

Once again Hand made **Reusable Face masks for Sale**: in Church £2.50 towards Church funds. We have raised £107.90 so far. Thank you.

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

We have this beautiful Gospel which ends John's story of Jesus. Much has been written about it and we come to it ever anew and it speaks to each of us in a personal way. It is an end which mirrors the beginning of Jesus ministry when he calls his Apostles in the Gospel of St Luke with similar catch of fish and the command to follow him. But a lot has happened in between to the disciples and particularly St Peter! The disciples fail in their fishing expedition and then on Jesus' command they try again and have a miraculous catch and are called to follow him as St Luke relates. The risen Lord now renews his call to his disciples to follow him through St Peter as leader of the Church.

Peter had been with Jesus for 3 years and was full of enthusiasm for Jesus from when he was called as we know but along the way he got a lot of things wrong and so often failed to understand Jesus and not least his triple denial of Jesus which occurred round a charcoal fire outside the house of the High Priest. His encounter with Jesus today is over a charcoal fire. Now there is a new beginning, and it is all a question of love. It is not about going over the past and raking though it. They both know it. But it is about love. The Lord's unbreakable love and Peter's response to it. At the heart of any disciple's life or any Christian life is the question of our Love for Jesus.

On one level, in our English translation, today's Gospel is straight forward. Jesus asks do you love me and Peter says yes I do love you Lord. He declares his love and loyalty after all his failures. He is sorry and wants to start again. This we should always do after our sins and failures. When we have lost faith or hope or drifted away. We should renew our love. The Sacrament of reconciliation is the privileged expression of it and ordinary place for it. All the Lord seems to want is for us to tell him we love him! How well do we do that and how often?

Now Peter is a humbler man than before when he was called by the Sea of Galilee. In the Greek St John uses various words for love. In the first two questions to Peter, Jesus used the word **agape** for Love. This is the self-giving sacrificial love with nothing to gain. Peter replies all three times with the word Phileo which means brotherly love or love of friendship. So Jesus says: will you give everything for me? Peter replies saying I love you with the love of a close friend. The third time Jesus uses the verb Phileo himself. He is saying Are you really my friend? Peter replies saying Yes Lord you know everything you know that I am truly your friend and Jesus receives this declaration of true friendship. It is a wonderful moment. Peter has been through a lot. He is saying I do love you but I was unable to give my life for you by the charcoal fire that day and stand by you at the cross. I could not bring myself to risk all for love of you. Peter is now a wiser and humbler man who had once said I will die for you. He will not claim more than he can deliver or promise. It is rather like that miracle when the father of the possessed boy who had said if you can cure him .. and then said: I believe, Lord ; help my unbelief. Peter is saying something very similar. I love you Lord help my lack of love. What a prayer. Jesus answers his prayer! We can and should be honest with Jesus. We should bear our weaknesses and failure to his heart. That is a good prayer. He will take what we offer but will lead us on to more as he did to Saint Peter when he says to Peter you will be led where you would rather not go. The Gospel writer tells us the words of Jesus referred to his death when indeed he would be crucified like Jesus. Peter I am sure did not understand them then. However, when he was crucified, he would have remembered those words and understood, I am sure. And thus it was that he demanded to be crucified upside down and he still felt unworthy to die like Christ. But he did and at the end he loved Christ and gave his all for him in agape, a full sacrificial love for Jesus.



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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Parish Pastoral Council Members: see photos on notice board

1st May 2022
Third Week of Eastertide
Psalter Week 3

Times of Services

Sunday: 3rd of Eastertide

Sat. 6.00pm: Boswell Collins family (Katie)
9.00am Mass: People of the Parish
11.00am Mass: Vera Murphy RIP (Crawford)
4.30pm: Rosary outside Church

Monday: St Athanasius

7.00pm Mass: Clive Blencowe RIP (Angela)

Tuesday: Sts Philip & James

10.00am Mass: November Dead List

Wednesday: English Martyrs

10.00am Mass: Collette Myers (Winifred)

Thursday: Easter Feria

10.00am Mass: November Dead List
3.30pm Funeral of Phyllis Edmeads at Kettering Crematorium

Friday: Easter Feria

7.00pm Mass: Eugene Gatens RIP (Taylor)

Saturday: Easter Feria

6.00pm Mass: Patricia White RIP

Sunday: 4th of Eastertide - Good Shepherd Sunday

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish
11.00am Mass: Ann Fagg RIP Anniv (family)



Jesus stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish.

