

COMPLETE THE SURVEY: HOW HAS COVID-19 AFFECTED YOU AND YOUR FAITH?

Bishop Patrick would like to hear from you! The Diocese of Nottingham has launched a short survey in order to deepen its understanding of Covid-19's impact on all Catholics across the diocese. Bishop Patrick is eager to know more about peoples' experiences of the pandemic, with a view to ensuring that the faithful are well supported and understood in the years ahead. Please visit <https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/whats-on/news/share-your-story-how-has-covid-19-affected-you-and-your-faith> and fill out the short questionnaire. Please encourage other parishioners to do so. **The deadline for submissions is July 4th 2021.**

FR CHRIS: THOUGHTS ON THE READINGS:

As people of faith, we often hear the negative side of Jesus words. When I hear the words of the gospel today my thought tends to be: have I borne much fruit or any fruit at all. Will I be or am I cut off from the Vine? It is a question we cannot answer. It is for the judgement of God and is in his hands alone. We leave it to his mercy. But we can and should examine our conscience as St John say in our second reading concerning his commandments, our living of the faith by hearing his word and remaining united to the vine.

Do we allow the word of god to prune us? The living word of God as found in the scripture is alive and active and speaks to us. It is a light that reveals the darkness within us. It leads us to question ourselves if we are open to his word. Simply put it invites us to take up our cross each day to take the narrow path that leads to life and therefore will prune those parts of our lives that are dead or not life giving. Those things may be bad or sinful things. They may be superfluous things or simply good things that our Lord wants us to do without. Pruning can be painful but gives new and wonderful growth. Does the Bible remain on our shelves gathering dust?

There is then remaining part of the vine. Christ is the vine. He is the source of life for all the branches for he is one with the branches. Therefore the image of the vine applies to the Church (as it did to Israel) which is the mystical body of Christ. The image that Jesus uses is similar to that of St Paul of the Church as the Body of Christ with Christ as its head. The church keeps us united to Christ in many ways. There is the unity of faith which comes from the universal faith we profess in the Creed and the teaching of the Pope and bishops that guides us. There is the solemn and definitive teaching of the magisterium of the church which is a definitive guide to remaining in Christ and then there is the ordinary and everyday teaching which should inspire us and move us and indeed enthuse us.

But the Church is not just teacher but is alive with the Holy Spirit and gives us the life of Christ especially through the sacraments. We come together in the Church to celebrate and receive the life of Christ, his grace. Without these we cannot live, we wither. These are the ordinary means of grace that enable us to remain part of the vine. As we learnt: the sacraments are outward signs of inward grace ordained by Jesus Christ. The regular celebration of the sacraments keep us alive in Christ. Our Mass and a regular confession are the preeminent means of remaining united to Christ or remaining in him and indeed he in us. They were instituted by Our Lord for this very reason. Perhaps we have come to appreciate them with a freshness as we have been denied them at various times this year. Please God they will be once again freely available for all very soon.

Finally, of course, we must practice an active love, keeping his commandments. This is put very simply by St John: *My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence. In the evening of our life we will be judged on love as St John of the Cross says.*

By listening to the word of God, by remaining united to Christ in the life of the Church and by keeping his commandment of active love, we quieten our conscience and need not be afraid in God's presence for a supernatural hope will be alive in our hearts and please God we may bear some fruit.

God bless you and your families! Fr. Chris



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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2nd May 2021
5th Week of Eastertide
Psalter Week 1

Times of Services

Sunday: 5th of Easter

Sat. 6.00pm: Fr Owen O'Neill RIP (Kenward & Branston fam)

9.00am: Mass: Sheila Plowright (Bacon family)

11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

Monday: Sts Philip and James

Private Mass: Liam Mannion RIP (Phil & Chris)

Tuesday: The English Martyrs

10.00am Mass: Michael Browne & family (Sisters)

Wednesday: Easter Feria

Private Mass: November Dead List

Thursday: Easter Feria

10.00am Fr Owen O'Neill RIP (Mary & Dave Hill)

Friday: Easter Feria

10.00am Mass: Patricia White Int

Saturday: Easter Feria

11.00am - Sacrament of Reconciliation - CONFESSION

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 9th May - Fr Owen O'Neill RIP (Phillips)

Sunday: 6th Sunday of Easter

9.00am Mass: Sheila Plowright RIP (Shepherd)

11.00am Mass: People of the Parish



*Whoever remains in me,
with me in him, bears
fruit in plenty.*

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 the our website: www.olvic.com/news.htm

FR OWEN'S FUNERAL: As Fr Owen has now been laid to rest in Cappawhite, Co. Tipperary, I would like to say a big thank you to all who helped organise Fr Owen's funeral and helped it to run smoothly and I appreciate the many messages of thanks. Our thanks go to our flower ladies' musicians and singers servers and sacristans and of course stewards without which we could have nothing. But I want to pay particular thanks to David Stamp and all the staff at J Stamp and sons. David did a magnificent job in coordinating everything and arranging the online streaming. I owe him and his staff a big thank you.



