

LACY OUTSIDE STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Sun 3rd April 2022 – at the Rosmini Centre, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, LE7 4SJ. Calling **ALL YOUNG PEOPLE**, families and friends – come and share some time with us taking a “**Journey with Jesus**” as we make the Stations of the Cross outside in the grounds of the Rosmini Centre, commencing at 1.30 p.m. This will be followed by a Celebration of Mass and light refreshments. With LACY support and help we are hoping that young people will lead the Stations and feel they can be involved in the Celebration of Mass through Music and readings. Let us know if you can be with us and would like to be involved. Contact paulinepayne@hotmail.com or claudiacoxon@googlemail.com.

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY: Our Bishop recently reminded us of our 3 aims of encountering Our Lord, growing as disciples and as missionary disciples sharing our faith. We are now in this season of grace which is Lent through which we can become better followers of Jesus: i.e. holier Christians! As we heard last Sunday the call is to model ourselves on the Teacher who is Our Lord. We have 40 days when we can grow as disciples. We seek to grow closer to our Lord and in doing so to love those around us more selflessly. This is easy to say and indeed to desire, but we can be sure it won't be plain sailing! This first Sunday of lent reminds us of that as we come face to face with temptation. Jesus desires some time with his father to prepare for his mission and is himself tempted by the Devil. There is no doubt that he is going to do the same to us and test our resolutions. The last thing he wants is for us to come closer to our Lord and be better disciples, to leave behind our mediocrity. So we should expect a struggle as happened to our Lord.

And of course, we have inner demons of our own weakness which we call concupiscence. When we try to control our appetites or desires, they seem to flare up with a will of their own seemingly. Our passion for food and drink for comfort, our laziness, the desire to satisfy our emotions, a certain listlessness. They can be unruly because we don't discipline them enough in everyday life. And when we give more time to prayer a mind seems to wander so easily and so often we struggle to concentrate at all. The devil uses these difficulties to tempt us to give up by saying so we're no good that we are hopeless and incapable of carrying out our resolutions and so indeed we are unworthy. He is the cunning deceiver as we know right from the beginning (Gen 3). We mustn't listen to him.

The great encouragement for us today is the mystery of the temptations of our Lord in the desert. It seems amazing to say but our Lord himself was tempted; we can hardly believe it. It is a mystery beyond our understanding, yet it is true, a fact: we accept it and try and enter into the truth of it which can give us great comfort and help in our own temptations. I repeat our Lord was tempted. Through his fasting he suffered weakness of the flesh. His fasting was a means to come closer to his father. Thus the devil tempts him with some nice hot fresh bread we could say. Satisfy yourself he says. But Jesus replies: *man does not live on bread alone. This phrase could be a meditative mantra for us because it is key. We can repeat this to ourselves over and over again as we struggle with our disordered desires for food and drink and comfort and emotional satisfaction. Jesus knew that and we ask him to teach us that truth that he too knew and experienced in his temptations. So too in the desire for glory and earthly possessions: Our avarice for possessions is a deceiving and temporary comfort. For Jesus it was a temptation to avoid the way of the cross the father had chosen for him. We too prefer the easy satisfactions and comforts. Then the final temptation of putting God to the test. The temptation to take the easy way the way of presumption that no matter what I do or don't do, God will take care of everything and sort it out. It is presuming on his mercy we effectively put God to the test. It is a product of pride and is spiritually suicidal.*

Certainly as we seek to be better disciples we will find temptations and indeed traps from the devil but we rejoice that Jesus himself has had these same temptations and he has conquered: he lived them for us and we live them in him and he in us. He is just close to us in our struggles and we share in the mystery of his victory over temptation.