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: This weekend our First Communion children for their Service of Light when they will bring their Baptism candles. Please keep them in your prayers. Also our eucharistic Ministers will once again be ministering Holy Communion at our Masses. Please pray for the soul of **Phyllis Edmeads** who died on Wednesday. Her funeral will take place on Thursday 5 May 3.30pm at Kettering Crematorium. May she rest in peace.

On Saturday 21st May 11am until 3:30pm, St Joseph's PTFA will be hosting their summer fundraising event **ST JOE'S FEST** in the school playground (access will be via Nelson Street). Entry is free and there will be lots of great family stalls such as face painting, a tombola and bouncy castle, as well as a BBQ, cake stall and refreshments. There will also be a raffle drawn on the day and raffle tickets can be purchased from the school office in advance or on the day. Please come along and support our fundraising efforts, see the wonderful improvements that have been made recently within our school and socialise with family and friends.

Next weekend we will have the annual **2nd COLLECTION FOR THE CLERGY FOUNDATION FUND** which provides for the formation of future priest and deacons. Priests are formed in Seminaries normally for 7 years now and deacons have a course of 4 years in preparation for ministry.

"I WAS IN PRISON..." on **Saturday 21st May** will be a lively and nourishing day to listen to the lived experience of prisoners and their families, and discover simple ways you can help individually or as a parish. Pact, the Catholic prison charity, are joining forces with Caritas for the conference at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Bulwell, Nottingham. The day will include Bishop Patrick, the work of Pact, prison chaplains, and the Welcome Directory. More information at bit.ly/iwasinprison or email parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk

COVID-19: We are now making all the benches available for people to sit on except those under the Choir gallery at the back. These remain for social distancing. A reminder that if you do not want people to sit next to you, please put your Hymn book or mass book on the bench.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (ACN) There are copies of the latest newsletter available in the church entrance, together with the Easter catalogue of items for purchase. ACN is the Catholic charity which supports the faithful wherever they are persecuted, oppressed or in pastoral need. The needs of Ukraine and E. Europe are especially highlighted. One way of supporting Ukrainian Christians would be to purchase one or more of the several items in the catalogue made and produced in that war-torn country.

ALTAR SERVERS: I hope everyone enjoyed the Easter celebrations this year, a lot of people put in a lot of effort to bring some sort of normality back to our very special masses. It's always dangerous thanking individuals in case someone is missed off, so I want to thank ALL the Altar Servers, those who helped out, those who offered to stand aside, those with a different job outside of the Sanctuary, and the parents for all their running around and support. Starting this weekend Fr Chris has agreed we can trial a 'get back to normal' experiment for Altar Servers. So, no rota from me until further notice, just come along to whichever mass you want and let's see how we get on. Also, please feel free to come along every weekend, or easy yourself back into things your own way. No pressure, we are just happy to have you back. To keep everyone safe please make sure you are Covid free and if in any doubt leave it until you feel 100%. Thanks again to everyone and Stay Safe. Dave Percival M: 07981 205861 E: dave.percival@ntlworld.com

JOURNEY IN HOPE is a series for members of parish outreach groups who would like to regroup and explore new mission challenges after the Covid-19 lockdown. Six reflective Eastertide sessions, inspired by Scripture and the writings of Pope Francis, take place on Zoom on Tuesdays at 7.00pm from 3rd May. You can find out more www.bit.ly/JourneyinHopeSessions, and book your place at www.bit.ly/JourneyinHopeZoom

PRO LIFE GROUP are going to host a Sunday Coffee & Cakes after the 11.00am Mass on May 15th in aid of SPUC little feet.

Parishioners can be part of the Church's response by giving to **CAFOD's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal** at cafod.org.uk/Ukraine.



A **LGBT+ PASTORAL MINISTRY MASS** will be celebrated by the Bishop on **Saturday 21st May** at 1.00pm in Our Lady and Saint Joseph's church, Matlock (DE4 3NG). All are very welcome.

Inaugurated in 2021 by the Cathedral Chapter and with Bishop Patrick as its President, **'The Friends of Nottingham Cathedral'** aims to support the work and mission of the Cathedral through prayer, encouragement of social and cultural opportunities, and financially in order to maintain its position as a magnificent spiritual and culture gem at the heart of the city and Diocese. Our Mother Church needs your support. To find out more about the Friends or to become a 'Friend' please email: nottinghamcathedral.friends@gmail.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.

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.

