

The Church is open for Private prayer each day
Please use the Covid NHS App Q code displayed
Please wear face masks for the sake of others

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

Today both Peter and Isaiah experience the holiness of God as they are called to their missions, Isaiah as a prophet, Peter as Apostle and then head of the Church. Isaiah has a vision of heaven with the thrice Holy Lord God of Hosts. The repetition expresses an absolute the Holiest. Nothing greater can be said. Peter too is aware of the utter holiness of Jesus after the miraculous catch of fish.

This is the sense of Awe before God. The idea of the Holy is something or someone utterly different, other, separate unspeakably greater and indeed inaccessible to us. In the fourth Eucharistic prayer we praise the God who lives in unapproachable light. So, we note Isaiah's first reaction upon entering the presence of God is awareness of his sinfulness unworthiness and deep humility. "Woe is me, I am doomed!" he exclaims. "Peter says Depart from me, I am a sinful man." They are overcome. This is the sense of awe before God and his holiness that in some way makes us want to withdraw because of God's greatness but at the same time we do not because we are attracted to God and by God.

A religious sense of Awe or fear of God is good. We should have it in Church and at Mass because we are in a holy place and in the Blessed Sacrament, we are in the presence of God himself. We kneel before God in the Eucharistic Prayer much as Peter fell to his knees and we genuflect as we enter Church. Some people like to sit at the back of Church for this reason I hope!! I can remember this experience at a great High Mass when I was young. This has been called the Awesome mystery of God or "Mysterium tremendum". This is important for us all to know and experience. God is infinitely greater than us. But the joy is of course that we can only experience this because God communicates to us or shares something of himself with us. Good Liturgy and Church buildings need to communicate this. We are blessed with such a wonderful Church.

Then of course we have our unworthiness because of sin. Peter is a sinful man. Isaiah is from a people of unclean lips. Paul himself is the least worthy Apostle. This sense of sin is again part of authentic religious experience. In God's presence we acknowledge our sins. Thus at the beginning Mass the priest says: *Let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate worthily the sacred mysteries. We recall our venial sins of the week (Serious sins have to be confessed).*

The eucharist and Holy Communion purifies us of these when we are prepared. Indeed, in the burning coal taken from the altar of God, which cleanses Isaiah's lips of sins, we can see a type and image of the Eucharist, which is also taken from the altar of God, and purifies us of venial sin when it is placed on our lips. The Eucharist is "burning" with the fire of God's love—it is, so to speak, a piece of tissue from the Sacred Heart of Jesus, enflamed with love for the world. It heals us of sin. Pope Francis often mentions medicinal effect of a Good Holy Communion. So as we prepare for Mass we should think about the holiness of God with awe and wonder and recall our sins what we have done and failed to do this last week. We are then in a good state to receive all the graces Our Lord wants to give us.

Then we will experience that closeness of God to us, his utter nearness as Newman says: Heart speaks to heart. The Wonder of Our Lord who sits down at the table with his followers and gives himself as Body given and blood poured out and like St John, we can lay our heads on his heart in great peace and joy.



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

Schools:

Parish Primary: St. Joseph's Academy 01858-465359

Deanery Comprehensive: St. Paul's 0116 241 4057

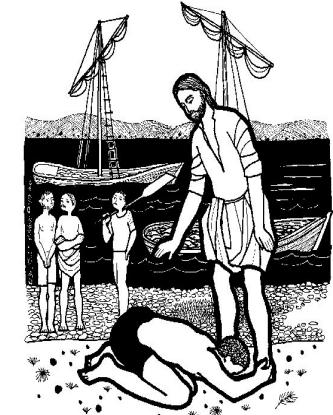
Parish Accountant: finance@olvic.com

Parish Gift Aid Organiser: giftaid@olvic.com

Parish Pastoral Council Members: see photos on notice board

Diocese of Nottingham: Company Number 7151646 Charity Number: 1134449

Registered Address: Wilson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham, NG1 5AW



Times of Services

Sunday: 5th of Ordinary Time

6.00pm Mass: Peter Northway RIP (Smrectak)

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am: Mass: Sally Wyatt-McCormack (Goddard)

Monday: Feria

9.00am Mass: Richard Kimberlin RIP (Family)

Tuesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: November Dead List

Wednesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: November Dead List

Thursday: St Scholastica

10.00am Mass: Bill Reed - Good health and operation

Friday: Feria

7.00pm Mass: November Dead List

Saturday: Feria

6.00pm Mass Richard and Gillian Clutterbuck (Colacicchi)

Sunday: 7th of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: Dirk de Daken RIP (Sari)

11.00am Mass: People of the Parish

*They left
everything and
followed him.*

CONFESIONS
11am &
5.15 - 5.45pm
Saturdays

**Please pray for Margaret Byrne who died last week. Funeral on
16th February 11.00am.**

Also for Andrew Fortnum funeral on 18th February 11.00am

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

6th February 2022
5th Week of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 1

FR CHRIS WRITES:

