

A Christmas message from Cardinal Nichols:

As I look back on the year that is now drawing to a close, one moment stands out, full of impact and resonance. On 8 September, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II died. On that day, we mourned the loss of a unique and gracious mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. We cherished her life of unstinting service, her example of devotion to duty, her steadfast witness of faith in Jesus Christ and his promises. From the moment of her death carpets of flowers, messages and mementoes grew by the day. People lined our roads to pay their respects as her coffin passed by. It is estimated that half of the population of the world watched the funeral service from Westminster Abbey. But the four days during which more than 350,000 people queued, for up to fourteen hours, to honour the late Queen at her lying-in-state in Westminster Hall were the most telling. This procession became a pilgrimage. For many a personal sense of grief and loss was united in a communal movement and in a shared desire to find and give meaning to a unique and powerful moment. Suffering and death always challenge our sense of purpose and meaning. This unique death laid bare our longing for clear signposts by which to continue the journey of life.

It was a moment for facing the dreadful possibility that life is, ultimately, futile or – alternatively – for remembering an ancient hope. Many priests took part in that pilgrimage. They told how, while queuing, they heard many confessions and spoke and prayed with many of those whom they met. And theirs was an experience shared by many. In a similar way the magnificent processions of those days lifted us out of personal reflection towards a greater horizon. With each person playing their own part with true selflessness, they showed us the vital importance of ritual in forging us into something greater. In those ten days vital human and spiritual needs, often hidden or ignored, became increasingly evident. Like an underground stream bursting into the sunlight, we saw something of our deeper characteristics as people and a nation: our esteem for service, our desire for coherence, our wish for an answer to isolation. From birth to death, and at all the significant milestones in between, celebration, communal ritual and community matter. They matter whether we are religious or not. They matter because they speak to life itself in all its joy and griefs. In this light we should rejoice in the wonderful gift of our Catholic faith, in our liturgical rites – especially the Mass – and in our spiritual traditions and devotions. Through them we understand ourselves and our world in the light of Christ's death and resurrection. We learn how to read our own lives into the great narrative of our redemption. We must treasure the rituals we receive and the reality they bestow. We always need to nourish and refresh them, handing them on to our children and those who will come after we are gone. This faith makes us into a people of profound hope: immersed fully in this life, yet with hearts attuned to God's kingdom and to the truth and beauty of heaven. In this faith we can enter thoroughly into the ebb and flow of existence, with all its failings, sorrows and joys. We are not afraid. Another lesson is to be drawn from those remarkable days. The Gospel we are commissioned to announce may be unfamiliar to many today. But we must never think of it as foreign or alien to those around us. On the contrary, the Gospel meets the deepest yearnings of the human spirit, yearnings which only to surface at times such as these. Living as an adult human being means accepting the burden of mortality, with its suffering and death. Yet even these darkest moments rarely extinguish our profound longing that, in the end, nothing has been totally in vain. The Gospel tells us that what we long for is true. Every last drop of our effort, in weariness and tears, is brought to fulfilment in and through Christ Jesus. His promise is the response to the deepest instincts and yearning of humanity, a response that brings freedom and consolation to all who will embrace it. It is ours for the receiving. These days of Christmas, then, give us great encouragement in the task of announcing this Gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is indeed the Good News for which humanity longs. Our shared humanity is the bedrock of the work of evangelisation. And it is our privilege to undertake that work every day. A very happy Christmas to you all, and may God bless you.



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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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

1st January 2023
2nd Week of Christmastide
Psalter Week 2

Times of Services

Sunday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Sat. 6.00pm: Clive Blencowe RIP (Angela)

9.00am Mass: Plowright & Webb families

11.00am Mass: People of the Parish

Monday: Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

10.00am Mass: Allen Winter RIP

Tuesday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

9.00am Mass: Fr Peter Wade Ints

Wednesday: Christmas Feria

9.45am: Morning Prayer

10.00am Mass: Sister Helen Ints (L. Brown)

Thursday: Christmas Feria

9.45am Rosary

10.00am: Kath Furlong Ints *followed by Coffee*

Friday: Epiphany Solemnity — Holyday of Obligation

10.00am Mass: In thanks for Bogush RIP

7.00pm Mass: People of the Parish

Saturday: St Raymond of Penyafort

6.00pm Mass: For Casimir RIP (Izabella)

Sunday: Baptism of the Lord

9.00am Mass: Joe Chong RIP (Sari)

11.00am Mass: People of the Parish



*They found Mary
and Joseph and the
baby... When the
eighth day came,
they gave him the
name Jesus*

CONFESSIONS
11AM & 5.15pm
SATURDAY

PLEASE NOTE: 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 hope you have had a lovely Christmas and blessed days with Family and Friend. It was wonderful to see so many people at Mass for Christmas. This is the first Christmas without COVID restrictions. So many remarked on our lovely Church, the crib and the wonderful Christmas flowers. Thank you to all who prepare the Church with flowers, cleaning it and enabling us to celebrate the Liturgy with music and Song and welcome people to our Masses. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and Blessed new year and to thank you for all your cards and Good wishes and very generous Christmas Offerings. Your prayers and good wishes are so much appreciated. **Next Friday is the feast of the Epiphany** – a Holiday of Obligation. Masses will be 10.00am(with the School) and 7.00pm.