		Sat. 6.00 pm	Sunday, 9.00 am	11.00 a.m.
Readers	Apr 30/1 May	J. Rowland	D. Chappell	J Bland
	7/8 May	M Mihovilovic	M. Crook	S McGlone

WELCOMING Thank you so much to those who have volunteered so far. We are however still short of volunteers to welcome at both the Saturday evening and Sunday 11am Masses. Please do consider helping out if you are able. Please contact Beatrice (01858 465492) or Theresa (07748 591398) if you would like to chat to us about it, or email tootskendrick@sky.com Thank you.

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

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

As we celebrate vocation Sunday today, it strikes me that's that word vocation is a wonderful word. Literally it means to call or to be called. It speaks to the whole of our life. Today we think about vocations to the priesthood and religious life but those vocations fall within the broader vocation of all of us in our Christian life to be sons and daughters of God and to live out our Christian faith in our daily lives. We all have a vocation, a specific vocation of life because of Christ the Good Shepherd who guides all his sheep. He knows us and guides us and speaks to us and we must listen to his voice. We are his people the sheep of his flock as the psalmist says. That is a wonderful truth. The Good Shepherd, the Lamb of God leads us to springs of living water. This pastoral care runs throughout our life and perhaps this is something the older generation can share with the younger ones. Grandparents are so important as Pope Francis so often says. Older people can share with the young how God has been at work in their lives as they look back over their life and with prayer and reflection can see the work of the Good Shepherd and see grace at work and providence. Our Young need this witness so that they may have a supernatural outlook on their life. It is not just them alone and what they want to do, But also that God is at work in their lives and speaking to them through the events of their lives in his Providence. The young need to pray to God to ask what is his will for them. How he is calling to them. This was certainly true for me in my family. My parents and grandparents all had this supernatural outlook, and it was second nature for all of us children in the family to reflect on our lives under God's gaze as it were. We reflected and prayed about it often doing retreats or talking with the priest or a wise person. It led me and my older brother to the priesthood but others into marriage and particular vocations of work and life. We all need to be tuned in to the voice of the Good Shepherd and listen to him. And I know that God does make things clear and gives one a deep certainty about a direction in life. I think for the young those simple words that Eli told Samuel to say are ever apt: speak Lord your servant is listening. Our Lord invites us as he says in the gospel to listen to his voice. It is sad that so many young in our society miss out on the supernatural dimension of life. They are missing such a vast dimension of existence.

I certainly thank God for all those graces he has given me and encourage our young people to speak to God and indeed to speak with me or any priest or wise person about their plans and vocations to help them discern what God is saying to them. And I say do not be afraid. God is always with us and never lets us down.

We must not be afraid. For all of us there is a loving will at work in our lives who desires to lead us to the fullness of life and love. There will be young people called to the priesthood and religious life. Perhaps they may not be fully aware of it. But someone around them may have an intuition. It could be a member of the family or a close friend. It often needs someone to say something such as have you considered a religious life or call to the priesthood. This can often start a way of thinking or connect the dots. People saying things to me helped me along the way whether to consider a vocation to the priesthood or during for my formation as a priest. May God bless us with young people with a supernatural outlook on life. I'm sure that would lead to many more vocations to the priesthood and religious life.



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

8th May 2022
Fourth Week of Eastertide
Psalter Week 4

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Times of Services

Sunday: 4th of Eastertide

Sat. 6.00pm: Patricia White RIP

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am Mass: Ann Fagg RIP Anniv(family)

4.30pm: Rosary outside Church

Monday: Easter Feria

9.00am Mass: November Dead List

Tuesday: Easter Feria

10.00am Mass: Sr Philomena Jordan (Sisters)

Wednesday: Easter Feria

10.00am Mass: November Dead List

Thursday: Easter Feria

10.00am Mass: Peace in the Ukraine (Smrectak/Olivant)

Friday: Easter Feria

7.00pm Mass: Clive Blencowe RIP (Angela)

Saturday: St Matthias, Apostle

6.00pm Mass: Mongan Family Ints

Sunday: 5th of Eastertide

9.00am Mass: Dr John Chong RIP

11.00am Mass: People of the Parish



*I give eternal
life to the sheep
that belong to
me.*

CONFESSIONS

11am &
5.15 -5.45pm
Saturdays

This weekend we will have the annual **2nd COLLECTION FOR THE CLERGY FOUNDATION FUND** which provides for the formation of future priest and deacons. Priests are formed in Seminaries normally for 7 years now and deacons have a course of 4 years in preparation for ministry

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FR CHRIS WRITES:: Sadly my brother Greg died on Monday. He had a very rapid cancer which spread very rapidly especially in the last few days. Thank you for all your prayers and support. It is of course a great shock but also a grace as he died so peacefully and with such faith. Please remember his wife Yvonne and children in your prayers as well as my Mum. Greg would ask you to pray for his soul and the forgiveness of his sins. **Today we pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life and there is a second Collection for the Clergy Vocations fund..**