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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Tel: House: 01858 462359
Email: parishpriest@olvic.com
Convent: Presentation Sisters 01858-462432
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Parish Gift Aid Organiser: giftaid@olvic.com
Parish Pastoral Council Members: see photos on notice board

6th March 2022
First Week of Lent
Psalter Week 4

Times of Services

Sunday: 1st of Lent

Sat. 6.00pm: Mass: Gerry White

9.00am Mass: Mercia Bibb RIP

11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

Monday: Lenten Feria

9.00am Mass: Flint family (Int C)

Tuesday: Lenten Feria

10am Mass: George Cotter RIP (Wilson)

Wednesday: Lenten Feria

11.00am: Funeral Of Angela Butlin RIP

Thursday: Lenten Feria

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

7.00pm: Holy Hour

Friday: Lenten Feria

7.00pm: Stations of the Cross

7.30pm: Martin & Michael Ridge RIP (Sisters)

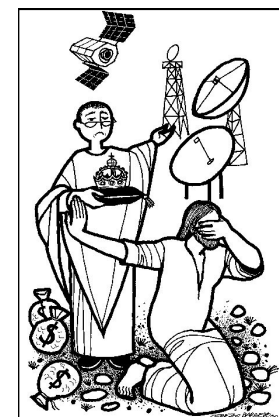
Saturday: Lenten Feria

6.00pm Mass: Father Hugh Doherty RIP

Sunday: 2nd of Lent

9.00am Mass: Paul Beardsmore Birthday (Goddard)

11.00am Mass: People of the Parish



Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness and was tempted there.

CONFESSIONS

11am &
5.15 - 5.45pm
Saturdays

*We continue to pray for the People of Ukraine and offer sacrifices for them.
May Our Lady Queen of peace intercede for Us*

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 to not come to Mass if you have any symptoms of a viral infection

FR CHRIS WRITES: Dear All, I hope Lent has began well for you. Please see the various opportunities we have in this Newsletter. Last week we had Vespers at the Cathedral to celebrate the Synod so far. We now have the draft Diocesan response available. This weekend we are celebrating the Rite of Enrolment for our First Communion children at all the Masses. Please pray for them and their families. Also this weekend we have our CAFOD talk for our family Fast day on Friday. We continue to pray for the Ukraine. We will perhaps have a collection after the CAFOD family Fast day to support the people of the Ukraine through The World wide network of the Church: Caritas. See [Grapevine](#) Which gives information about supporting .



WALK WITH BOOKLETS: These have a meditation 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-easteride/lent-and-easteride-resources/>

The diocesan draft **RESPONSE TO THE SYNOD** is (published this weekend / available at the back of church / on the parish website). Please take some time to read it, and send any further responses or reflections, by Saturday 19th March, directly to the Diocesan Co-ordinators: Fr David Cain (david.cain@dioceseofnottingham.uk) or Joe Hopkins, Adult Formation Director for Mission (joe.hopkins@dioceseofnottingham.uk) Also the **Deanery summary** will be on our [Website](#) shortly. These will both help us to discern as we go. Also see: [Synod \(dioceseofnottingham.uk\)](https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/synod)

This Friday March 11th is **FAMILY FAST DAY** Family Fast Day, we remember that there are many people who need our love and support all around the world. Children experiencing malnutrition like Amie's daughter Lombah did in Sierra Leone or as we are seeing now in Ukraine, families affected by conflict. Your small act of love can make big things happen. Donations to CAFOD this Lent will reach families around the world, enabling local experts to provide support to families in times of need or conflict. You can donate in church using a CAFOD envelope or by visiting the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/lent



The funeral of **Angela Butlin** will be on Wednesday 9th March 11.00am. **Christopher Roberts** died on Ash Wednesday. His funeral will be on Thursday 17th March 10.30am May they both rest in peace.

PARISH WELCOMING: . We need more people especially for Sun Morning and in particular for the 9.00am Mass. We are drawing a rota together. Please do consider helping out in this ministry to welcome Parishioners new and old. 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

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.

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 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.* **Friday 18 March – led by Harborough Community Church** Exodus 13:20-22 **The desert of guidance: discovering God's way for our journey through life**

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.