We hope to re commence our First Communion group this coming Friday. Please pray for them. The school continues to cope with children of school though the Coronavirus. Please remember them as well. The summary of our Parish Consultation as part of the Universal Synod is available. It contains a summary of themes which emerged in the variety of responses from individuals and groups as well as some quotes from particular responses. It may be that the Holy Spirit speaks through one voice. A small group and then the PPC members looked at all the responses. A summary has also been sent to the Deanery and then the Bishop will discern the Diocesan response. As a Parish we will draw on these responses to discern a vision and thus a way ahead for our community as please God COVID-19 recedes. Thank you to all for your participation

COVID 19 AND MASS:

The Government directives have changed and we have received new guidance from the Bishops' Conference. We will be gradually adapting as the Pandemic becomes endemic. However, always in a safer manner as possible. Therefore we will proceed carefully with the transition to a more normal environment. The key protection is to be vaccinated: this means two doses plus a booster for anyone aged 16 or over
Some Changes

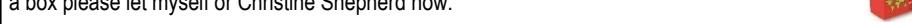
- You no longer need to book for mass. Masks are strongly advised for the sake of other people if though no longer a legal requirement.
- Stewards will no longer direct people to come up for Holy Communion. Simply Our Lady's side will begin and then we will proceed to the Sacred Heart Side. Please come slowly and leave a good space to the person in front – so that they do not feel there is someone breathing down their neck.
- We will maintain alternate benches. However there will be no limits to numbers on a bench though we wish to have a system which acknowledges people's wish to maintain distances. When entering a bench, if you wish to maintain a distance from those following you, please place your Mass/hymn books as far from you as you wish, to indicate your preferred gap. If someone is already in the bench, then watch out for where they have put their books.

THURSDAY COFFEE will begin again in the octagonal hall on **Thursday 10th February after 10:00 am Mass**. If all goes well it will continue, Please God!

Once again Hand made **Reusable Face masks for Sale**: in Church £2.50 towards Church funds.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREATS – The Diocese is organising a retreat for women on Saturday 12th March (at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Nottingham) and a retreat for men on 19th March (at the Briars in Crich). The women's retreat will be led by the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph and will be focused on 'Make the tent you live in larger; lengthen its ropes and strengthen the pegs!' how we live out our faith in all areas of our lives and the people we interact with. The men's retreat will be led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and will take as its theme: 'Friendship with Christ & Friendship in Christ' exploring how we can grow in friendship and fraternity. Please email adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk for more information and to book your place.

Also could People bring in their **Red Mission Boxes** for emptying. If anyone would like a box please let myself or Christine Shepherd now.



DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING (memorial of Saint Bakhita, 8th February):

O God, who led Saint Josephine Bakhita from abject slavery to the dignity of being your daughter and a bride of Christ, grant, we pray, that by her example we may show constant love for the Lord Jesus crucified, remaining steadfast in charity and prompt to show compassion. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Day of Prayer for the Victims of Trafficking is an opportunity to remember and pray for the thousands and thousands of victims of trafficking throughout the world. It coincides with the feast day of Saint Josephine Bakhita who despite the suffering she experienced as a slave was a wonderful witness of how to live a life rooted in faith, inspired by hope and characterized by love. Human trafficking now ranks as the second most profitable worldwide criminal enterprise after the illegal arms trade. The practical response of the Church and its charities, led in the main by Women Religious, is to raise awareness of this horrendous crime and to provide help and support for the most vulnerable victims, working in partnership with the Metropolitan Police Service to raise awareness of the impact of human trafficking in the UK and the rest of the world.

JUBILEE FOOD BANK: you are asked to leave food bank items in the trolleys at various supermarkets when you shop. Refill Revolution at the Eco Village, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Both Coop supermarkets, B&M, Nationwide, Coop, Great Glen of <https://www.jubileefoodbankmh.uk>
Shopping List: We are out of certain items. We have run out of: Tinned Fruit, Corned beef, Sweet corn. We are very short of: Custard, Pasta sauce, Sugar, We do not need more of: Other beans (red kidney beans, chickpeas...) Biscuits,



YOUR ACTION REQUIRED: From the Parish Consultation, one of the themes that emerged was the need for good Communication. We realised we need to update the Parish List to build the community through good communication. We have now sent out a letter or email to all who are on the Parish List. **If you do not receive either a letter or email, you are not on the Parish List.** Please pick up a Parish registration form from the Narthex so we have your details or you can email Fr. Chris: parishpriest@olvic.com Please check with any Catholic neighbours or friends to see if they have received the letter or want to be on our Parish List.

