

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

We hear once again the wonderful prologue of Saint John's gospel on this second Sunday in Christmas. For those who were not at the Daytime Christmas Mass, this will be the first time to hear it as we begin this new year. In this dark time of the year when the sun is at its lowest ebb, we hear the words: *a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.* There is much darkness in the world at the moment. We have the Covid pandemic. They have introduced on the government COVID interactive Map a black colour for cases over 1600 per 100,000. It is a serious situation and we pray for an end to this illness and wise decisions from Governments. However, there are also so many signs of spiritual darkness which can seem overwhelming and more deadly which originates in the human heart and the temptation of the evil one. The continuing injustices of our world economic order which leads to such poverty and death for so many. The prosperity of a few and the lack of necessities of life for so many. Our world leads to effective slavery for many. As the Holy Father often remarks we have an arms industry that feeds conflicts and leads to many having to leave their homes and then end up in camps. At the moment there are several thousand freezing on the Polish border. These evils originate in the human heart and choices. There is of course the break down of family life where children do not have a stable home to grow up in, but have to go from the Father's house to the mothers each week. The Holy Father mentioned on the feast of the Holy Family the demographic winter that afflicts Italy (Indeed most of Europe): *And speaking of families, I have a concern, a real concern, at least here in Italy: the demographic winter. It seems that many couples prefer not to have children or to have only one child. Think about this. It is a tragedy. A few minutes ago, I saw on Sua Immagine how they were speaking about this serious problem, the demographic winter. Let us do everything possible to regain an awareness to overcome this demographic winter that goes against our families, about our country, even against our future.* John Paul called this the culture of death. We are effectively killing our own civilisation.

We could go on and add things to this list. But I do not mean to be gloomy as we begin a New Year of Grace! For what we celebrate at Christmas is the light that the darkness cannot overpower! There are many who did not and do not accept the word made flesh but many who do and live as children of the light. For all the evil in the world, many are lights in the darkness: those who help the poor wherever they are to be found. Those who create hope for example the work of Caritas or CAFOD throughout the world who enabled people to live better lives at home. Or we can think of those who support the broken families other through counselling or social work or indeed the love of a neighbour for a neighbour. We are all aware of the marvellous initiatives of neighbourly love throughout this pandemic. I think of the many people who have helped single mothers with that time wisdom and above all love. We could go on with so many examples of people who are effectively children of the light or as Saint John says witnesses to the light who bring the light of Christ through self-giving love.

As we begin this new year, we are full of hope because darkness cannot overcome the light. It tried as love itself was crucified on the cross but the darkness could not overcome it *and we saw his glory.* So we should always seek to live as children of the light and never to give in to darkness or the despair or hopelessness evil tries to engender. Our resolution for the new year must be to welcome the light of Christ and to shine with that light. St John says: *Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace.* St Paul prays: *May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit.* Amen



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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2nd January 2022
2nd Week of Christmastide
Psalter Week 2

Times of Services

Sunday: 2nd after Christmas

6.00pm Mass: Allen Winter RIP (Anniv.)
9.00am Mass: People of the Parish
11.00am: Mass: Father Colin Watling RIP

Monday Christmas Feria

7.00pm Mass: Private Int

Tuesday: Christmas Feria

10.00am Mass: Sr Eileen & team

Wednesday: Christmas Feria

10.00am: Arthur Johnson RIP (anniv)

Thursday: EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

10.00am Mass: Bogush Nowakowski RIP (Birthday)
7.30pm: Fr Owen O'Neil RIP (Armstrong)

Friday: Friday after Epiphany

2.30pm: Funeral Service at Great Glen: Edwin Armstrong
7.00pm: Patricia White (Rita)

Saturday: Saturday after Epiphany

12.30pm: Nuptial Mass Adam Marczak & Katarzyna Zeman
6.00pm: November Dead List
Sun: 9.00am: People of the Parish
Sun: 11.00am: Gerry White (Rita)



*They saw the child with
his mother Mary, and
falling to their knees
they did him homage*

CONFESSIONS

11am &
5.15 - 5.45pm
Saturdays

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MUST PRE BOOK FOR OUR WEEKEND MASSES:

Also it would be helpful to book for weekdays too, though not necessary at the moment as we are not full.