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	March 5/6	E. Andrews	S Acton	M. Douglas
	March 12/13	J. Rowland	D. Chappell	M. Lewin

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.

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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.

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

I hope Lent is going well. If not, it is never too late to begin. Today contrasts with last Sunday. Then Jesus underwent temptation in his human nature and had to struggle to overcome it. Today we see his glory revealed as he lets his divine nature shine through or perhaps better put, we see the Holy Spirit transfiguring his human nature, the same Holy Spirit we all have. Today we see our true nature shine through as baptised children of God. We received the Holy Spirit at Baptism and became children of God. The Father declared on that day, you are my child, beloved by me. That is our truest self, not the weak sinful person who struggles every day to be a good Christian. Lent is about taking to heart this truth and renewing our Baptism at Easter. This reality is hidden, we will only see it in the full glory of the resurrection, even though there are some holy people, we know, who already seem to shine with love. Living as a Christian is trying to be who we truly are. We may struggle to believe it but the Father attests to it.

The key to this is given by Jesus. He was transfigured when he went up the mountain to pray. It was whilst at prayer that this change came about. He was about to start the final part of his mission, heading to Jerusalem, to the cross. He wanted this moment to be with his father. He enters into prayer: and we are told that as he prayed the aspect of his face was changed in appearance: Here Our Lord was revealed in his prayer in his true self. He opens his soul to the Holy Spirit. As disciples seeking to live a Christian life, we too need this time with the Father. It is in prayer that we realise who we are and receive the grace and will to continue on our mission of life “heading for Jerusalem” with little steps of holiness each day.

We need this Communion with God. It was essential for Jesus to pray. His time of prayer was the very oxygen of his soul without which he could not fulfil his mission. If it was essential for him, it is for us. Without prayer we suffocate the soul, and we cannot live the life that we called to as Christians, because it all seems too much. Jesus could not have lived his life if he had not prayed. Just consider for a moment the agony in the garden.

Can we not find more time this lent to go up the mountain with Jesus? To find some time with God to make a little space in our busy noisy lives. We would never survive without the air we breathe, Yet we deprive ourselves of spiritual oxygen. Can we look this Lent at our prayer and make space: Fasting (from technology and noise) to spend time with God and each other to breathe in the Oxygen of God's love?



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13th March 2022
Second Week of Lent
Psalter Week 2

Times of Services

Sunday: 2nd of Lent

Sat. 6.00pm: Mass: Father Hugh Doherty RIP
9.00am Mass: Paul Beardsmore Birthday (Goddard)
11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

Monday: Lenten Feria

9.00am Mass: November Dead List

Tuesday: Lenten Feria

10am Mass: George & Margaret Cotter (Doreen)

Wednesday: Lenten Feria

10.00am: Nora & Derrick Hamilton RIP (Ann Roberts)

Thursday: St Patrick, Patron of Ireland

10.30am: Funeral of Chris Roberts

7.00pm: Holy Hour

Friday: Lenten Feria

7.00pm: Stations of the Cross

7.30pm November Dead List

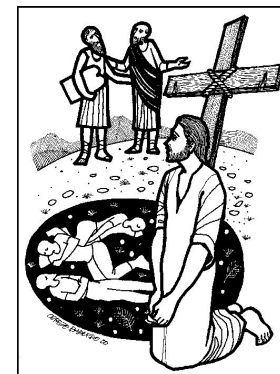
Saturday: St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6.00pm Mass: November Dead List

Sunday: 3rd of Lent

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am Mass: Ken Goodman RIP



As Jesus prayed the aspect of his face changed.

CONFESSIONS

11am &
5.15 - 5.45pm
Saturdays

We are delighted to Welcome Sr Bernadette Healy to the Parish. She has moved from St Augustine's in Nottingham to the Presentation Convent. She leads & coordinates the ministry to travellers in the Diocese amongst other ministries for her Community

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

FR CHRIS WRITES: I simply wish you all a Blessed Lent and encourage you to make a visit to Church as Part of your Lenten programme during the week with for the Holy Hour, Stations of the Cross or a private visit. The Church is generally open all day. We could offer our visit for the Ukraine.