PARISH WELCOMING: It's a couple of months since we resumed Welcoming at some of the weekend Masses, but currently we only have 3 people on the rota for Sunday 11am Mass, and 5 people for the Saturday evening Mass. We're appealing to any welcomers who maybe didn't see our original email requests or who may now have changed their minds, to consider helping out, and also to anyone else who feels that they would like to volunteer to take part in welcoming their fellow parishioners to Mass. Please do consider helping out if you are able to, and feel free to contact either of us if you would just like to chat about it. Many thanks, Beatrice ([01858 465492](tel:01858465492)) and Theresa ([07748 591398](tel:07748591398)) or email tootskendrick@sky.com

VOLUNTEERING IN SCHOOLS: There is a Churches Together in initiative to gather volunteers to help in Schools. This is a town wide initiative to mobilise volunteers in all our primary schools. The flyer invites volunteers to complete a simple online form - <https://forms.gle/HTDkPwYxneHq8Rvk9> - and identify which school they want to volunteer with. These will be distributed to the relevant schools at the end of January. See the flyers in Narthex

The Church is open for Private prayer each day
 Please sign in on the list or use the Covid NHS App Q code displayed
 Please wear face masks for the sake of others

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

We might say today that Jesus does not mince his words as he speaks. We might call the Beatitudes his core sermon that he must have preached many times and to different people and situations. Today he reveals some of the opposites to the blessings. The woes we call them. He speaks to a great crowd, but Luke tells us he had his eyes fixed on his disciples. **That is us!** His words are straightforward and direct. The Poor are Blessed even in the here and now. *Yours is the kingdom of God. Present tense. This is difficult to grasp as being poor is not good. We are told to help the poor. End Poverty and rightly so!* Yet Jesus tells us the poor have an openness to the action of God and his grace. They cannot seek their consolation in what they have as easily as those that are well off. They look for meaning beyond the material. As Jesus fixes his eyes on us he asks us: where do you find consolation? Jesus words indicate a very real danger we have which gives him concern about us. If our consolation is rooted in what we have, then we are in trouble. This is not just possessions, but other worldly concerns as well. As CAFOD put it in their campaign – We must live simply. As Lent is on the horizon we should consider how we can be better rooted in God and how we can be more detached from our possessions. As St Ignatius might put it, we should be indifferent to them. I often think of Tolkien's Lord of the Rings where the possessor of the great Ring of Power is in fact possessed by it. However true indifference must include real simplicity of life. This is because we are one as body and soul. The two go together. The way we live as Christians must look different. Pope Francis reminds us that a way of doing this is of course learning from the poor and needy, sharing their suffering and helping them out in whatever way. The sacrifices we make open us to true consolation that only God can give.

Jesus also talks about the external signs that are valued by the world: of prosperity, success, having a good time, being popular, satisfying our desires. These will not last. They are false comforts. The circumstances will be reversed; the last will be first, and the first will be last as he says elsewhere. Yet these things are pushed everywhere in our Society from every corner. To live as a Christian, to bring up our children in a true manner takes heroes! People will speak ill of us and they will . "hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man." We will be treated as the true Prophets were. But this is the road to life. We will have suffering now, the full blessings will come in the future with God, though we will enjoy peace of heart here and now. Indeed Jeremiah tells us that with deep insight. In truth, the one who is like a barren bush in a salt waste is the one who trusts in men and natural power ("seeking his strength in flesh"), whereas—despite appearances to the contrary—the one who trusts in the Lord is like a green tree that keeps its leaves and fruit even in time of drought. That is to say the one who trusts who draws strength from God as the source of all life will endure the trials with faith hope and love because he looks forward to what is to come to what is eternal and lasts.

And we draw all our inspiration from the resurrection of our Lord as St Paul says: *But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. This is the guarantee of living a poor life, a true Christian life, witnessing to the future when the truth of man and woman will be unveiled. Now it is hidden perceived only by faith. We live out our lives in the light of the Reign of God which is hidden yet present. It is the true reality true success for us we can say. Then after following Christ in life, all good people will share fully in the transforming power of the resurrection. All will be changed and renewed in the New Creation with the Man and woman fully alive with the glory of Christ. Enjoying our fill, laughing and dancing for joy!*



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

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

Diocese of Nottingham: Company Number 7151646 Charity Number: 1134449

Registered Address: Wilson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham, NG1 5AW

Times of Services

Sunday: 6th of Ordinary Time

6.00pm Mass: Richard and Gillian Clutterbuck (Colacicchi)

9.00am Mass: Dirk de Daken RIP (Sari)

11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

Monday: Sts Cyril & Methodius

9.00pm Mass: November Dead List

Tuesday: Feria

10am Mass: November Dead List

Wednesday: Feria

11.00am: Funeral Margaret Byrne RIP

Thursday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Seamus Cafferkey RIP (McGlone)

Friday: Feria

11.00am: Funeral of Andrew Fortnum RIP

Saturday: Feria

6.00pm Mass: Bob Ritchings RIP (Smrectak)

Sunday: 8th of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am Mass: Paolo & Giovanna DiCicco RIP



*How happy are
 you who are poor.
 Alas for you who
 are rich.*

CONFESIONS

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 highly encourage all to wear masks. Please do not come to Mass if you have any symptoms of a viral infection

13th February 2022
 6th Week of Ordinary Time
 Psalter Week 2

FR CHRIS WRITES:

Dear all, As you may know over the last few years as a Diocese we have been considering the future structures of the Parishes to best serve the pastoral needs of our communities with the number of priests we have. The latest stage was somewhat interrupted by COVID -19. However, things have been happening as Priests retired and some Parishes are now served by one Priest or work together as a team such as Knighton Oadby & Wigston with St John Bosco. As I understand the plan Our Lady of Victories is to remain on its own served by one Priest. However, as I have said previously, we will have to support other Parishes in the future. There will be a deanery meeting or Presentation with the Bishop, Vicar general and representatives from the Parishes in March in which we will hear more.