Booking is now online: www.Massbooking.uk You can sign up there and then book. If you do not have the internet you can ask someone else to book for you, a child or grandchild or ring or email Fr. Chris on 01858 462359 giving your name and phone number. Please see instructions on our website: www.olvic.com/news.htm

FR CHRIS WRITES

As we begin this New Year, May I wish you all a year of the grace and Favour of Our Lord. We pray for many things as we begin the year but we ask Mary's Special intercession for an end of the COVID-19 Pandemic and from it a more fraternal World as our Holy Father emphasises. Our Masses will continue to be with social distancing. My prayers to all who follow from home. Many thanks for all you're your Christmas Cards, gifts and very kind Christmas Offerings. I hope that Christmas was filled with the joy of Christ even if we could not celebrate it as we would have wished whether at Church or in the family. And to all those who prepared our Christmas Celebrations: flowers, cleaners, musicians, Altar servers, those who prepared the Crib and the tree! Our continuing thanks go to our Stewards. Thank you for all of you who do so much all year round in so, any ways seen and unseen. A Happy and Blessed New Year to you all!

Sadly we lost some parishioners recently Edward Armstrong husband of Pat. His funeral will be at Great Glen Crematorium on **Friday, 7th January at 2.30 p.m.**

CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

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Harborough Action for Justice and Peace will try and hold the annual Peace Vigil in the Square at 17.00 on January 14th. If things change to the point where that is no longer possible, we will encourage folk to have half an hour of prayer in their own homes, with some sort of light - as we did in January this year!

READERS WANTED: It is time, once again, to compile a new Readers' Rota for the coming year. Anyone who would like to read at one of the weekend masses, please contact Margaret Atkins as soon as possible, stating which mass you normally attend, and giving your email address and preferred telephone number. Email margaretatkins52@gmail.com or call **01858 446369**.

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LACY Have Your Say Synod '21 '23 Latest new from LACY (Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth). Due to the current COVID situation We've changed the venue to **ON LINE VIA ZOOM!** We've changed the time to **4.00 P.M.** A great opportunity for all young people, their families and friends to join us! All young people under the age of 18 should be present with an adult. Link information: Topic: **"Have Your Say Synod" with Young People** Time: **Jan 9, 2022 04:00 PM** : Join Zoom Meeting : [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82612564814?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82612564814?pwd=Y1JzbW1VbkY0NXluZVg4d1FuSHNyUT09) **pwd=Y1JzbW1VbkY0NXluZVg4d1FuSHNyUT09** : Meeting ID: 826 1256 4814: **Passcode: 1guH1F**
Bring your thoughts and ideas and tell us how you would like to share your Faith and become more engaged and involved in your parishes and in your area! We look forward to seeing you. Contact paulinepayne@hotmail.com for further information.



Exciting times with Exciting Young People!

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



'From Daily Grind to Daily Glory' Encountering God in your daily work – For four Wednesdays, starting on 12th January at 7pm, the diocese will be running an online course looking at how we can encounter Jesus in our daily work and how it can help us to grow in holiness too. We spend more hours in a week at work than doing most other activities (including going to church) so let's make an experience of daily glory rather than a daily grind. For more information visit: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/onlineevents

The Church is open for Private prayer each day
Please sign in on the list or use the Covid NHS App Q code displayed
By Law Face masks must be worn .

Just a gentle reminder that the **Third World Group** is still selling clothes and other items through Ebay to try and maintain donations to our six charities. Please could you possibly make us your first choice Charity Shop at the moment by leaving any unwanted clothing, shoes, books etc in our box in the cloister or arrangements could be made to collect from your home - with strictest safety measures in place. Please contact Chris 01536 711560, or Judith or Margaret at church. Many thanks to everyone for continuing to help all those in our world who are so very needy.

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FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

Today's feast we could say fulfils the promise of Christmas in us. At Christmas Jesus took on our nature he shared our human nature in all things but sin we believe. By so uniting human nature to himself as the Word of God, the second person of the Holy Trinity, he joined all humanity to his divine nature through his own person. This is sometimes seen as a sort of exchange: by humbling himself he raised us all up. This is something truly wonderful in itself. Everything we are or do as human beings is capable of being touched by the divine. All our actions, words and indeed thoughts and feelings are ennobled.