WALK WITH BOOKLETS: These have a meditation 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/>

The diocesan draft **RESPONSE TO THE SYNOD** is (published this weekend / available at the back of church / on the parish website). Please take some time to read it, and send any further responses or reflections, by Saturday 19th March, directly to the Diocesan Co-ordinators: Fr David Cain (david.cain@dioceseofnottingham.uk) or Joe Hopkins, Adult Formation Director for Mission (joe.hopkins@dioceseofnottingham.uk)



Also the **Deanery summary** will be on our [Website](#) shortly. These will both help us to discern as we go.

CAFOD – Lent Fast Day and Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal



On Friday CAFOD asked each of us to fast a little and to donate the money we saved into our Lent Fast Day second collection at Mass this Sunday.

Alongside this collection, CAFOD is aware that families affected by the conflict in Ukraine urgently need food, water and shelter. CAFOD is working closely with Caritas Ukraine, Caritas Poland and others, who are already there delivering practical help to those most in need. Parishioners can be part of the Church's response by giving to CAFOD's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal at cafod.org.uk/Ukraine. Please also continue to pray for peace in Ukraine.

THE VAN DER LIET FAMILY are making a trip to Bakau in Gambia. They are looking for **any unwanted Championship/Premiership shirts** which are surplus to requirements (all past seasons' shirts are warmly received for the children. They can be handed in to St Joseph's school by March 25th.

ST JOSEPH'S PTFA QUIZ NIGHT - Friday 1st April: Please join us for our first quiz night & PTFA event in over 2 years! Doors open at 7:30pm, with the quiz beginning at 8pm in the school hall. Tickets are £10 per person including a fish & chip supper (veggie option available) & raffle ticket. Teams of no more than 6 adults & tickets can be purchased from the school office, a member of the PTFA team or by contacting Catherine Searcy on 0772 555 1009.

WINNERS OF THE MARCH DRAW: 1st Prize £70 M O'Neill ticket No 135; 2nd Prize £30 J Robertson ticket No 154; 3rd Prize £20 P Bebb ticket No 125.

Christopher Roberts died on Ash Wednesday. His funeral will be on Thursday 17th March 10.30am. May he rest in peace. Just to be clear funerals are open to all who wish to attend.

ST JOSEPH SCHOOL NEWS: Our Year 5 children were excellent ambassadors for our school at The Briars last week. They showed love, care and respect for each other and all of the adults. They participated in their retreat with enthusiasm and reverence, and it was wonderful to see the spiritual journey that they each made. One of the highlights was to see their courage and determination as they tackled the climbing wall. Well done to all the children, we are so proud of you as I am sure all of your families are too!

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Bookings are now open for the **Nottingham Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage** – under the leadership of Bishop Patrick, from Monday 4th until Friday 8th July. Full details are on the Tangney Tours website: <https://www.tangney-tours.com/nottingham>, or for more details contact Father Simon Gillespie: simon.gillespie@dioceseofnottingham.uk

		Sat. 6.00 pm	Sunday, 9.00 am	11.00 a.m.
Readers	March 12/13	J. Rowland	D. Chappell	M. Lewin
	March 19/20	M. Mihovilovic	M. Crook	R van der Liet

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		Sat. 6.00 pm	Sunday, 9.00 am	11.00 a.m.
Readers	March 19/20	M. Mihovilovic	M. Crook	R van der Liet
	March 26/27	N. Williamson	P. Green	R. Lewin