MEMORIAL FOR FR OWEN: A Memorial for Fr Owen has been discussed. Some suggestions have been an inscribed bench, set facing the town or a the planting of trees and a wildflower garden outside the hall would be appropriate incorporating the bench. Another idea is to place a plaque under the memorial to the unborn. Are there any other suggestions? Please let Fr Chris know.

HELP NEEDED with the accounts: we need someone with accounting qualifications or bank experience or a director of a company to look at our final accounts at the end of the financial year to check them and sign them off for the Diocese. This normally takes place in May. Please contact Fr Chris.

The summary of our **Parish Consultation as part of the Universal Synod is available**. It contains a summary of themes which emerged in the variety of responses from individuals and groups as well as some quotes from particular responses. It may be that the Holy Spirit speaks though one voice. A small group and then the PPC members looked at all the responses. A summary has also been sent to the Deanery and then the Bishop will discern the Diocesan response.

As a Parish we will draw on these responses to discern a vision and thus a way ahead for our community as please God COVID-19 recedes. Thank you to all for your participation

COVID 19 AND MASS:

The Government directives have changed and we have received new guidance from the Bishops' Conference. We will be gradually adapting as the Pandemic becomes endemic. However, always in a safer manner as possible. Therefore we will proceed carefully with the transition to a more normal environment. The key protection is to be vaccinated: this means two doses plus a booster for anyone aged 16 or over

Some Changes

- From next week you will no longer need to book for mass. The track and trace is not required.
- Masks are strongly advised for the sake of other people if though no longer a legal requirement.
- Stewards will no longer direct people to come up for Holy Communion. Simply Our Lady's side will begin and then we will proceed to the Sacred Heart Side. Please come slowly and leave a good space to the person in front – so that they do not feel there is someone breathing down their neck.
- We will maintain alternate benches. However there will be no limits to numbers on a bench though we wish to have a system which acknowledges people's wish to maintain distances. When entering a bench, if you wish to maintain a distance from those following you, please place your Mass/hymn books as far from you as you wish, to indicate your preferred gap. If someone is already in the bench, then watch out for where they have put their books.

THIRD WORLD GROUP: Due to the ongoing limitations on social events for fund-raising, our main source of income at the moment is selling items on eBay, but our stock is dwindling. If we are to keep our promises to our beneficiaries we must maintain this activity. Please look through your cupboards, drawers, lofts, even sheds and garages, for good quality items that you no longer need. Clothing is the most popular but anything as long as it is in good condition and still has some value. Our box is under the table opposite the noticeboard in the cloister.

		Sat. 6.00 pm	Sunday, 9.00 am	11.00 a.m.
Readers	Feb 12/13	M. Atkins	T. Snell	M. Lane
	Feb 19/20	P. Danks	C. Goddard	J. Bland

THURSDAY COFFEE: will begin again in the in the octagonal hall on **Thursday 10th February after 10:00 am Mass**. If all goes well it will continue, Please God!

Once again Hand made **Reusable Face masks for Sale:** in Church £2.50 towards Church funds.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREATS – The Diocese is organising a retreat for women on Saturday 12th March (at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Nottingham) and a retreat for men on 19th March (at the Briars in Crich). The women's retreat will be led by the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph and will be focused on 'Make the tent you live in larger; lengthen its ropes and strengthen the pegs!' how we live out our faith in all areas of our lives and the people we interact with. The men's retreat will be led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and will take as its theme: 'Friendship with Christ & Friendship in Christ' exploring how we can grow in friendship and fraternity. Please email adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk for more information and to book your place.

RETRouveille – a lifeline for married couples. Covid 19 has been a very challenging time for many marriages. Retrouveille is a programme to support couples. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage, and you don't need to leave home, it comes to you! For confidential information about Retrouveille, or to register for the next programme, a virtual weekend between Thursday 3rd and Sunday 6th March, call or text 07887 296983, or email retrouveilleukinfo@gmail.org , or visit: www.retrouveille.uk

JUBILEE FOOD BANK: You are asked to leave food bank items in the trolleys at various supermarkets when you shop. Refill Revolution at the Eco Village, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Both Coop supermarkets, B&M, Nationwide, Coop, Great Glen of <https://www.jubileefoodbankmh.uk/>

Shopping List: We are out of certain items. We have run out of: Tinned Fruit, Corned beef, Sweetcorn. We are very short of: Custard, Pasta sauce, Sugar, We **do not** need more of: Other beans (red kidney beans, chick-peas...) Biscuits

PARISH WELCOMING: It's a couple of months since we resumed Welcoming at some of the weekend Masses, but currently we only have 3 people on the rota for Sunday 11am Mass, and 5 people for the Saturday evening Mass. We're appealing to any welcomers who maybe didn't see our original email requests or who may now have changed their minds, to consider helping out, and also to anyone else who feels that they would like to volunteer to take part in welcoming their fellow parishioners to Mass. Please do consider helping out if you are able to, and feel free to contact either of us if you would just like to chat about it. Many thanks, Beatrice ([01858 465492](tel:01858465492)) and Theresa ([07748 591398](tel:07748591398)) or email tootskendrick@sky.com

The Church is open for Private prayer each day
 Please sign in on the list or use the Covid NHS App Q code displayed
 Please wear face masks for the sake of others

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

Today Jesus continues to speak on the beatitudes the great sermon of the Kingdom. He radically renews the Jewish law deepening it and the implications of blessed are the poor, those who mourn, the hungry. He tells us what it means to be a disciple. We said last week how we ought to live according to the Kingdom which only comes in fullness in the future but is present to us through faith and grace which crosses the divide and makes all things possible.