Funerals: Giuseppe Oliveti whose funeral Mass will be on Thursday 12th January at 10.00am. Also Judith Thurston whose funeral will be on 11th January at 11.00am. May they rest in peace. Also Rosina Lanni died at Sibbertoft manor on Christmas day *cum sanctis*.. Her funeral will be on 27th January at 10.00am. Also Liz Tuoy died and he funeral will be 18th January at 11.00am



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FOR 2022. We are now looking forward to First Holy Communion in 2023. Application forms are now available from Fr Chris after any of the Masses. Please return the form by 8 January 2023. It is for children in year 3 and above, The first meeting for parents will take place on **Thursday 19th January 2023 at 7.00pm in the Octagonal Hall** when we will introduce the course and give out the plan. The first session for children will take place on Sunday 22 January 2023 from 10.20am- 11.20am and each session will take place in between the Masses with the children joining their parents and the congregation after the Liturgy of the Word.

FIRST COMMUNION: We are still looking for new people and some from a Younger generation who would like to be part of a team to prepare our children for next July. This is a very great ministry and full of great blessings. Please speak or ring Fr Chris. A DBS clearance would need to be done.

Nearly everyone is familiar with Greta Thunberg, who went on strike from going to school until she drew people's attention to the plight of our planet. **Our House is on Fire** is a play about how one small girl can have such a global impact so quickly. We can no longer claim to be ignorant because of Greta and the many people she has inspired. The play will be presented by Saint Peter's Players in the Mary Forryan Centre, Hinckley on Thursday 5th & Friday 6th January at 7.30pm, and Sunday 8th January at 4.30pm. Tickets £4 adults; £3 concessions) from Saint Peter's Priory: 01455 634443 or hinckleypriory@gmail.com

WELCOMERS NEEDED: We're very short of welcomers at the 11am Mass, so if you mostly go to that Mass and think that you could spare a half hour or so, once a month (or less often if that's what you can manage) to welcome your fellow parishioners we'd love to hear from you. New volunteers to welcome at other Masses would be very helpful too. Please contact Theresa Kendrick on 07748 591398 or Beatrice Stewart on 01858 465492, or just have a word with Fr Chris.

NEW CATECHIST FORMATION COURSE: There is a new formation course for catechists which begins in January. It is designed to build confidence and knowledge to live this wonderful ministry. If you are starting out as a Catechist or have been one for a number of years there will be something here for you. It looks rather good and can be attended in person or online. It is less burdensome than the previous one. It involves three shorter courses that feed into each other. Pick up a leaflet from the table in the cloister to find out more. The parish will pay any cost for the course.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: The Church relies on people getting involved. Our Church, our world needs you. Could your New Year's resolution be getting more involved in the life of our Church? What aspects of church brings you life or joy? Could you give a bit of time to help those parts flourish? CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, is looking for people to give some time and join in its mission. Could you help in our parish, bringing people together to help build a better world or by visiting local schools? Maybe you could raise a voice and campaign for justice or perhaps speak for CAFOD throughout the diocese? Could you support local volunteers or share your office skills to help CAFOD keep costs low? Training and support is provided. See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information, or get in touch with Will Cruddace, our local CAFOD worker, on wcruddace@cafod.org.uk or 07710094455.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS TO ST JOSEPH'S ACADEMY (Foundation Year) - Children born between 01/09/2018 and 31/08/2019 The deadline for submitting your application for a school place is **15th January 2023**. Application forms are available on the Leicestershire Local Authority Admissions website. When applying to a Catholic school, if you wish your child to be considered and ranked under a faith criterion you *must also complete a supplementary information form, and return this form to St Joseph's by the deadline, (Please contact the School Office on 01858 465359 to obtain a form)*. You **MUST** also include the supporting evidence as required eg baptism certificate (photocopies acceptable). Failure to supply the required supporting evidence will mean your child is ranked is a lower criterion which may affect your chance of a place. If you do not have the required evidence please contact the parish where your child was baptised for a copy certificate in good time.

VICTORY PRIZE DRAW WINNERS: 1st Prize £100 M Sparks ticket number 175: 2nd Prize £50 B Stewart ticket number 16: 3rd Prize £30 M Ockenden ticket number 272. Annual members are reminded that their fees are due in January 2023 and can be forwarded to K Shiers 23 Fairfax Road Market Harborough LE16 9JT cheques made out to Victory Prize Draw. Thank you all for your support,

THE SYNOD - CONTINENTAL STAGE CONSULTATION: All the Synod feedback from parishes, dioceses, and national Bishops' Conferences around the world has been gathered, considered, discerned, and distilled into a Report which is now being given to each continent to consider in light of their own tradition, history, experience, and religious perspective. Within Europe we now have the opportunity to consider the Synodal feedback from around the world and to report on: A) What we feel resonates with our own experiences – list the top three priorities from those given. B) Consider what are the challenges and tensions in each of those three areas. C) Define the next steps which move us (parish, deanery, diocese, the Church) forward. Please engage with this consultation by: Completing the form available in church or Complete the feedback form online at: <https://forms.office.com/e/2Yfs77hHsp> or Follow the QR code and access the Online diocesan consultation. Synod. <https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/synod>

All responses should be received by 9th January 2023 so they can be included in the overall diocesan response. Let us dream of the Church the Holy Spirit is calling us to become.



		Sat. 6.00 pm	Sunday, 9.00 am	11.00 a.m.
Readers	31/1 January	J. Rowland	S. Acton	R van der Liet
	7/8 January	M Mihovilovic	D. Chappell	C. Sellechia