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FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY: In lent we follow the history of the people of God in the Old Testament. Last week we heard about Abraham this week we come to Moses and the liberation of the people of Israel broadened out by Saint Paul's epistle. We come to a special moment in the journey of faith of Israel. Moses asks the name of the God who has promised to free his people. A name of course is so very important, to be able to call someone by their name makes such a difference. It is a sign of trust and friendship: with the name we can talk and share and understand someone. So what are we to understand by God saying I am who I am? On first hearing it seems to be a denial of the request or an evasion. There is some truth there because God can never be captured by a simple name. His being transcends names or categorisation. However, he tells Moses to say “I am” has sent him. Many see in this God saying that he is being itself, which is also true of God. He is the necessary being, the being that give existence to all that is. This is an interpretation drawing on Greek thought. However, God is not a philosopher here. He is coming to liberate his people from Slavery. He wants to reveal something of himself by giving his name. On one level he is saying I am present in your midst. The Hebrew sense of to be is not so much metaphysical as in existing but dynamic as in action and having effect. The name of God reveals him to be there for and with his people and that will be seen in the great liberation of his people from slavery and oppression. He is a God who is engaged with and committed to his people not merely existing. He desires friendship and trust and will make a covenant with them. The People of Israel will discover his name throughout their journey of faith as they see God acting in their lives and the drama of the whole nation throughout the centuries. They will grow in the understanding of the name of God. They experience his interventions in their history whether in the good times of faithfulness or in the times when Israel will be unfaithful to the covenant and experience the consequences of that. One of the lovely moments when God reveals more of his name I am who I am is when God speaks his name before Moses on Mt Sinai as he passes by: The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin. (Exodus 34). the name “I am who I am (Yahweh)” is mercy and grace, steadfast love and faithfulness and forgiveness.

This will be fully revealed and the name of God expanded in Jesus who is God Incarnate. What a name cannot reveal is manifested in the person of Jesus Through his life, death and resurrection. In Jesus we see God in action, the true meaning of I am who I am. We see in Jesus God Who has seen the affliction of his people and comes to deliver them from their oppression. Precisely the sin which is the root of all oppression. The Name of God as mercy is fully revealed. Repentance is the entry to know his name.



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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20th March 2022
Third Week of Lent
Psalter Week 3

Times of Services

Sunday: 3rd of Lent

Sat. 6.00pm: Mass: November Dead List

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am: Mass: Ken Goodman RIP

Monday: Lenten Feria

9.00am Mass: Holy Souls

Tuesday: Lenten Feria

10am Mass: Angela Butlin RIP (Sparks family)

Wednesday: Lenten Feria

10.00am Mass: Dave Wilson Birthday (Brown)

Thursday: Lenten Feria

10.00am: Mass: Teresa Gatins RIP (Carol) - Coffee after Mass

12.30pm: Funeral of Frank Gallagher at Kettering Crem

7.00pm: Holy Hour

Friday: THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

7.00pm: Stations of the Cross

7.30pm Mass: Biddle family (Devlin)

Saturday: Lenten Feria

6.00pm Mass: The Boswell Family (Katie)

Sunday: 4th of Lent

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am Mass: Patricia White RIP

4.30pm-5.00pm: Rosary outside Church



*Unless you repent
you will perish as
they did.*

CONFESSIONS

11am &
5.15 -5.45pm
Saturdays

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

FR CHRIS WRITES: We continue to hold Ukraine in our hearts. It is good to hear that so many have responded to the Government initiative to house refugees in their homes. The Ukrainians are mostly orthodox Christians who are very close to us in their faith as well as a number of Greek unite Catholics and a few Latin Rite Catholics. Some of you may be aware that the Holy Father Pope Francis will consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on 25th March during the Liturgy of Penance at 4.00pm our time at St Peter's. ([Live-streamed](#)) The Ukrainian Bishops have asked us to prepare for this by praying a novena. Our Bishop suggests a prayer below for Ukraine. We could add a Hail Mary.

A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE: We pray that the Lord God send His Holy Spirit to all the people of Ukraine and gives them the grace of endurance in faith, hope and love amid the current ordeals; may peace be granted throughout Ukraine and may the Ukrainian nation be delivered from all enemies, so that we may glorify the good and merciful God in justice and truth. Lord hear us and have mercy. Amen.