Thus we have the command: *Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. It is a command and not optional for his disciples. It is a key teaching, the summit for which we aim. We surpass the basic do good to those who do good to us or love those who love us. This is what Christ call us to. And yet it exceeds our abilities. We might think about extreme situations in which we might demonstrate this as the martyrs did who forgave and loved their persecutors and executioners. These are romantic dreams though not bad in themselves. However, what Jesus calls to, is to live it in the everyday of our lives. In the petty events of everyday which rankle within us. There is the falling out with a neighbour or when people or even friends gossip about us. Colleagues at work at work seek to undermine us or get ahead of us. It may be simply that somebody has ignored us or we imagine they have ignored us. There are countless examples in everyday life. And what do we do? We seek to get even, to have a little revenge Even if it is only barbed comments. However it can fester away in us and bit by bit we persuade ourselves that we indeed are provoked and indeed justified in seeking to get even. Yet we do justify such things in small ways; a little word spoken here and there, a little gossip spoken in retaliation for some hurt done to us or as is more often the case some imagined hurt. They deserved that we say. David could have felt so justified in our first reading. Saul from jealousy was out to kill him and indeed his followers thought that he should kill Saul when he had the opportunity. They felt that God had put Saul into his hands. He would not do it; he would not seek his revenge because he realised that to God alone belongs justice. It is not up to us to give that sort of justice and balance the books as it were because we will make them evermore unbalanced. When we try to make things even we are taking the power of God to ourselves. David would not do it. And it is not even logical if we think about it. There is too much envy jealous, distrustfulness not to mention hatred violence and injustice. We do not need more of the same but rather more goodness love and forgiveness. This is the only way to change things and this "more" which is beyond our power can only come from God. It came in Jesus who gave the "more" for us by loving his enemies all and sundry unto death to the last drop of his blood. He gives us Divine Mercy and asks us to share it which is the only thing that can overcome enmity by changing the human heart. As Jesus says we must pray for those who do us harm and seek to practice Mercy: Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; **grant pardon, and you will be pardoned.** Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure. In the very effort to practice mercy we will be given the gift of it. We will be given the gift of the grace to cross the divide between ourselves and living life according to the Kingdom of God. We become capable of things we never thought we could say or do to love those who do not love us. Who is there in our lives we need to forgive? What hurt rankles in our heart, we need to let go? Who do we feel has let us down? Who have we been cold to?*



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

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

Diocese of Nottingham: Company Number 7151646 Charity Number: 1134449

Registered Address: Wilson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham, NG1 5AW

Times of Services

Sunday: 7th of Ordinary Time

6.00pm Mass: Bob Ritchings RIP (Smrectak)

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am: Mass: Paolo & Giovanna DiCicco RIP

Monday: Feria

9.00am Mass: November Dead List

Tuesday: Chair of St Peter

10am Mass: Mary Cunningham RIP (anniv)

Wednesday: St Polycarp

10.00am: Mass for Vocations (Catenians)

Thursday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Irma Humes Ints (Marlis & john)

Friday: Feria

7.00pm: Biddle Family

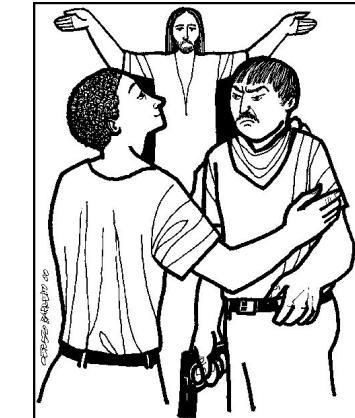
Saturday: Feria

6.00pm Mass: John Darcy RIP (Darcy)

Sunday: 8th of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am Mass: Brian Maguire



*Be compassionate
as your Father is
compassionate.*

CONFESIONS

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 highly encourage all to wear masks. Please do not come to Mass if you have any symptoms of a viral infection

20th February 2022
 7th Week of Ordinary Time
 Psalter Week 3

FR CHRIS WRITES:

We have a letter from Bishop Patrick this weekend. It consists of an update concerning the reorganisation of our Parish structures for the future which was delayed by COVID. Also an update about the Synod Consultation.

