

## FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

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

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

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



# Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

Parish Priest: Fr. Chris O'Connor  
Tel: House: 01858 462359  
Email: [parishpriest@olvic.com](mailto:parishpriest@olvic.com)  
Convent: Presentation Sisters 01858-462432  
Parish Website: [www.olvic.com](http://www.olvic.com)  
Safeguarding: [safeguarding@olvic.com](mailto: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](mailto:finance@olv.com)  
Parish Gift Aid Organiser: [giftaid@olvic.com](mailto:giftaid@olvic.com)  
Parish Pastoral Council Members: see photos on notice board

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

## Times of Services

### Sunday: 2nd after Christmas

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

### Monday Christmas Feria

7.00pm Mass: Private Int

### Tuesday: Christmas Feria

10.00am Mass: Sr Eileen & team

### Wednesday: Christmas Feria

10.00am: Arthur Johnson RIP (anniv)

### Thursday: EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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

### Friday: Friday after Epiphany

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

### Saturday: Saturday after Epiphany

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



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

## CONFESSIONS

11am &  
5.15 - 5.45pm  
Saturdays

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

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

Booking is now online: [www.Massbooking.uk](http://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](http://www.olvic.com/news.htm)

### FR CHRIS WRITES

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

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

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

**YOUR ACTION REQUIRED:** From the Parish Consultation, one of the themes that emerged was the need for good Communication. We realised we need to update the Parish List to build the community through good communication. We have now sent out a letter or email to all who are on the Parish List. **If you do not receive either a letter or email, you are not on the Parish List.** Please pick up a Parish registration form from the Narthex so we have your details or you can email Fr. Chris: [parishpriest@olvic.com](mailto:parishpriest@olvic.com) Please check with any Catholic neighbours or friends to see if they have received the letter or want to be on our Parish List. This would be a good outreach over Christmas!

**PARISH WELCOMING:** It's a couple of months since we resumed Welcoming at some of the weekend Masses, but currently we only have 3 people on the rota for Sunday 11am Mass, and 5 people for the Saturday evening Mass. We're appealing to any welcomers who maybe didn't see our original email requests or who may now have changed their minds, to consider helping out, and also to anyone else who feels that they would like to volunteer to take part in welcoming their fellow parishioners to Mass. Please do consider helping out if you are able to, and 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](mailto:tootskendrick@sky.com)

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

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

The first meeting for **parents** will take place on **Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 7.30pm** in the Octagonal Hall when we will introduce the course and give out the plan. The first session for **children** will take place on **Friday 14th January 2022 from 3.30-4.30pm** in the same place and then the 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> January. Depending on the numbers & COVID there will be two first communion days: 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022 & 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2022



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



**Exciting times with Exciting Young People!**

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



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

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

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