Also in this month of May we pray the Rosary for the Family and peace as the Holy father has asked us last Sunday: *Today is the beginning of the month dedicated to the Mother of God. I would like to invite all the faithful and communities to pray the Rosary for peace every day in May. My thought goes to the Ukrainian city of Mariupol, "Mary's city", barbarically bombed and destroyed. Once again, from here, I renew my request that safe humanitarian corridors be arranged for the people trapped in the steelworks in that city. I suffer and weep, thinking of the sufferings of the Ukrainian people, and in particular, the weakest, the elderly and children. There are even terrible reports of children being expelled and deported.*

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OUR LADY'S FLOWER CIRCLE: We are hoping to restart our rota for arranging flowers in church. If you are interested in helping, would you please contact either Pauline Bebb tel 01858 682897 or Mary Penney 01858 440603

VICTORY PRIZE DRAW WINNERS: 1st Prize £70 D Morgan ticket number 38; 2nd Prize £30 J Masding ticket number 105; 3rd Prize £20 M Naef tickets number 75. Winnings are sent by letter, if you haven't received your letter, I may have the wrong address please contact Keith Shiers on 07814419322 thank you.

MARKET HARBOROUGH EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUNDRAISER: Ladies Lunch Re-turms!!! Ladies Lunch Marston Trussell Hall June 23rd 12.30pm £37.50 / ticket All money raised to go to St. Joseph's Catholic Academy. For tickets please Contact Kate Crawford Tel 01858 446873 please leave a message if there's no answer.

THE BOWER HOUSE JUBILEE COFFEE MORNING: Please join us for this special event with cakes, bacon rolls, a huge celebratory tombola and live music at the Market Harborough Theatre. Saturday 21 May 9.00am-12 noon.

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		Sat. 6.00 pm	Sunday, 9.00 am	11.00 a.m.
Readers	7/8 May	M Mihovilovic	M. Crook	S McGlone
	14/15 May	N Williamson	P. Green	M. Douglas

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](http://www.themark10mission.co.uk/little-liturgies)



Could People bring in your red Missio Boxes for emptying

		Sat. 6.00 pm	Sunday, 9.00 am	11.00 a.m.
Readers	14/15 May	N Williamson	P. Green	M. Douglas
	21/22 May	M. Atkins	T. Snell	M. Lewin

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

Returning to Mass at Pentecost An invitation from the Bishops of England and Wales *This is the bread come down from heaven (John 6:58)*

A beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist. We do so with deep gratitude and joy. The Eucharist gives the Church her identity – "The Eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the Eucharist." It enables us to worship Almighty God, to support each other on our journey of faith, and to be a visible sign of faith in the world. This hallmark is supported and strengthened by the precept that our fundamental Christian duty is to worship God by participating in the celebration of Mass. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is the greatest of all privileges, sometimes referred to as "the Sunday Obligation."

Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgement that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed. The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply.

We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation.

Our Catholic people and parishes have benefitted during these difficult times from the online streaming of Mass and other services. "Virtual viewing" of Mass online does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation. It may, however, be a source of continual spiritual comfort to those who cannot attend Mass in person, for example those who are elderly and sick, for whom the obligation does not apply. In this context, we recognise gratefully the ministry of those who administer Holy Communion to the elderly, sick and housebound.

We are grateful to our clergy, religious and lay faithful who have served our parishes, schools and communities with dedication and distinction throughout this pandemic. Now we look forward with renewed faith and confidence.

In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Lord's Supper, the Lord Jesus entrusted to us the precious gift of Himself. With humility, we glory in being a Eucharistic people for whom attendance at Mass is essential. Looking forward to the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, we now invite all Catholics who have not yet done so to return to attending Mass in person.

As the Church needs the witness of the presence of each person, so too each believer needs to journey in faith and worship with their fellow disciples. Nourished by our encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, fed with His Word and His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, and supported by the presence of each other, we receive strength week by week, to serve the Lord and glorify Him with our lives. Approved by the Plenary Assembly of the Bishops' Conference Friday 6th May 2022



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15th May 2022
Fifth Week of Eastertide
Psalter Week 1

Times of Services

Sunday: 5th of Eastertide

Sat. 6.00pm: Mongan Family Ints
9.00am Mass: Dr John Chong RIP
11.00am Mass: People of the Parish
4.30pm: Rosary outside Church

Monday: Sts Philip & James, Apostles

9.00am Mass: November Dead List

Tuesday: Easter Feria

10.00am Mass: Clive Blencowe RIP (Angela)