But of course, our human nature is so often not noble indeed quite the opposite. Our words actions thoughts and feelings can be very shameful and ugly and indeed sinful cruel and evil. We all know deep down the ugly side of ourselves even if we don't admit to it as often as we should. Now of course Christ did not have this ugly side of human nature. He was without sin. So how does this work?

If we consider his baptism we might wonder, why was he baptised? John's baptism was a baptism of repentance and Jesus had nothing to repent of. He had no original sin or actual sins. However, he enters the waters. On one level he is giving us an example that we all need to repent and acknowledge our sins. He is teaching us. But there is more, he is not only teaching us but the sins that were symbolically washed away in the river Jordan, he truly takes on himself as the Lamb of God. Perhaps we could think of it in terms of going into a bath which many people have already used. He goes in and rises up with the sin of the world laying on him we could say. The bath is the opposite for Jesus. He makes holy or cleanses the waters of baptism by taking on the sins of the world. Because of this the symbolic actions of washing in Jewish religion (and others) over the ages become real and effective in the new waters of Baptism. The sacrament of Baptism, as in all Sacraments, now effects what it symbolises. All Sin is washed away in the sacrament so that for any person over the age of reason every sin is removed.

Thus, we can see that the promise of Christmas, the union of human and divine nature becomes possible because Jesus has removed the barrier of sin by being the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. In his Baptism Jesus fulfils the meaning of his incarnation: He chooses to be with us where we are, to be in solidarity with us sinners that we are, so that we can be close to him as the Son of God indeed sharing his divine life. This is the true depth of the divine exchange. His Baptism looks forward to his crucifixion and Resurrection as the fulfilment of Christmas.

So, his Baptism becomes a revelation of our Baptism. What is seen of Jesus becomes true for us. The Holy Spirit comes down on us and the Father says to each of us or greets us: 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.' In Our Baptism we are made anew by the Spirit of God so we become children of God brothers & sisters of Jesus even now truly and really even though we still have to battle sin. Such is the mercy of God.

However, we must truly receive the gift again and again though our faith which lets the Holy Spirit work in us and bear fruit. Sacraments are real always (ex opere operato) but their fruits depend on our faith. Let us meditate on the reality of our Baptism in our prayer this week, praying to make Christmas real in us. We can renew our Baptism through the Sacrament of Confession. Our Baptism is not something that happened once when we were babies but is an ever-present fountain of living water – the Holy Spirit – who is ever active.



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9th January 2022
1st Week of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 1

Times of Services

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord

6.00pm Mass: November Dead List

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am: Mass: Gerry White (Rita)

Monday : Feria

9.00am Mass: David & Sylvia Wilson RIP

Tuesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: November Dead List

Wednesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Michael Buckley RIP (Sisters)

Thursday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Joanne Freyne RIP (Danks)

Friday: Feria

7.00pm Mass: November Dead List

Saturday: Feria

6.00pm First Mass of 16th: Fr Owen O'Neill RIP

Sunday: 2nd of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am Mass: November Dead List



*While Jesus after his own
baptism was at prayer,
heaven opened.*

CONFESSIONS

11am &
5.15 -5.45pm
Saturdays

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FR CHRIS WRITES

As we begin this New Year, we are once again in the grips of COVID – 19 with this New Wave. I can see from the numbers at Church at the moment, many people are not coming to Church at present which we understand. In church we are still maintain a good social distancing as well as the legal requirement of masks and despite winter we have the door and windows open to provide good ventilation. We will continue to use our online booking system though at the moment we are not full at any of the weekend Masses. Please God this record level of infections will disappear as quickly as it came.

We will soon begin First Communion classes for our children who are nearly all from St Joseph's. Please pray for them. A thank you to our Catechists.

CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

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VICTORY PRIZE DRAW: Results of the January 2022 Draw

1st Prize £70 G Powell ticket number 184

2nd Prize £30 M Packer ticket number 142

3rd Prize £20 GR Bell ticket number 24

Annual ticket holders are reminded that they need to renew. Cheques to be made out to THE VICTORY PRIZE DRAW and forwarded to Keith Shiers, 23 Fairfax Road Market Harborough LE16 9JT

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

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



The Diocesan Caritas [Newsletter](#) is available online. There are various events such as: Church Action for Tax Justice invites you to an online presentation and workshop on why tax, and tax justice, matters for people of faith. Mon, January 17, 2022 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM GMT. To book see www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/taxjustice



'From Daily Grind to Daily Glory' Encountering God in your daily work – For four Wednesdays, starting on 12th January at 7pm, the Diocese will be running an online course looking at how we can encounter Jesus in our daily work and how it can help us to grow in holiness too. We spend more hours in a week at work than doing most other activities (including going to church) so let's make an experience of daily glory rather than a daily grind. For more information visit: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/onlineevents

Altar Servers: Just to keep everyone up-to-date, we are still being restricted to one Server at the Saturday Vigil and the two Sunday Services or two from the same household/bubble. The rota system is working well so a big thank you to all the servers for their help and support. However as we enter the holiday season I need to ask our servers and/or parents to let me know as early as possible if you have any dates you are away or not available. Any advance warning will be helpful.

As I said a few weeks ago, please do get in touch on 07981 205861 if you would like adding to the rota. Again absolutely no pressure to come back if you or your parents are not comfortable, we completely understand and welcome you back when you are ready. Thanks to everyone and Stay Safe. Dave Percival



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As we begin ordinary time, we are blessed with this most wonderful gospel of the marriage feast at Cana which sadly we only hear once every three years. In fact, it is the third part of the epiphany of Christ which unites the revelation to the three Wise Men, the baptism of the Lord and finally the glory of Christ is revealed at Cana and the mystery of Christmas: our union with Christ is shown with further richness as that of bride and bridegroom. And importantly, today's miracle is the first sign that Jesus performed.

It is no coincidence that it takes place at a wedding which is where the Bible story itself began with Adam & Eve. The covenant of God with Israel as we have heard in the first reading was often described in terms of a marriage. This reading was used at the vigil mass of Christmas and describes a time when God would renew Israel and renew the Covenant relationship with her removing her infidelities and sins to the extent but God would rejoice over her *Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you. Wonderful word to meditate on and not mere metaphor! Jesus now reveals himself as that bridegroom. At Jewish weddings it was the bridegroom's responsibility to provide the wine. Indeed, we see that the Steward takes the new wine straight to the bridegroom assuming he had given it and wondering about the strange behaviour. However, this wine has come from God, from Jesus and in magnificent style from six stone water jars which could be 180 gallons of the finest vintage. He is the bridegroom par excellence. He gives the new wine of the new covenant which joins Man and God as bride and bridegroom in intimacy. There is a whole new level in the family Covenant relationship.*

The six stone water jars represent the old covenant as St John hints when he tells us they were used for ritual washing which was necessary for a relationship with God. The number 6 also hints at the imperfection of the old covenant which falls short of the perfect number which is 7. Water was also a symbol of the Law of the Old Testament which as Saint Paul says can only condemn. Jesus provides the new wine the wine that brings joy because it gives grace to keep the covenant Law. As Mary says they have no wine. Mankind needs the grace of God, we need the Holy Spirit which Jesus the bridegroom will provide. We cannot do it ourselves, only Jesus can do the miracle. In the vast quantities we see that there is no shortage of his grace so that we might live the Law of the New Covenant which is love. Our prayer should be we have no wine; I have no wine – I need your grace asking always the intercession of Mary to whom Jesus listens even to anticipating his hour on the cross.

We are invited to a great intimacy with God. Marriage has the greatest intimacy with its passion and self-sacrifice. God rejoices in us, takes delight in us, he weds us. This begins now and is fully consummated in heaven. But already is present through the nuptial bath of Baptism and the Nuptial feast of the Eucharist when we receive the body of Christ the bridegroom who says this is me given for you. Indeed, the words of Genesis are fulfilled in Christ: So a man leaves his father and mother and joins with his wife and the two become one flesh. As Isaiah indicates God will renew us in our intimacy with him. As in any marriage daily communication is vital. We cannot leave it to our weekly Mass. We must read the scriptures and pray each day which is our time of special intimacy when we listen to him and speak to him of what is in our heart. We need to set aside half an hour each day. If you are a beginner start with a lesser time and build up gradually adding it to your prayers that you already have a habit of. We will then be signs ourselves of the Joy of God for others letting his glory be seen.