Following Bishop Patrick's Pastoral Letter this weekend, any further Synodal responses, thoughts or reflections can be sent directly to the Diocesan Co-ordinators: Father David Cain (david.cain@dioceseofnottingham.uk) or Joe Hopkins, Adult Formation Director for Mission (joe.hopkins@dioceseofnottingham.uk)

Also Shalom World's program, HeartTalk, this Sunday features a **TV Interview with Bishop Patrick**. The bishop speaks about his early life, his mission, his vision, and the ministries he is involved in through our diocese and the wider Church. The interview can be seen on Sunday 20th February, 7.30pm on www.shalomworld.org

Sadly George Cotter died last week. His funeral will be on Friday 4th March at 10.00am. . Also Angela Butlin died on Thursday. May they rest in peace. Condolences to all the families.

MEMORIAL FOR FR OWEN:

A Memorial for Fr Owen has been discussed. Some suggestions have been an inscribed bench, set facing the town or a the planting of trees and a wildflower garden outside the hall would be appropriate incorporating the bench. Another idea is to place a plaque under the memorial to the unborn. Are there any other suggestions? Also many have mentioned a stained glass window. Please let Fr Chris know.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2022 FRIDAY 4 MARCH A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE LOCATION: St Hugh Granville St, LE16 9HF TIME: 2PM THEME: *I know the plans I have for you. This is a special year as the service has been written by the Christian Women from England, Wales and Northern Ireland. All around the World services will be held on this day starting in Samoa and moving on through New Zealand and Australia, across Asia, Africa and Europe and finally the United States and South America before finishing in American Samoa. People meeting together to pray for our nation on this day. Please do try to attend the service in our town prepared by the committee representatives from the local churches. For those unable to attend a Live Link to the service can be found on Parish of St Nicholas and St Hugh, Little Bowden-Home Facebook*

THIRD WORLD GROUP: Due to the ongoing limitations on social events for fund-raising, our main source of income at the moment is selling items on eBay, but our stock is dwindling. If we are to keep our promises to our beneficiaries we must maintain this activity. Please look through your cupboards, drawers, lofts, even sheds and garages, for good quality items that you no longer need. Clothing is the most popular but anything as long as it is in good condition and still has some value. Our box is under the table opposite the noticeboard in the cloister.

		Sat. 6.00 pm	Sunday, 9.00 am	11.00 a.m.
Readers	Feb 19/20	P Danks	C Goddard	J Bland
	Feb 26/27	C Baldham	C Reed	S McGlone

THURSDAY COFFEE: Thursday Coffee: will continue in the octagonal hall on Thursdays after morning Mass.

COVID 19 AND MASS:

The Government directives have changed and we have received new guidance from the Bishops' Conference. We will be gradually adapting as the Pandemic becomes endemic. However, always in a safer manner as possible. Therefore we will proceed carefully with the transition to a more normal environment. The key protection is to be vaccinated: this means two doses plus a booster for anyone aged 16 or over

Some Changes

- You will no longer need to book for mass..
- Masks are strongly advised for the sake of other people if though no longer a legal requirement.
- Stewards will no longer direct people to come up for Holy Communion. Simply Our Lady's side will begin and then we will proceed to the Sacred Heart Side. Please come slowly and leave a good space to the person in front – so that they do not feel there is someone breathing down their neck.
- We will maintain alternate benches. However there will be no limits to numbers on a bench though we wish to have a system which acknowledges people's wish to maintain distances. When entering a bench, if you wish to maintain a distance from those following you, please place your Mass/hymn books as far from you as you wish, to indicate your preferred gap. If someone is already in the bench, then watch out for where they have put their books.

Once again Hand made **Reusable Face masks for Sale:** in Church £2.50 towards Church funds.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREATS – The Diocese is organising a retreat for women on Saturday 12th March (at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Nottingham) and a retreat for men on 19th March (at the Briars in Crich). The women's retreat will be led by the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph and will be focused on 'Make the tent you live in larger; lengthen its ropes and strengthen the pegs!' how we live out our faith in all areas of our lives and the people we interact with. The men's retreat will be led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and will take as its theme: 'Friendship with Christ & Friendship in Christ' exploring how we can grow in friendship and fraternity. Please email adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk for more information and to book your place.

RETRouveille – a lifeline for married couples. Covid 19 has been a very challenging time for many marriages. Retrouveille is a programme to support couples. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage, and you don't need to leave home, it comes to you! For confidential information about Retrouveille, or to register for the next programme, a virtual weekend between Thursday 3rd and Sunday 6th March, call or text 07887 296983, or email retrouveilleukinfo@gmail.org , or visit: www.retrouveille.uk

JUBILEE FOOD BANK: You are asked to leave food bank items in the trolleys at various supermarkets when you shop. Refill Revolution at the Eco Village, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Both Coop supermarkets, B&M, Nationwide, Coop, Great Glen of <https://www.jubileefoodbankmh.uk/>

Shopping List: We are out of certain items. We have run out of: Tinned Fruit, Corned beef, Sweetcorn. We are very short of: Custard, Pasta sauce, Sugar, We **do not** need more of: Other beans (red kidney beans, chick-peas...) Biscuits



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

News from the Bishop conference can be found at [Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales \(cbcew.org.uk\)](http://catholicbishopsconference.org.uk) on all sort of areas.

