

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

This week we begin 6th Chapter of Saint John in which Jesus reveals his heart or we could say reveals his heart bit by bit culminating in the gift of his Eucharistic heart as the bread of life. We could he wants to widen our horizons, to lift up our hearts to the eternal horizon of God. In him we find the true bread of life which is the only food that can satisfy us.

After the miracle of the Loaves and fishes the people seek Jesus out. They are impressed. They had wanted him as king so that they could have full stomachs always. They had not understood. They had seen the miracle but not its meaning: the sign that Jesus was offering more than any bread which will only satisfy for a few hours. They did not understand as the Israelites in the first reading did not understand what God was doing for them by making them his Chosen People. They had experienced the great miracles of the Exodus from Egypt but they could only think as afar as their stomach and complained they had no food and wanted to return to the lie of "the ideal of Egypt". They could not lift up their eyes to the horizon of God.

Jesus invites his listeners to work for the food that endures to eternal life. That is to say to seek and desire the things that truly endure and last and indeed lead to eternal life. As we say at Mass: Lift up your hearts; we lift them up to the Lord our God. We all desire happiness and fulfilment. Sadly so often we seek it in the wrong things and the wrong place.

St Paul has this in mind in his letter to the Ephesians when he says that the Christians in Ephesus should not live as the non-believers do and follow the prevailing culture which he says is aimless and futile because it has no true horizon. The pagans seek a narrow materialistic enjoyment in life as typified by so many who followed the epicurean philosophy of pleasure. These are illusory desires. They are deceptive and unreal. We must not work for them. If we are not careful we can be carried along in the current of the age in which we live and we become aimless unless we work for the food that endures to eternal life. We absorb a secular way of thinking. What St Paul calls the old way of thinking which as Pope Francis says in respect of Europe is ultimately barren - dead. Our world is so similar to the Roman world of the time in its attitudes. We must be awake to the dangers carried along by the thinking of our culture. One of the means of that is the general principle of fasting. The practice of fasting helps us become detached from physical pleasure and physical desires, and more aware of the reality that we are spiritual beings, made ultimately for supernatural existence, not a merely material one. We moderate our pleasures so that we do not become gradually corrupted. This can happen so easily because these pleasures do not satisfy so we seek more and more or new diversions. In our world today there are so many!! St Paul is very clear and dramatic in his words. We must undergo a spiritual revolution in our way of thinking so that we can live in God's way. He is our true horizon.

He is Christ, the word made flesh who dwells among and offers us the true food that endures to eternal life. He is the bread of life. He alone! We must follow him. He alone keeps the horizon of eternity before us. *What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants? We must believe in the one God has sent.*

AS we read John 6 in the coming weeks: and please God deepen our faith in the Eucharist, we can start by meditating on the words of Jesus: **'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.'**

Questions in the light of the Readings: Do we, too, quickly forget God's miracles, gifts, and work in our lives, falling back into distrust? Are my values and attitudes radically new as a Christian? Do they differ from the priorities which I would have without Christianity? Is God the Horizon of my life? Is Jesus the bread of life for me?



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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Parish Accountant: Angela Wade: 0777 322 9041
Parish Gift Aid Organiser: Catherine Parry 01858 434959

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

1st August 2021
18th of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 2

Times of Services

Sunday: 18th of Ordinary Time

Sat. 6.00pm: Bridget Weston RIP

9.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am: Mass: Ted & Josie Greener RIP(Cutsforth)

Monday: Feria

Private Mass: Dan Horgan RIP (Mary & Dave Hill)

Tuesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Patrick Curran RIP Anniv

Wednesday: St John Vianney

Private Mass: MVF O'Connor

Thursday: Feria

10.00am: Mass: Erica Tierney RIP Anniv (Patrick)

Friday: THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

10.00am Funeral Mass for Terry Lennon

Saturday: Feria

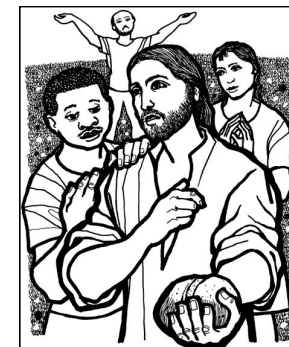
11.00am - Sacrament of Reconciliation - CONFESSION

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 8th - Yvonne & James Atkins Wedding anniv.

Sunday: 19th of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am Mass: Philip Green RIP



*He who comes to me
will never be hungry; he
who believes in me will
never thirst.*

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:

Dear All, I hope you are all having a pleasant summer. The good news is that the Coronavirus infection rate is falling again. This means we can look towards more parish activities again. One of the things we shall be starting again soon is that our Eucharistic Ministers will soon take Holy Communion to the sick and house-bound with all the proper precautions. If you know of anyone in that position, please let me know.

One of the things we have learnt during the pandemic is to take our time receiving Holy Communion. Please leave space as you queue as this helps the person receiving not to feel rushed and safer in the present times: there is no rush when we receive Our Lord!!! If you receive in the hand: the rubrics are to bow (as an act of adoration of Our Lord) before you come to the minister and hold your hands one under the other as a throne or in a cross. Either consume the host in front of the minister or step to one side and consume the host and make the sign of the cross. **We should not consume the host as we are walking away.** Our actions as we receive our Lord in Holy communion are a prayer in themselves. And of course, we should say a clear **Amen** which is our assent of faith. People sometimes say thank you!!