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16th January 2022
2nd Week of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 2

Times of Services

Sunday: 2nd of Ordinary Time

6.00pm Mass: Fr Owen O'Neill RIP
9.00am Mass: People of the Parish
11.00am: Mass: November Dead List

Monday: St Anthony

9.00am Mass: November Dead List

Tuesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Cosmo, Maria & Ferdinando Ditro RIP

Wednesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Mirek Nowakowski RIP 2nd Anniv

Thursday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Dennis Cottrell RIP (Blamires)

Friday: St Agnes

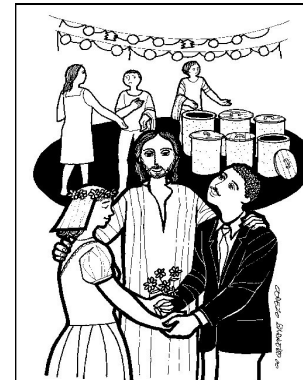
7.00pm Mass: Michael Clarke RIP (Jill)

Saturday: Feria

6.00pm First Mass of 23rd: People of the Parish

Sunday: 3rd of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: Geoff & Sheila Plowright RIP anniv (Family)
11.00am Mass: Mary Keane, Gerald & Pamela Gilbert (Family)



This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee

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FR CHRIS WRITES. Sadly we have had to postpone our First Communion classes for a month because of the present COVID wave among families. Hopefully this will subside in the coming week or two. Please pray for our First Communion group.

The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity begins on Tuesday and runs till Tuesday 25th January. Sadly we cannot have our usual meetings in persons and United service. However there are prayer meetings on Zoom as you can see in this Newsletter. Some in the evening some at Midday. Please continue to pray for the Unity Christ willed for all Christians that the world may believe, It would be good to have a presence of Catholics at these meetings.

- * The Parish Council is meeting this week on Wednesday at 7.00pm
- * Once again Hand made **Reusable Face masks for Sale:** in Church £2.50 towards Church funds.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: 17-21 January 2022

Each year at this time we try to meet together for prayer. Because of current restrictions and concerns we shall do so remotely via Zoom in 2022. However, that need not limit our fellowship and our prayerful support of one another in our mission and ministry across the area.

The meetings normally last 30-40 minutes. They will focus on local prayer needs together with wider issues. The format will be decided by each leader.

This year, we have one log-in for all five meetings, thanks to Revd Andy Murphy who will act as host for each one. This is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6519729380?pwd=M0JBRFFoWk45L0lINGZvWWNtekxrUT09> Meeting ID: 651 972 9380 Passcode: MHMC; Telephone passcode: 472588

Monday 17th, 7.00 pm Leader: Mrs Janet Smith (Harborough Baptist Church and Chair, Churches Together in Harborough)

Tuesday 18th, 12.00 noon Leader: Revd Alison Iliffe (Team Vicar, Transfiguration parish of St Nicholas Gt Bowden, and St Hugh's Northampton Road)

Wednesday 19th, 12.00 noon Leader: Revd Andy Murphy (Minister, Harborough Methodist Church and vice-chair, Churches Together in Harborough)

Thursday 20th, 12.00 noon Leader: Mr Tim Jeffery (Chief Executive Officer, Torch Trust)

Friday 21st, 12.00 noon Leader: Revd Hils Corcoran (Team Vicar, St Peter & St Paul Great Bowden)

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VICTORY PRIZE DRAW: Results of the January 2022 Draw

1st Prize £70 G Powell ticket number 184

2nd Prize £30 M Packer ticket number 142

3rd Prize £20 GR Bell ticket number 24

Annual ticket holders are reminded that they need to renew. Cheques to be made out to THE VICTORY PRIZE DRAW and forwarded to Keith Shiers, 23 Fairfax Road Market Harborough LE16 9JT

VVOLUNTEERING IN SCHOOLS: There is a Churches Together 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

'From Daily Grind to Daily Glory' Encountering God in your daily work – For four Wednesdays, starting on 12th January at 7pm, the Diocese will be running an online course looking at how we can encounter Jesus in our daily work and how it can help us to grow in holiness too. We spend more hours in a week at work than doing most other activities (including going to church) so let's make an experience of daily glory rather than a daily grind. For more information visit: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/onlineevents

The Church is open for Private prayer each day
Please sign in on the list or use the Covid NHS App Q code displayed
By Law Face masks must be worn .