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/>



The diocesan draft **RESPONSE TO THE SYNOD** is (published this weekend / available at the back of church / on the parish website). Please take some time to read it. Also the **Deanery summary** will be on our [Website](#) shortly. These will both help us to discern as we go.

We will be delivering the **Gift Aid envelopes this week**. If you have not received one by next week, please contact Fr. Chris or Kate Parry.

CAFOD – Lent Fast Day and Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal: Our family Fast raised £654 so far Parishioners can be part of the Church's response by giving to CAFOD's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal at cafod.org.uk/Ukraine. Please also continue to pray for peace in Ukraine.



ST JOSEPH'S PTFA QUIZ NIGHT - Friday 1st April: Please join us for our first quiz night & PTFA event in over 2 years! Doors open at 7.30pm, with the quiz beginning at 8pm in the school hall. Tickets are £10 per person including a fish & chip supper (veggie option available) & raffle ticket. Teams of no more than 6 adults & tickets can be purchased from the school office, a member of the PTFA team or by contacting Catherine Searcy on 0772 555 1009.

WINNERS OF THE MARCH DRAW: 1st Prize £70 M O'Neill ticket No 135; 2nd Prize £30 J Robertson ticket No 154; 3rd Prize £20 P Bebb ticket No 125.

THE VAN DER LIET FAMILY are making a trip to Bakau in Gambia. They are looking for **any unwanted Championship/Premiership shirts** which are surplus to requirements (all past seasons' shirts are warmly received for the children. They can be handed in to St Joseph's school by March 25th.

Frank Gallagher died on 6th March. His funeral will be this Thursday at 12.30pm at Kettering Crematorium. **Adrian Weston** died on Monday. His Requiem Mass will be on Monday 11th April at 11.00am. **May they both rest in peace.** Just to be clear, funerals are open to all who wish to attend.

Following helpful comments from members of the parish and in keeping with the modern age, the **THIRD WORLD GROUP** is planning to change its title to **Aid to Developing Countries (ADC)**. We would once again like to offer our very deep and sincere appreciation to everyone who continues to support our very needy causes through our envelope scheme and by donating clothes and goods for us to sell (Ebay total is approaching £4000!) We are so grateful that your generous response to our appeals has enabled us to donate some money throughout the pandemic to each of our six charities even though our fundraising events were severely curtailed.

Our collection box for donated goods will be situated as usual under the table in the Cloister and will be labelled with our new title. Please continue to help us support the very poor and underprivileged in our world. The new sets of green envelopes will be available to collect from church in the near future. Many thanks from ADC.

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 25 March – led by Harborough Congregational Church* Isaiah 40:1-5; Luke 3:1-9 **The desert of preparation: learning resilience and discipline in obscurity and ordinariness**

On the one-year anniversary of the Ever Given ship getting stuck in the Suez Canal, Catholic charity Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) is hosting a webinar about modernisation in the shipping industry. It will look at the history of the container ship, the rise of the ultra-large container vessels, and explore what impact modernisation of the shipping industry has had on seafarers around the world. Please register now at www.stellamaris.org.uk/modernisation to join online on **23 March at 7.30pm** to hear how shipping has changed in the last century, the impact this is having on seafarers today, and the important role Stella Maris has in supporting them.

PARISH WELCOMING: We need more people especially for Sun Morning and in particular for the 9.00am Mass. We are drawing a rota together. Please do consider helping out in this ministry to welcome Parishioners new and old. 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

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.

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.

LACY OUTSIDE STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Sun 3rd April 2022 – at the Rosmini Centre, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, LE7 4SJ. Calling **ALL YOUNG PEOPLE**, families and friends – come and share some time with us taking a “**Journey with Jesus**” as we make the Stations of the Cross outside in the grounds of the Rosmini Centre, commencing at 1.30 p.m. This will be followed by a Celebration of Mass and light refreshments. With LACY support and help we are hoping that young people will lead the Stations and feel they can be involved in the Celebration of Mass through Music and readings. Let us know if you can be with us and would like to be involved. Contact paulinepayne@hotmail.com or claudi-acoxxon@googlemail.com.