Wednesday: Easter Feria

10.00am Mass: November Dead List

Thursday: Easter Feria

10.00am Mass: Mary & Philip Danks (O'Malley)
Coffee after Mass

Friday: Easter Feria

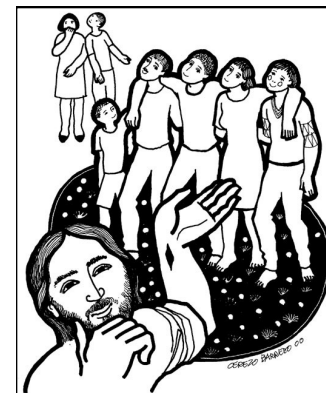
7.00pm Mass: Bill Brown RIP (family)

Saturday: Easter Feria

6.00pm Mass: Alex & family Ints (First Communion)

Sunday: 6th of Eastertide

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish
11.00am Mass: Nellie & Martin Grogan RIP



*I give you a new
commandment:
love one another.*

CONFESSIONS
11am &
5.15 - 5.45pm
Saturdays

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FR CHRIS WRITES: You will see in the Message from the Bishops of England and Wales that they are reintroducing the Obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days from Pentecost onwards. Of course, Sunday Mass is a joy and something we should feel the need of: to worship God and to receive his grace. It is vital for our lives as Christians and of course a serious duty to God as our Creator, sustainer, and redeemer. I want to remind people, however, that it is a reasonable obligation. As the Bishops say that there can be things that dismiss this obligation such as health, the call of Charity, fear for one's health and so on. This has always applied. In our Mass we celebrate together in a most special way as the People of God and the Body of Christ.



Also in this month of May we pray the Rosary for the Family and peace as the Holy father has asked us to do: specially for the Ukraine and people still suffering from the Pandemic.

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VICTORY PRIZE DRAW WINNERS: 1st Prize £70 D Morgan ticket number 38; 2nd Prize £30 J Masding ticket number 105; 3rd Prize £20 M Naef tickets number 75. Winnings are sent by letter, if you haven't received your letter, I may have the wrong address please contact Keith Shiers on 07814419322 thank you.

MARKET HARBOROUGH EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUNDRAISER: Ladies Lunch Returns!!! Ladies Lunch Marston Trussell Hall June 23rd 12.30pm £37.50 / ticket All money raised to go to St. Joseph's Catholic Academy. For tickets please Contact Kate Crawford Tel 01858 446873 please leave a message if there's no answer.

THE BOWER HOUSE JUBILEE COFFEE MORNING: Please join us for this special event with cakes, bacon rolls, a huge celebratory tombola and live music at the Market Harborough Theatre. Saturday 21 May 9.00am-12 noon.

On Saturday 21st May 11am until 3:30pm, St Joseph's PTFA will be hosting their summer fundraising event **ST JOE'S FEST** in the school playground (access will be via Nelson Street). Entry is free and there will be lots of great family stalls such as face painting, a tombola and bouncy castle, as well as a BBQ, cake stall and refreshments. There will also be a raffle drawn on the day and raffle tickets can be purchased from the school office in advance or on the day. Please come along and support our fundraising efforts, see the wonderful improvements that have been made recently within our school and socialise with family and friends.

"I was in Prison..." on **Saturday 21st May** will be a lively and nourishing day to listen to the lived experience of prisoners and their families, and discover simple ways you can help individually or as a parish. Pact, the Catholic prison charity, are joining forces with Caritas for the conference at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Bulwell, Nottingham. The day will include Bishop Patrick, the work of Pact, prison chaplains, and the Welcome Directory. More information at bit.ly/iwasinprison or email parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk

PRO LIFE GROUP: are going to host a Sunday Coffee & Cakes after the 11.00am Mass on May 15th in aid of SPUC Little feet

A **LGBT+ PASTORAL MINISTRY MASS** will be celebrated by the Bishop on **Saturday 21st May** at 1.00pm in Our Lady and Saint Joseph's church, Matlock (DE4 3NG). All are very welcome.

Parishioners can be part of the Church's response by giving to **CAFOD's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal** at cafod.org.uk/Ukraine.