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FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

In our Scripture this weekend we see the word of God proclaimed by Ezra and Jesus to the assembly in the synagogue. The reading from Nehemiah shows us a moment of great emotion in Jerusalem. A solemn reading and Proclamation of the Law of the Covenant. The Hebrew people had been conquered and exiled in Babylon. Jerusalem was destroyed. Sixty years later they were allowed to return and they worked hard to rebuild Jerusalem. Now, in the middle of their toil, they pause to renew themselves spiritually by reading the ancient Law of their people, and pledging themselves to begin anew as God's people. It is a moment of thanksgiving, of hope and yet also of sorrow for the past. No wonder there are tears.

I do not know what would happen if I began reading the scriptures early in the morning and continued reading and expounding till noon. I suspect the church would empty very quickly and I would be left expounding to myself! I know indeed people seem to get restless as we near the hour mark and feel the need to rush out. Perhaps it is a sign of our culture compared to allegedly less educated ones. The people of Jerusalem were excited and full of tears as they heard the Word of God expounded such that they stood there all of them even children for hours. Because they knew how gifted they were to have this divine word, they realised how in the past they had ignored it and how disaster had befallen them. Now they recognised the gift how privileged they were: they now treasured the word that they had ignored and despised and this led to a great revival in their faith through an experience of the mercy of God

We should reflect we do not have just the old testament, the imperfect and partial revelation of God, we have the new as well: the fullness of the word of God from the new testament and Gospels especially which we hear proclaimed every Sunday to the assembly, that is us the new People of God gathered to celebrate: it is the word of God and we must listen to it; it is proclaimed with special power during the Liturgy. It is an immense privilege. It is vital that we listen to the Word and let it penetrate into our hearts to change them that we may more fully recognise the presence of God among us in our lives in his Word.

For in Christ the one foretold by Isaiah has come, on whom the Spirit rests. He proclaims the time of God's favour or mercy to all. This passage was well known as describing Israel's saviour. He then speaks words which must have caused a sensation in the Synagogue. *'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen. They were true then and as true today as it was 2000 years ago when our Lord uttered those words.'*

We are so privileged and blessed to have the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit helps us grasp the Scriptures; For the Holy Spirit is present to us through our Baptism and confirmation The HS first gives life to the Word of God, he inspires it and then gives Christians an understanding of the Word of God according to the dispositions of our hearts. The Holy Spirit puts us into a living relationship with Christ, the Word and Image of the Father, so that we can live out the meaning of what we hear, contemplate and do in the celebration.

Yes the word of God is present in the Scriptures: on that alone should we be like those Israelites who we are told answered Amen! Amen! then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. May we weep both joy and repentance as we listen to the Word of God! May we grow in love of it on this Word of God Sunday.



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

23rd January 2022
3rd Week of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 3

Times of Services

Sunday: 3rd of Ordinary Time

6.00pm Mass: First Mass of 23rd: People of the Parish
9.00am Mass: Geoff & Sheila Plowright RIP anniv (Family)
11.00am: Mass: Mary Keane, Gerald & Pamela Gilbert (Family)

Monday: St Francis de Sales

9.00am Mass: Norah Barongo RIP

Tuesday: The Conversion of Saint Paul

9.00am Mass: Tobias Gatens RIP(Taylor)

Wednesday: Sts Timothy & Titus

10.00am Mass: November Dead List

Thursday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Richard & Lydia Bennett RIP

Friday: St Thomas Aquinas

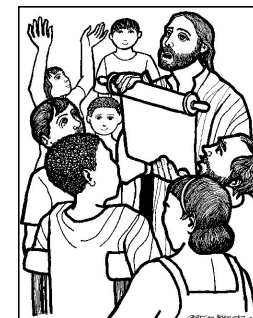
7.00pm Mass: Johnson Int

Saturday: Feria

6.00pm November Dead List

Sunday: 4th of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish
11.00am Mass: Eddie Armstrong RIP(Pat)



*This text is being
fulfilled today.*

CONFESSIONS
11am &
5.15 - 5.45pm
Saturdays

Next Sunday 2nd Collection for the Sick & Retired Priests Fund

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MUST PRE BOOK FOR OUR WEEKEND MASSES:

Also it would be helpful to book for weekdays too, though not necessary at the moment as we are not full.