Covid 19: As you all know the Government removed regulations on Monday 19th July. However, the Virus is still about and the rate of infection remains high. So we need to proceed carefully and slowly. This is the opinion of those whom I have consulted. With the Delta variant on the rise in our areas **Hands, Face, Space, Ventilate** is just as important as ever.

So we will still have to wear **masks** in Church as before: this is to protect all concerned and is an act of Christian charity

There will still be the 2m **social distancing** in Church., even if we can relax the spacing a little in the future We will still **sanitise** hands as we enter and leave Church.

Stewards will operate at the weekend Masses with booking for Mass as we do now. However, **on week-days** there will be only one steward who will still ask people to sign in or use the NHS Q code. **It will be easier if people book in online on a weekday.** On a weekday we will alternate sitting: on the Sacred Heart side on Tuesdays, Our Lady's on a Thursday and Sacred heart on a Friday. I think we are now all accustomed to how to act in a safe way. We will review this every few weeks in the light of local conditions. Meanwhile we have been bringing the Hall up to standard with an inspection of the electrics of the Hall and House as well as a Health & safety review by an outside Consultant There is some upgrading to do on the electrics.

As we are now coming out of lockdown we do **need a Parish Health & Safety representative** if someone could volunteer who has some relevant background.

**The Church is open for Private prayer each day
Enter through Fairfield Rd
Sanitize your hands on Entry & Exit
Please sign in on the list or use the Covid NHS App Q code displayed**

DIOCESAN YEAR

BOOK: There is a new diocesan Year Book available for £4.00

FUNERALS: We have 2 funerals coming up. This Friday 6th August at 10,00am we have the funeral of Terry Lennon & Frank Woodhouse on Tuesday 10th August at 12 noon. All are welcome to both funerals. You can book online. Our condolences to both families.

THE ROSARY FOR TODAY: *This attractively produced booklet, written by Fr Kenneth Payne of St Aidan's Church in Little Chalfont, is a way of encouraging meditative use of the Rosary. Each booklet costs £3.95 and copies can be purchased from Amazon, the publisher, McCrimmons, or from Fr Payne directly email: kjp2906@yahoo.com; telephone: 01494 763518.*

HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI: At this time we remember the devastation caused in **Hiroshima and Nagasaki** when the atomic bombs were dropped, on 6 and 9 August 1945, and we pray that nuclear weapons will be abolished so that they can never be used again.



In his message, 'A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace', Pope Francis asks, 'How many resources are spent on weaponry, especially nuclear weapons, that could be used for more significant priorities such as ensuring the safety of individuals, the promotion of peace and integral human development, the fight against poverty, and the provision of health care'. Pope Francis calls on us to 'strive daily, in concrete and practical ways, to form a community composed of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another'. In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi. Their website suggests many ways we can all promote peace in our daily lives. There are activities for families to do at home, including a 15-minute peace liturgy for young children. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2021/> Pax Christi needs our support to keep going. If you'd like to make a donation, small or large, here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/yxfcw67x> Cheques payable to: Pax Christi.. Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, London NW4 4TY . Tel: 0208 203 4884

PROLIFE NEWS: Firstly, Right To Life UK is very pleased to announce that Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, has become a patron of our organisation. We are very grateful to His Eminence for his support of our work.

Secondly, we would like to congratulate Lord Alton of Liverpool for being [this year's recipient](#) of The Westminster Award for Human Life, Human Rights, and Human Dignity. This award recognises extraordinary and notable work and achievements that safeguard the dignity and right to life of human beings. We are grateful for the many decades he has given to the protection of lives and for the inspiration he is to all those in politics and positions of influence. Lastly, we would like to thank you for all your prayers and support over the past few months. You will have likely heard of a [recent parliamentary win](#), wherein an attempt to hijack the UK Government's flagship Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill with two extreme abortion proposals failed. This would not have been possible without the support of you and your congregations. By contacting your MPs and sharing your disapproval of these amendments, it was made clear to MPs that these amendments lacked the support of their constituents and so were prevented from becoming law, leading to the likely saving of many lives.

FAMILY PRAYER RESOURCES FOR SUMMER - We will be offering a prayer focus for each week of the summer holidays with some simple ideas, designed to help parents explore faith with their children, in solidarity with our global family. They will be available from mid-July at <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources> Resources for the **Season of Creation** and **Harvest Fast Day** (Friday 1st October) will feature some of our partners' work in the Amazon and will be available from September at <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources>. Join us in praying the joyful mysteries of the Holy Rosary as we seek to nourish our commitment to care for the earth. **Maggie Mairura** Community Participation Coordinator – CAFOD Nottingham

Churches Together:

After 10 years of service to CTH, Rose Williams is stepping down and is moving away from the town and therefore the Churches Together Executive is looking for a replacement Treasurer with immediate effect. Please see notice for further info. Anyone interested in the role requires nomination by someone from a member church, who needs to email the Chair (Janet Smith) at: chair@harboroughchurches.org.uk