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

Last week we reflected on the name of God and we reflected that we can only see him properly through the lens of repentance. Today we explore in the parable of the merciful father the mystery of mercy. Bishop Patrick said disciples of Christ are grateful recipients of God's merciful forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, so that they in turn may become instruments of that mercy and forgiveness to others. Our vision of the Father is very important. Who is he for us? Do we know him?

The Two sons in so many ways share in the same vision idea of their father at least at the beginning. Their father was simply I suspect a good father who brought up his children: there were rules; they had duties to do: their share of the work on the land on the farm, household chores, there were boundaries for their behaviour, certain things they could not do, they had to be back at a certain time: they both saw him as in charge a rule giver the one to be respected. Neither understood him. Perhaps some of you parents have had this experience with children.

One of them reaches the end of his tether and sets out: He has had enough. He demands his inheritance and departs: so much as to say as far as I am concerned you are dead. His father lets him go, giving into his demand. This reminds us love can never impose on the other, the son does not see this because he does not see his father's Love. He has his freedom at last he thinks! I can be free do what I want! We know how he ends up: after the initial high he ends up with nothing at all: hungry empty alone, no friends and no freedom. His dignity is gone as he ends up with the pigs the lowest of the low.

But we are told he comes to his senses: I love those words. He realises he is in a state. He will go back home. He does not expect anything but at least he might find a job at home. I think his saving grace is he has no pride. He has been a fool but, in some ways, a honest fool. He is prepared to swallow his pride. He sets off home: maybe in fear and trembling, expecting a severe scolding, maybe severe conditions, a coldness, a distance and certainly severe embarrassment.

It does not happen but rather a great big embrace. The first move is made by his father: he rushes to him meeting on the way, coming to him making his journey shorter. (He had his eyes on him all the time) It must have been quite a moment of revelation. A revelation of total unmerited, love that demands nothing but gives everything: he saw his father for the first time in a true light: he had been blinded by his selfishness. Only in this lens of repentance does he know his father truly: The father has not changed one iota. But in the embrace he realises the love of his father and see the very depth of his sin: **that he had thrown the love of the father back in his face. The love of his father has been unrequited all his life.**

The dutiful son: has not left home but neither does he know the father's love. He only knows him as in charge and ungenerous. He does what he is told and would even see himself as a good person. He is owed something for his obedience. He cannot understand in the slightest what the father is up to in his unconditional welcome of the prodigal Son. He complains: you have never given me so much as a kid a small goat to celebrate with my friends? What I wonder here is: Did he ever ask? I suspect not (cf the word of the father: All I have is yours). Where are we on the spectrum of the two sons? More of the elder Son I suspect on my part. Have we asked the gift of true repentance? True contrition for our sins? Asked for a realisation of sin: what it means to God as revealed in Jesus: That is the thing I struggle with: a true sorrow a true deep sorrow that may be might make me weep, and mourn from the bottom of my heart. From that I may be a better disciple as the Bishop says. Have we asked anything of God? Something really, truly worthwhile: Perhaps open your heart to me, O God? The God who says: *all I have is yours.*



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

27th March 2022
Fourth Week of Lent
Psalter Week 4

Times of Services

Sunday: 4th of Lent

Sat. 6.00pm: Mass: The Boswell Family (Katie)

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am: Mass: Patricia White RIP

4.30pm: Rosary outside Church

Monday: Lenten Feria

9.00am Mass: Teresa Gatens RIP (Bell)

Tuesday: Lenten Feria

10am Mass: Phil Danks' Operations

Wednesday: Lenten Feria

10.00am Mass: Sr Theresa Ridge (60th Anniv)