Booking is now online: www.Massbooking.uk You can sign up there and then book. If you do not have the internet you can ask someone else to book for you, a child or grandchild or ring or email Fr. Chris on 01858 462359 giving your name and phone number. Please see instructions on our website: www.olvic.com/news.htm

FR CHRIS WRITES:

This weekend we will remember and pray for the cause of Christian unity. We would normally have a united service but cannot due to COVID-19. The prayer of Our Lord at the Last Supper "that they may be one... that the world may believe" continues to be urgent and current. One of the responses to the Synod consultation was about this and features strongly both to recognise the work done in the past and to keep moving forward, there is much that Christians do together whether informally or formally. Many Christians work together for things such as Peace and justice in the world, local causes such as the Foodbank and many others. Formally within the structures of Churches Together. This is a great sign that we can cooperate despite lacking full visible Unity. Indeed, we continue to learn from each other in Christian Living and aspects of the faith. May this grow as the Lord wills.

This Sunday is also word of God Sunday. This Sunday builds on the texts and prayers of the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time and is conscious that it comes during the celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. While we are not yet united around the table of the Eucharist, we do share on many Sundays of the year the same scriptural readings in our different Christian assemblies with the Common Lectionary.

Synod Consultation: After consultation I sent a short summary from the Parish to the Deanery which will be then sent to the Deanery. I am hoping to have a fuller summary ready for the Parish next weekend after the Parish Council looks at it..



- * The Parish Council is meeting this week on Wednesday at 7.00pm
- * Once again Hand made **Reusable Face masks for Sale:** in Church £2.50 towards Church funds.

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POETRY, RAP & COMEDY WORKSHOP WITH HARRY & CHRIS: 16th February 3-5pm at St Hugh Church, Market Harborough. An exciting and creative workshop in half term aimed at 10 to 18 year olds, with the renowned Comedy-Rap-Jazz duo Harry and Chris. This will be an interactive workshop, which will help young people to explore poetry through comedy and rap. The workshop is free, but spaces are limited, so booking and completion of parental / carer consent form is essential. Booking form available: <https://www.harborough-anglican.org.uk/new-events/2022/2/16/comedy-workshop> Comedy Festival Website: <https://comedy-festival.co.uk/event/poetry-rap-and-comedy-workshop-with-harry-and-chris/>

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ALTAR SERVERS: Just to keep everyone up-to-date, we are still being restricted to one Server at the Saturday Vigil and the two Sunday Services or two from the same household/bubble. The rota system is working well so a big thank you to all the servers for their help and support. However as we enter the holiday season I need to ask our servers and/or parents to let me know as early as possible if you have any dates you are away or not available. Any advance warning will be helpful. As I said a few weeks ago, please do get in touch on 07981 205861 if you would like adding to the rota. Again absolutely no pressure to come back if you or your parents are not comfortable, we completely understand and welcome you back when you are ready. Thanks to everyone and Stay Safe. Dave Percival

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY: Jeremiah was called from his mother's womb to be a prophet, Simply put to speak the truth to the People of Israel: to all of them whether kings, priest or the simple country people. However he is warned from the very beginning , he is not going to be popular! They will not listen to him and oppose him at every turn. Jeremiah must brace himself for that and do as the Lord commanded. In his life Jeremiah did suffer much amongst many things he was dumped down a well as he warned Israel about destruction and exile if they did not change their ways! Many have seen in him an image of the sufferings of Christ.

Last week we heard Jesus's word quoting Isaiah about the Good News he was announcing. Today we have the reaction. On one level the words seem gracious and pleasant and receive approval but then their meaning seems to sink in and they remember who Jesus is, that is to say one of them and then I suppose "who does he think he is to speak to us in such a way!" We know him - the carpenter's son. Initial admiration turns to rejection to such an extent that they want to throw him off a cliff as a foreshadowing of the crucifixion.

