2024**. Application forms are available on your 'home' Local Authority website. For every Catholic school you apply for if you wish your child to be considered and ranked under a **faith criterion** you **should also complete a supplementary information form**, and return this form to the school by the deadline, (forms are available from the LA and the school). You **MUST** also include the supporting **evidence*** as required with this form, eg baptism certificate (photocopies acceptable). Failure to supply the required supporting evidence will mean your child is ranked in a lower criterion which may affect your chance of a place. *If you do not have the required evidence please contact the parish where your child was baptised for a copy certificate in good time.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: We shall gather on Sunday 7th January for a further planning meeting Fr. Chris



A REGISTER OF CHURCH VOLUNTEERS A register of CHURCH VOLUNTEERS: Many thanks to all who have completed their forms. Last volunteers to fill out your details? Registration forms are now available In the Narthex or by email. Who does this apply to? Really anyone who helps in any way in the Parish! From Church Cleaner, flower arranger reader, Coffee volunteer, church collection Bazaar Offertory PPC, welcomer and so on.. You can also receive the form by email from parishpriest@olvic.com PS Just one form is necessary for all your roles in the parish.



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If you are a **Gift Aid Declaration Holder** please advise your parish office, or the Diocesan Gift Aid Department (parish.giftaid@dioceseofnottingham.uk) of any change in your circumstances, such as **name change / address change / no longer a taxpayer**. If your spouse has died and the GA Declaration was in his / her name, and you wish to continue to contribute because you are a taxpayer, then a new GA Declaration Form will need to be completed. Please also advise of the date of your spouse's death. **Your continued support of both parish and Diocese is always very much appreciated – thank you!** If you do not Gift Aid your contributions, and you are a taxpayer, and wish to do so, please speak with your parish priest, or contact the parish office for a Gift Aid Declaration Form.

FINANCE	17/12/23
Envelopes	£251.91
Loose	£210.01
Standing Order	
Total	£461.92

READERS	Sat. 6.00pm	Sunday	10.00am
23/24 Dec	J. Rowland	C. Goddard	M. Crook
30/31 Dec	J. Snaith	B. Tyrrell	D. Chappell
6/7 Jan	N Williamson	C. Reed	K. Lilley

Merry Christmas



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

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent

6.00pm Mass: Boswell Family

10.00am Mass: People of the Parish

Coffee after Mass

Rosary 3.30pm

Christmas Eve

6.00pm Mass: People of the Parish

10.00pm Mass: Mike & Greg O'Connor RIP

Monday: The Nativity of the Lord

10.00am: Bill Reed RIP (Rosaleen)

Tuesday: St Stephen

7.00pm Mass: Dorothy, James & Sam RIP (Atkins)

Wednesday: St John, Apostle & Evangelist

9.45am: Morning Prayer

10.00am Mass: Dave Hill RIP (Mike & Mary)

Thursday: The Holy Innocents

Rosary before Mass

7.00pm Mass: November Dead List

No Holy Hour

Friday: St Thomas Becket of Canterbury

7.00pm Mass: November Dead List

Saturday: 7th Day within the Christmas Octave

6.00pm Mass: People of the Parish

Sunday: The Holy Family

10.00am Mass: Bill Reed RIP (Goddard)



You are to
conceive a Son.

CONFESIONS
Sat 11.00am &
5.15pm



Monday: Mary, Mother of God

10.00am: People of the Parish

Tuesday: Sts Basil & Gregory

9.00am Mass: Janina's Ints

Wednesday: Feria

9.45am: Morning Prayer

10.00am Mass: Christine Reed Ints (Rosaleen)

Thursday: Feria

9.45am: Rosary

10.00am Mass: Catherine McCarthy RIP (McGlone)

Coffee after Mass

7.00pm: Holy Hour

Friday: Feria

10.00am Mass: November Dead List

Saturday: Feria

6.00pm Mass: Clive Blencowe RIP (Angela)

Sunday: Epiphany

10.00am Mass: People of the Parish

1st January 2024**Psalter Week 1****Year B**

*The child grew,
filled with wisdom.*

FR CHRIS WRITES: As is traditional this Newsletter covers the 2 weeks of the Christmas Period. As you will see there are various times for you to come to Mass over this Christmas period. I remind people that Christmas is celebrated over 8 days finishing with Mary the Mother of God January 1st. Why not come to Mass during the Christmas period?

May I take this opportunity of wishing you and all your families a very Happy Christmas and blessings for the New Year May I thank everyone who helps in the Parish in the various areas of our Parish Life: Church, Hall, House, our School. There are so many involved in our Parish Life here! And may I say, personally, thank you for the help and prayers you give me. Fr. Chris PP

May Christ who was born for you at Christmas Be with you and yours this Christmas and throughout the coming year. Wishing you a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas May the New Year be rich in Blessings.

THE WEEKLY ROSARY GROUP meets every Sunday 3.30-4pm outside in front of the statue of Our Lady praying especially for Peace & Reconciliation in Society. Contact Maureen Douglas 07966 515115.

READERS WANTED: I shall soon be compiling the Readers' Rota for 2024. Please would anyone who would like to read at Saturday evening or Sunday morning mass please give their name and contact details to Fr. Chris or Margaret Atkins. If you don't catch me at church, email or call me on margaretatkins52@gmail.com or 01858 446369."

COLLECTION AT ALL OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES will be your Christmas gift to Fr Chris. Envelopes available as you come into Church. Thank you in anticipation.

The **ONGOING REORGANISATION OF THE DIOCESE**, enabling us all to become more missionary in a way which recognises that we now have fewer clergy and fewer parishioners, continues to make steady progress. To date the 108 parishes we had in 2017 have been reduced to 88, with 32 parishes having been amalgamated to form 12 new larger parishes. Parishioners in all our parishes are on a journey of working more closely together, in a more missionary fashion, in our united effort to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ, and to put that love into practice across the East Midlands.

The diocese is producing a **monthly podcast for the Year of Prayer** called **Encounter Prayer**. Each month a different type of prayer will be showcased; this first episode is given by Bishop Patrick who introduces the Year of Prayer, his hopes for it, and shares insights from his own prayer life. The Podcasts can be found on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Amazon Music and Audible by searching Diocese of Nottingham; they are also on the diocesan website: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/yearofprayer

A REFLECTION FROM POPE FRANCIS FOR THE YEAR OF PRAYER, FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

OF ADVENT: There is no better way to pray than to place oneself like Mary in an attitude of openness, with a heart open to God: "Lord, what you want, when you want, and how you want". That is, a heart open to God's will. And God always responds. To read the full reflection and find more resources at www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/yearofprayer

A REFLECTION FROM POPE FRANCIS FOR THE YEAR OF PRAYER, THE FEAST OF

THE HOLY FAMILY: One does not only pray with the mind; the entire person prays, the person in his or her entirety, just as one does not pray only with one's feelings. The ancients used to say that the organ of prayer is the heart, and thus they explained that the whole person, starting from the centre — the heart — enters into a relationship with God. To read the full reflection and find more resources at dioceseofnottingham.uk/yearofprayer
A prayer sheet is available

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RED BOXES: Many thanks to everyone who continues to find coins to put into their Red Boxes (increasingly difficult in post Covid/card only times) to help the poor and needy in our world. Your support is so much needed and very greatly appreciated. As always, please leave your box on the table in the Cloister and it will be returned after emptying, to the same place. Should anyone wish to help by taking a box, please speak to Father Chris or to Bob and Chris Shepherd. Thank you very much once more.