Thursday: Lenten Feria

10.00am: Mass: Mike Hall's Ints (operation) *Coffee after Mass*

7.00pm: Holy Hour

Friday: Lenten Feria

6.30pm: Confessions

7.00pm: Stations of the Cross

7.30pm Mass: November Dead List

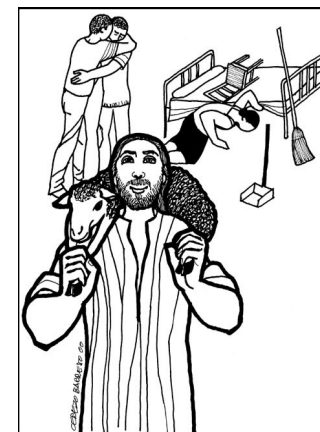
Saturday: Lenten Feria

6.00pm Mass: Vera Murphy RIP (Rose & Keith) month mind

Sunday: 5th of Lent - Passion Sunday

9.00am Mass: Gurmen Sari RIP Anniv

11.00am Mass: People of the Parish



*Your brother here
was dead and has
come to life.*

CONFESSIONS

11am &
5.15 - 5.45pm
Saturdays

The Church is open during the day for visits. Use the Fairfield Rd Entrance

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FR CHRIS WRITES: The Holy Father Consecrated the World, Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Friday. A copy of the prayer is available for you to pray and thus join with the Church throughout the world. Cf [the Vatican website](#) and at the back of Church There will be **extra time for Confessions** in the run up to Easter: this week at 6.30pm before stations of the Cross.

A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE: We pray that the Lord God send His Holy Spirit to all the people of Ukraine and gives them the grace of endurance in faith, hope and love amid the current ordeals; may peace be granted throughout Ukraine and may the Ukrainian nation be delivered from all enemies, so that we may glorify the good and merciful God in justice and truth. Lord hear us and have mercy. Amen.

Information from Caritas on the Ukraine and the Welcome scheme is available from the [Grapevine Newsletter](#) and there is an online workshop for anyone interested in knowing more about, or developing the **Church's welcome for Ukrainian Refugees** is being held this coming Monday, 28th March, at 2.00pm-3.30pm. To register for the event visit bit.ly/ParishesofWelcome or email caritas@dioceseofnottingham.uk. Also see **Catholic Social Action Network (CSAN)** <https://www.csan.org.uk/ukraine/>



TIMES FOR HOLY WEEK:

Palm Sunday times as normal. However the 11.00am will have the procession with Palms starting outside hopefully!

Wednesday: Chrism Mass at the Cathedral 11.30am

Maundy Thursday 7.00pm

Good Friday: Liturgy of the Passion 3.00pm

Stations of the Cross 7.00pm

Easter vigil: 8.00pm – First Mass of easter: Mother of all Masses

Easter Sunday: 9.00 & 11.00am



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Also the **Deanery summary** will be on our [Website](#) shortly. These will both help us to discern as we go 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/>

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I just wanted to let you know about **The Mark 10 Mission Little Liturgies**. We launched some new virtual liturgies a couple of weeks ago. They have been created specifically for children under 8. Thanks be to God, they are being very well received in our primary schools. We will be putting out a new little liturgy each Friday and they can always be found by following this link: <https://www.themark10mission.co.uk/little-liturgies>

ST JOSEPH'S PTFA QUIZ NIGHT - Friday 1st April: Please join us for our first quiz night & PTFA event in over 2 years! Doors open at 7:30pm, with the quiz beginning at 8pm in the school hall. Tickets are £10 per person including a fish & chip supper (veggie option available) & raffle ticket. Teams of no more than 6 adults & tickets can be purchased from the school office, a member of the PTFA team or by contacting Catherine Searcy on 0772 555 1009.

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		Sat. 6.00 pm	Sunday, 9.00 am	11.00 a.m.
Readers	March 26/27	N. Williamson	P. Green	R. Lewin
	April 2/3	M. Atkins	T. Snell	C. Sellecchia