JUBILEE FOOD BANK: you are asked to leave food bank items in the trolleys at various supermarkets when you shop. Refill Revolution at the Eco Village, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Both Coop supermarkets, B&M, Nationwide, Coop, Great Glen of <https://www.jubileefoodbankmh.uk/>



Shopping List: We are out of certain items. We have run out of Tinned Fruit, Corned beef, Sweet corn. We are very short of: Custard, Pasta sauce, Sugar, We **do not** need more of: Other beans (red kidney beans, chickpeas...) Biscuits

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

As we look forward to Lent starting this week, the gospel today helps us to reflect on these coming weeks as we look forward to Easter to all the graces that the Lord desires to give us. The scripture today asks us to examine ourselves particularly in the words that we speak and then the word that we speak or think looking at another's faults. The parable of the plank in our eye and the splinter in the other's eye is wonderful. It is full of humour and indeed the absurd. But Jesus does that to drive his teaching home because it is so very important. He is teaching us to not look at the defects of others and criticise them, but to look at our own faults to look at ourselves first and foremost. We might say to ourselves I can't think of very many faults but we should seek to do so as Pope Francis once said: *"I assure you that if you don't realize that you have them here, you will find them in Purgatory! Better to see them here."*

It is so easy to criticise others. In thought and conversation. We join in conversations through egoism or just inertia. We point out the flaws of others so easily, joining in gossip. We excuse ourselves that they are harmless words. There is a saying: "sticks and stones will break my bones, but words will never hurt me." Words often hurt much more than sticks or stones. God created the world through words, and as creatures in the image of God, our words, too, have the power to create or destroy. We all know what we can suffer though gossip. Gossip does not end with gossip. It is a seed that sows division, enmity and indeed evil. Like a bomb, it can start a war. A war that can escalate in our families, in our neighbourhood, our work, our parishes, our schools. Indeed one of the places we have to be very careful is social media. I have seen things escalate very quickly on Facebook or twitter. It is so easy a write something or say something when we are not face to face. Of course, the opposite is also true our words can build up and create a wave of goodness peace and harmony when we speak well of others as much as bad words create division good words create unity. In that we share in the creative power of God.

So, it is important that we do not belittle our own faults. We need to look at ourselves in the mirror face on. We do this by asking for the Holy Spirit to reveal them to us. A daily examination of conscience and regular Confession is the effective medicine which could be a good Lenten resolution. When we examine ourselves, we look back at the day and in the words of the Confiteor – the I confess – we think about our sins: what we have done and failed to do in thought word and deed. We ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to us our faults and indeed that we may see them as grievous faults: we must see the plank in our eye as our Lord says. It is then that we can truly help others when in charity we point out someone's fault face to face which is the proper thing to do if we so discern God's will. However in doing this we never judge.

So an examination of conscience for Lent. How do I behave with people? How is my heart in front of people? Am I a hypocrite, I smile and then criticize and destroy with my tongue? Is it easier for me to see others' flaws than my own? Do I use words to build up? What sort of tree am I? These things we can bring to the merciful Lord in Confession. A grace filled Lent to all!



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: 8th of Ordinary Time

6.00pm (Sat Vigil): John Farcy RIP (Darcy)

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am: Mass: Brian Maguire

Monday: Feria

9.00pm Mass: Wilson Family RIP (Maureen)

Tuesday: St David, Patron of Wales

10am Mass: In Thanks St Joseph, Archangel Michael, Guardian Angel

Wednesday: ASH WEDNESDAY

10.00am: Ward F. RIP (Int A)

7.00pm: Private Int

Thursday: Lenten Feria

10.00am Mass: November Dead List (followed by Coffee)

7.00pm: Holy Hour

Friday: Lenten Feria

10.00pm: Funeral George Cotter RIP

7.00pm: Stations of the Cross

Saturday: Lenten Feria

6.00pm Mass: Gerry White

Sunday: 1st of Lent

9.00am Mass: Mercia Bibb RIP

11.00am Mass: People of the Parish



*A man's words
flow out of what
fills his heart.*

CONFESIONS

11am &
5.15 -5.45pm
Saturdays

Late News: Pope Francis has called for a day of Fasting and Prayer for Peace in the Ukraine on Ash Wednesday praying that "the Queen of Peace will preserve the world from the madness of war."

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

27th February 2022
8th Week of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 4

FR CHRIS WRITES:

Lent is here. On Wednesday! There is Mass on Ash Wednesday both in the Morning (with the school) & Evening. For adults and those not too old, it is a day of Fasting and Abstinence as we begin the Lenten season. We begin this great season of grace preparing for the culmination of our year at easter. There are various things we have as a Parish:

Walk with me booklets: These have a mediation for each day to bolster your prayer. Also available are Activity booklets and a calendar for children.