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

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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 Co-op 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





Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

22nd May 2022
Sixth Week of Eastertide
Psalter Week 2

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@olv.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

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

Once again, we immerse ourselves in the wonderful words of our Lord at the Last Supper. These words bear ongoing meditation. Today very simply he asks us to keep his word. This is the great sign of our love for him in response to his unending love for us. To hear and keep his word, is to receive it and live it and make it our own and thus as Jesus says if we keep his word, he and the father will come to us and make their home in us. Jesus is saying that we will through his word become immersed in the relationship of love that the Father and the Son have. We do that through prayer, listening and reading the Bible, living the commandment of love and our sacramental life. The scriptures especially contain the word of God and that is the word we're called to keep. And indeed Jesus promises us the Holy Spirit as his advocate and our help who will teach us and remind us of all that Jesus said. The Holy Spirit has been given to us in the church to teach us about Jesus' words and keep them alive in our hearts and also to keep us faithful to them through the guidance of the successors of the apostles.

We know from history that people can interpret Jesus' teaching in contradictory ways and indeed from our present experience of disagreement amongst Christians and indeed within the church at times. The present time can bring up new questions which need the guidance of the Holy Spirit to keep us faithful to that word of Jesus. And the question is always: What is faithful to the word of Jesus? We see in our first reading such a question arose in the first community and led to the first council of the Church.

The problem was the arrival of Gentile converts in the early Christian communities particularly in Antioch. The first Christians were of course Jewish but now as Christianity expanded beyond Israel many gentiles had accepted Jesus as Saviour. However many of the Jewish converts thought that they must be circumcised to be saved as well as keeping other rules. They needed to be part of the Jewish people. And indeed some were aggressive in their opinion and disturbing the community. The question was referred to Peter and the elders. A delegation was sent to Jerusalem. The essential question was: what brings salvation? Is it circumcision and keeping the law? They discussed the question and listened and discerned the essential answer which was given by Peter in the end and accepted in silence. The answer is quite simply we are saved by faith in Christ. Through that faith we receive the grace of salvation. Therefore circumcision is not necessary. This is what we might call the dogmatic teaching of the council of Jerusalem. This was accepted by James and the Jewish community. And they expressed this decision with the phrase: *It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these..* We see the guidance of the Holy Spirit teaching the church and keeping it faithful to the word of Jesus. Other matters that the letter refers to are simply disciplinary rules to help the Jews and gentiles live together and is a concession to the Jewish sensibilities.. They are practical things that will soon disappear as the church becomes overwhelmingly gentile. The church has continued to do this through the ages with each council's, which have declared dogmas of faith to keep us united and timebound pastoral measures to keep us living together in bonds of love. This guidance of the Holy Spirit enables us to keep the word of Christ and therefore a communion in his love. What we call the teaching authority of the church is a service to the word of God said that we may know it and keep it and live it. In our confusing times it is a great gift that the church guides us faithfully through stormy waters. And of course the church enjoy the Holy Spirit in all its members with their gifts which brings new life and new understanding of the word of Christ. That would be a matter for further reflection.

Times of Services

Sunday: 6th of Eastertide

Sat. 6.00pm: Alex & family Ints (First Communion)
9.00am Mass: People of the Parish
11.00am Mass: Nellie & Martin Grogan RIP
4.30pm: Rosary outside Church

Monday: Easter Feria

9.00am Mass: November Dead List

Tuesday: Easter Feria

10.00am Mass: Maureen McCarthy (COX)

Wednesday: St Bede the Venerable

10.00am Mass: November Dead List

Thursday: THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (Solemnity)

10.00am Mass: Greg O'Connor RIP (O'Malley)

Coffee after Mass

7.30pm Personal Int

Friday: St Augustine of Canterbury

7.00pm Mass: Clive Blencowe RIP (Angela)

Saturday: Easter Feria

6.00pm Mass: Doran Family

Sunday: 7th of Eastertide

9.00am Mass: Ron Martin RIP (Plowright Family)
11.00am Mass: People of the Parish



*The Holy Spirit will
remind you of all I
have said to you.*

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: On Thursday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension, one of the great Feasts of our Year. St Joseph's will be joining us for Mass at 10.00am. There is also a Mass at 7.30pm. Please pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit for our Parish on the days from the ascension to Pentecost.

Please also keep our first Communion children and their families in your prayers as they prepare for First Communion which will take place on 18th June and 2nd July.

Also there is an evening presentation in Nottingham on 9th June by Fr James Harvey on the Synod. If someone is interested in representing the Parish please let me know by 30th May.

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You will see in the [MESSAGE](#) (cf [NEWS AND MEDIA - CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE](#) [\(cbcew.org.uk\)](#) from the Bishops of England and Wales that they are reintroducing the Obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days from Pentecost onwards. This was in last weeks Newsletter. Of course, Sunday Mass is a joy and something we should feel the need of: to worship God and to receive his grace. It is vital for our lives as Christians and of course a serious duty to God as our Creator, sustainer, and redeemer. I want to remind people, however, that it is a reasonable obligation. As the Bishops say that there can be things that dismiss this obligation such as health, the call of Charity fear for one's health and so on. This has always applied. In our Mass we celebrate together in a most special way as the People of God and the Body of Christ.