As Christians we are called to witness to the Gospel of Christ by deed and word and it will not always be popular for whatever reason. Naturally we try to be gracious and seek agreement with those around us but like Jeremiah we heed the word of God and as Jesus we must bear witness to the truth. Jesus warned us many times about persecutions that will come. It will come to us in different ways when we live and give witness to our faith every day. When we give witness to the wrong of abortion for example many will think us extreme. It is particularly difficult for Doctors and Nurses but their witness to life is vital. We may find our views that marriage is between man and woman are considered as discriminatory and cruel. When we stand up for injustice at work, we can suffer. Indeed it may become more difficult to be a Christian in Public employment. We can struggle with our Children when we have to put them right about something. Young people suffer when they give witness to Christian Chastity. I have heard how hard it can be at college or university. Speaking up for those in prison is not popular.

Our second reading reminds us that we must do this in the right way always with love. In the face of rejection or opposition it is easy to become self-righteous or pompous or even bitter. We can also give in to condemnation of the so called wicked in society so much so that we can become a resounding gong or clashing symbol that cannot speak to the human heart. Certainly we must never hide the truth. *St Paul says: Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth. Love cannot exist without truth. But at the same time, it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes. This is a most difficult thing to do- to learn to suffer persecution while still practicing and showing love. It is not within our natural powers as such but comes as a gift of God. His love enables us to endure as Christ endured all his suffering. We could mediate on those four things of love to excuse to trust to hope and endure – all things.*

In regards to hoping all things Pope Francis says: Love does not despair of the future: *"this phrase speaks of the hope of one who knows that others can change, mature and radiate unexpected beauty and untold potential. This does not mean that everything will change in this life. It does involve realizing that, though things may not always turn out as we wish, God may well make crooked lines straight and draw some good from the evil we endure in this world..... This realization helps us, amid the aggravations of this present life, to see each person from a supernatural perspective, in the light of hope, and await the fullness that he or she will receive in the heavenly kingdom, even if it is not yet visible. (cf para 117 , [Amoris laetitia: Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on love in the family \(19 March 2016\)](#) | [Francis \(vatican.va\)](#)*



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Diocese of Nottingham: Company Number 7151646 Charity Number: 1134449
Registered Address: Wilson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham, NG1 5AW

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Deanery Comprehensive: St. Paul's 0116 241 4057
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Parish Pastoral Council Members: see photos on notice board

30th January 2022
4th Week of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 4

Times of Services

Sunday: 4th of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: Eddie Armstrong RIP (Pat)

11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

Monday: St John Bosco

9.00am Mass: Eugene Gatens RIP (Taylor)

Tuesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: November Dead List

Wednesday: THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

2.00pm Funeral Suzanne Higgins

Thursday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Frank Willis RIP

Friday: St Gilbert of Sempringham

7.00pm Mass: Maria & Family

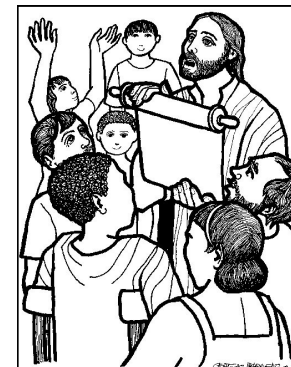
Saturday: St Agatha

6.00pm Mass Peter Northway RIP (Smrectak)

Sunday: 5th of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am Mass: Sally Wyatt-McCormack (Goddard)



Like Elijah and Elisha, Jesus was not sent to the Jews only.

CONFESSIONS

11am &
5.15 - 5.45pm
Saturdays

2nd Collection for the Sick & Retired Priests Fund – This weekend

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Also it would be helpful to book for weekdays too, though not necessary at the moment as we are not full.

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FR CHRIS WRITES:

This weekend 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

- 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 for the moment. 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.

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 cf <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,



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ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL currently have vacancies for a **full time teaching assistant** and **lunchtime supervisor** roles at our school. If you would like to know more about these roles, please contact the office for further information. Please contact Mrs Liddle at the office if you're interested in these roles. office@stjosephs.leics.sch.uk 01858 465359. You can email Mrs Liddle over the weekend. Applications close on morning of 31 January.



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

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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

Just a gentle reminder that the **Third World Group** is still selling clothes and other items through Ebay to try and maintain donations to our six charities. Please could you possibly make us your first choice Charity Shop at the moment by leaving any unwanted clothing, shoes, books etc in our box in the cloister or arrangements could be made to collect from your home - with strictest safety measures in place. Please contact Chris 01536 711560, or Judith or Margaret at church. Many thanks to everyone for continuing to help all those in our world who are so very needy