Stations of the Cross: 7.00pm on Fridays. Normally followed by Mass

Holy Hour with Benediction: Thursdays 7.00pm – 8.00pm with a couple of meditations on next Sundays readings. This is an opportunity for the most powerful prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, Our Bishop and the Holy Father have called us to adoration before the Blessed Sacrament especially at this time of the Synod and seeking to come out of COVID, Many graces are received before the Blessed Sacrament. Some Lent Resources can be found at: <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/preparing-for-lent-and-eastertide/lent-and-eastertide-resources/>

So what will we do this Lent? Many people like to give up something for Lent. Many do something positive, like greater emphasis and time on prayer, scripture readings, charitable acts, trying to be especially kind, willing and cooperative and generally more helpful and cheerful to a family member whether as parent or child. We can make an effort to attend an extra Mass on a weekday and to come to the Stations of the Cross on a Friday evening, that lovely traditional Catholic devotion, which is so special, reflective and prayerful for a Lenten devotion. Or we can make a time to pop into Church during the day and waste some time with Jesus instead of the TV! We also have our Ecumenical prayer groups as below.

Our **CAFOD Lenten fast day** will be on Friday 11th March. There will be an appeal next weekend

Sadly **George Cotter** died last week. His funeral will be on Friday 4th March at 10.00am. The funeral of **Angela Butlin** will be on Wednesday 9th March 11.00am. May they both rest in peace.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARBOROUGH: United Lent reflections 2022 Into the desert: A Lenten journey towards deeper faith

Every Friday lunchtime (**12.30 to 1.00**) during Lent there will be a short service and reflection led by lay people from different churches. Every one is invited to join them. This year these meetings will be held on Zoom. The log-in details are the same for each service. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86087703786?pwd=NC9CdFhFR0ptVi9DRWFvdVdmY3VHUT09> Meeting ID: 860

8770 3786; Passcode: LENT22 Telephone Passcode: 761448. These are available from Fr Chris by email. **Friday 4 March – led by Harborough Baptist Church** Luke 4:1-13: *The desert of testing: facing and overcoming our demons and weaknesses.* **Friday 11 March – led by Harborough Anglican Team** Deuteronomy 8:1-5; Exodus 16:1-16: *The desert of provision: being sustained by God in hardship and suffering*

Fair trade Coffee morning: Saturday March 5th 10.00am -12.30am at the Methodist Church Northampton Rd (Youth wing). Bacon Baps, vegetarian etc.

PUBLIC PRAYING OF THE ROSARY at Our Lady's Statue outside in front of the church. **4.30-5pm every Sunday.** As Catholics we pray the Rosary for cohesion and reconciliation in society, for peace, and freedom. We pray for the people, for the rulers, and for the kingship of our Lord Jesus Christ in society. At the same time always for the freedom of the Church, for the clergy, for the bishops, for the Pope, and in reparation for the sins committed against God Almighty and His Holy Mother. For more details contact Maureen Douglas 07966 515115

MEMORIAL FOR FR OWEN: A Memorial for Fr Owen has been discussed The most popular suggestion is a stained window being the Statue of Our Lady . Please let Fr Chris know.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2022 FRIDAY 4 MARCH A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE LOCATION: St Hugh Granville St, LE16 9HF TIME: **2PM** THEME: *I know the plans I have for you. This is a special year as the service has been written by the Christian Women from England, Wales and Northern Ireland. All around the World services will be held on this day. Please do try to attend the service in our town prepared by the committee representatives from the local churches. For those unable to attend a Live Link to the service can be found on Parish of St Nicholas and St Hugh, Little Bowden-Home| Facebook*

COVID 19 and Mass:

- You no longer need to book for mass.
- Masks are strongly advised for the sake of other people if though no longer a legal requirement.

Do not come if displaying any viral symptoms

- We will maintain alternate benches. However there will be no limits to numbers on a bench though we wish to have a system which acknowledges people's wish to maintain distances. When entering a bench, if you wish to maintain a distance from those following you, please place your Mass/hymn books as far from you as you wish, to indicate your preferred gap. If someone is already in the bench, then watch out for where they have put their books.

		Sat. 6.00 pm	Sunday, 9.00 am	11.00 a.m.
Readers	Feb 26/27	C Baldham	C Reed	S McGlone
	March 5/6	E. Andrews	S Acton	M. Douglas

Once again Hand made **Reusable Face masks for Sale:** in Church £2.50 towards Church funds. We have raised £56.50 so far. Thank you.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREATS – The Diocese is organising a retreat for women on Saturday 12th March (at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Nottingham) and a retreat for men on 19th March (at the Briars in Crich). The women's retreat will be led by the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph and will be focused on 'Make the tent you live in larger; lengthen its ropes and strengthen the pegs!' how we live out our faith in all areas of our lives and the people we interact with. The men's retreat will be led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and will take as its theme: 'Friendship with Christ & Friendship in Christ' exploring how we can grow in friendship and fraternity. Please email adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk for more information and to book your place.

THIRD WORLD GROUP: Due to the ongoing limitations on social events for fund-raising, our main source of income at the moment is selling items on eBay, but our stock is dwindling. If we are to keep our promises to our beneficiaries we must maintain this activity. Please look through your cupboards, drawers, lofts, even sheds and garages, for good quality items that you no longer need. Clothing is the most popular but anything as long as it is in good condition and still has some value. Our box is under the table opposite the noticeboard in the cloister.