Also in this month of May we pray the Rosary for the Family and peace as the Holy Father has asked us to do: specially for the Ukraine and people still suffering from the Pandemic.

THANK YOU for supporting the Pro-Life Coffee and Cake sale and to all who baked & bought cakes £207.50 was raised and has been donated to SPUC.

ANGEL TREE 2021. Thank you for making Angel Tree a success and for giving hope to parents in prison by helping them to reconnect with the children through the joy of Christmas **2,532** parents in **93** prisons sent **4,624** gifts to the children. The Angel Tree Project is greatly appreciated by prisoners, their families and the staff. Please keep our local prison HMP Gartree in your prayers. Maureen Douglas Angel Tree coordinator.

CALLING FOUNDATION GOVERNORS A virtual information session about being a foundation governor in one of our Catholic schools is taking place on **Wednesday 22 June** from 7.00pm – 8.30pm. Please see the poster on the parish notice board. For further information, please contact: Julie Sweeney at the Diocesan Education Service (julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk). This will be an online introduction.

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Parishioners can be part of the Church's response by giving to **CAFOD's UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL** at cafod.org.uk/Ukraine.



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Readers	21/22 May	M. Atkins	T. Snell	M. Lewin
	28/29 May	P. Danks	C. Goddard	R van der Liet

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FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

We are heading towards the great culmination of Easter with the Feast of Pentecost next weekend. On Thursday we celebrated Ascension Day, when Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father, to begin his heavenly reign. In the Acts of the apostles, we have the account today of the Martyrdom of Stephen who sees the Lord ascended and indeed at the right hand of God the father in glory at the moment of his death: He sees the glory of the risen Lord. What can he teach us?

Stephen had been brought before the court for the power of his witness on the people who heard him and yet his words to the Sanhedrin go unheeded and not understood but rather make them determined to kill him. It must have been a dark moment. He must have thought that God had brought him to the Sanhedrin precisely to convert those great men. But he had failed. It must have seemed like that to him, at least a little bit. He was a saint, but he was also human. He felt the pain of rejection, the bewildering frustration of failure. It is now that he sees the Lord in heaven. He sees him standing in glory. I think this is the only place where Our Lord is described as standing at the right hand of the father; normally he is seated. The symbolism of standing indicates taking an interest perhaps rather like we stand up when something important is happening and also it is a gesture of honouring and welcoming as the king comes down from his throne to welcome and embrace a beloved person.

Saint Stephen teaches us firstly that failure or what we consider failure it's not necessarily so. God's thoughts and ways are not our thoughts and ways and we should bear this in mind when things do not go the way we have planned. Often enough we are called to some suffering like Jesus and Saint Stephen as part of God's way and for our own good and the good of all. Secondly this scene is a great encouragement to us when we are struggling with a failure or suffering: Our Lord is taking interest he is not indifferent to our difficulties quite the opposite and indeed we should never forget that the ascended Lord has his glorious wounds on his body which remain with him forever as a mark of his solidarity. When we are struggling with suffering and failure we should make our prayer the same as Saint Stephen's and entrust ourselves, our whole spirit to him.

Thirdly St Stephen teaches about forgiveness. He forgives his killers and asks God not to hold it against them in imitation of Jesus. Our suffering often enough comes through others. This can come about through direct ill will or unintentionally which is more often the case. People do not mean to cause suffering to us but it happens. We should not hold things against other people whether they have hurt us intentionally or not.

This is so important as we hear in the Gospel where Christ prays for Unity. He prays: *May they all be one. Father, may they be one in us, as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.* He prays for this unity so that all may share the love of the father and the son. We are called to heal divisions. We can only do this through forgiveness. That is to say by asking for and giving forgiveness. This should mark our lives. We do this daily as Pope Francis says by saying I'm sorry and I forgive you. Weekly, we prepare for Sunday Mass by reflecting on what we have done and what we have failed to do to others. And then monthly or very regularly, we ask forgiveness from God in the sacrament of reconciliation. As we do this we inevitably draw closer to Christ in the sacrament of the Eucharist which is of course the sacrament of unity so that we can be instruments of unity in our world today. Perhaps to forgive each other is the greatest sign of the love of God, the sign which will make people believe in the reality of the love of God. Because To forgive is to give fully.



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

29th May 2022
Seventh Week of Eastertide
Psalter Week 3

Times of Services

Sunday: 7th of Eastertide

Sat. 6.00pm: Doran Family
9.00am Mass: Ron Martin RIP (Plowright Family)
11.00am Mass: People of the Parish
4.30pm: Rosary outside Church

Monday: Easter Feria

9.00am Mass: November Dead List

Tuesday: VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (FEAST)

10.00am Mass: In thanks Bestin & Simon's Birth

Wednesday: St Justin

10.00am Mass: Sister Eithne Hourihan Platinum Jubilee

Thursday: Easter Feria

10.00am Mass: Gabriel Molloy (Sisters)

Coffee after Mass

Friday: Sts Charles Lwanga & Companions

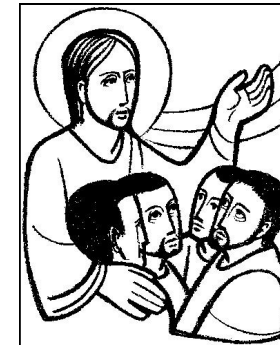
7.00pm Mass: Marjorie & Denis Bennett Anniv. (Armstrong)

Saturday: Easter Feria

6.00pm Mass: Teresa Gatens RIP (Taylor)

Sunday: PENTECOST / 10 Week of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: Phil Plowright Anniv
11.00am Mass: People of the Parish



*May they be
completely one..*

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11am &
5.15 - 5.45pm
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FR CHRIS WRITES: Please pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit for our Parish on the days from the ascension to Pentecost. The novena in honour of the Holy Spirit is the oldest of all novenas since it was first made at the direction of Our Lord Himself when He sent His apostles back to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost.

Please also keep our first Communion children and their families in your prayers as they prepare for First Communion will take place on 18th June and 2nd July. I wish all our families a Blessed Half term.

Also there is an evening presentation in Nottingham on 9th June by Fr James Hanvey on the Synod. If someone is interested to represent the Parish please let me know by 30th May.

CHANGES IN THE DEANERY & DIOCESE: As we have been aware for a number of years, there have been many consultations and discussions about the future structure of the Diocese with the changes in Parishes and fewer priests than we are used to. Inevitably it had to fall to the Bishop and his council to make final decisions. He has now published definitive 'roadmap' for the future direction of the diocese so that we can all work together to make it a reality. The status of our Parish remains unchanged, though we will have to support neighbouring Parishes as I have said before which may make it necessary to reduce to one Mass on a Sunday morning and one on Saturday evening. The New groupings of Parishes for the Deanery are below. The Present and future number of priests are in brackets They will either become one Parish or a Pastoral area. We do not know when the number of priests will change. This depends on retirements and deaths of Clergy. However the Bishop has asked them all to work together from now on in all areas of Parish life with an outlook for mission and evangelisation.

1. Holy Cross, Leicester (3/3) (Religious). 2. Immaculate Conception, Oadby, with St Edward the Confessor, Aylestone Road, St Mary, South Wigston, St John Bosco, Eyres Monsall, and St Thomas More, Knighton Road (2/2). 3 Most Blessed Sacrament, Gooding Avenue, with St Peter, Hinckley Road, and with Mother of God, New Parks (2/2). 4 Our Lady of Victories, Market Harborough (1/1) 5 Our Lady of Victories and St Alphonsus, Lutterworth, with St Pius X, Narborough (1/1). 6 Sacred Heart and St Margaret Mary, Mere Road, with Our Lady of Good Counsel, Rushey Mead, and St Joseph, Uppingham Road (4/2). 7 St Peter, Hinckley, with Sts Peter and Paul, Earl Shilton, and Our Lady and Saint Gregory, Market Bosworth (1/1). 8 Divine Infant of Prague, Syston, with St Patrick, Beaumont Leys Lane, and with St Theresa, Birstall, with Sacred Heart, Rothley (3/1) (Religious?). We pray for all our Parishes especially those facing changes.

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Please pray for Charles Van der Liet who died last week. We pray for all the family on their grief. His funeral Mass will be on Tuesday 14th June 1.00pm

THANK YOU! From St Joseph's PTFA: A huge thank you to everyone who supported St Joe's Fest 2022 on Saturday 21st May, in whatever way they were able to. We were very fortunate that the weather continues to be ideal each year and due to the incredible generosity of parents, grandparents, friends & parishioners, we raised over £1600 for the PTFA! These vital funds will be used to support the school, families & students in making their learning journeys even more special. Thank you!

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	4/5 June	C. Baldam	C. Reed	C. Sellechia