For those unable to be at the Masses for Fr Owen, there is an order of Service available at Church as a memorial. May he rest in peace.

THE MONTH OF MAY. We enter the month of May this weekend. It is of course the month of Mary. Any the Holy father has asked us to pray the rosary for an end to the Pandemic: *Pope Francis invites Catholics and Marian Shrines around the world to dedicate the month of May to a marathon of prayer for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic. Catholics across the globe are encouraged to dedicate the Marian month of May to praying for an end to the pandemic. The initiative, behind which the Pope has thrown his support, involves 30 Marian Shrines from various parts of the world. It takes place under the theme "The whole Church was fervently praying to God," which recalls a verse in the Book of Acts (12:5).*

Prayer initiative "The initiative will involve all the Shrines of the world in a special way, so that they might encourage the faithful, families, and communities to recite the Rosary to pray for an end to the pandemic," read a statement released by the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization. Pope Francis will open the Marian month of prayer on 1 May with a Rosary broadcast across Vatican Media's platforms. Each day will see <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html> broadcast the recitation of the Rosary at 6 PM Rome time (5.00pm UK) from the various Shines taking part in the initiative. The Pope will also close the initiative on 31 May with another specially-broadcast Rosary. After more than a year, and with the world still in the grips of the pandemic, the Pope and the Church around the world are once again leading the way in imploring God for an end to the suffering which so many people are forced to bear. Please could we all pray the Rosary each day for this intention. Cf <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/> .

Episode 2 A Father's Heart – A Podcast for Catholic Dads: The second episode of the Diocese of Nottingham's Podcast for the Year of St Joseph was published on Friday 30th April. In this episode guests Maziano and Merwyn (from Sacred Heart Parish in Leicester) share their thoughts on St Joseph being 'An Obedient Father' and how we can respond to the will of God in our lives. You can download it from your normal pod-cast provider or listen online by going to www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/podcasts



THIRD WORLD GROUP: 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.

THE WORD AND THE COMMON GOOD: You are invited to join Catholics from around the Diocese of Nottingham for an interactive online course over six Monday evenings in June and July. As life starts afresh after lockdown, it's a rare opportunity to sow seeds of the Gospel. Discover how Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching can help us seize this moment and build a society that reflects God's Kingdom. Build bridges following a year of social distancing and foster a new 'culture of encounter' Form new friendships, renew old ones, and help to build our parish communities for mission.

The sessions begin on Monday 7 June at 7.00 p.m. for six weeks. To find out more: Visit dioceseofnottingham.uk/here-now-us Join an [Open Evening on Monday 17 May](#) Or [book your place today](#).

RURAL MISSION SOLUTIONS has started looking for someone to take on some of the responsibilities currently carried by Barry Osborne, its CEO based in Market Harborough. The job description is still being designed but the calibre of person being sought would be an Operations Manager or Senior Administrator. It will be a paid part-time post, It might suit someone with appropriate experience who has retired but would welcome an opportunity of Christian service. There will be significant responsibilities but the time commitment might be only one day a week. I would be happy to start a conversation should anyone locally be interested. I am available by email or on 01858 414930. Thank you. Rev Barry Osborne. CEO Rural Mission Solutions

BEING A MISSIONARY DISCIPLE– After the great success of Bishop Patrick's Lent Talks on Discipleship, the Formation for Mission Team are offering two talks on Zoom in May on 'being a Missionary Disciple'. The first talk 'The Ascension & the Great Commission' will be given by Canon Christopher Thomas (General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales) on Thursday 13th May at 7.00pm. This talk will explore the importance of the Ascension and how we can live Jesus final instructions to us. The second talk 'Pentecost & Mission' will be given by Pippa Baker (A Catholic Missionary, Speaker & Musician) on Wednesday 19th May at 7.00pm. This talk will examine the significance of Pentecost for us and how the Holy Spirit equips us for mission in our every day lives. To register visit: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk

THIRD WORLD GROUP REGULAR GIVING (The Green Envelopes) Last year, when the green envelopes were being distributed, a number of people asked us if they could set up a bank transfer, but, at the time, we thought this was not possible because our funds are held in Market Harborough Building Society. However, we have now been told that payments can be made via the same account into which we make our regular donations to the parish, provided the donor puts THIRD WORLD GROUP in the reference box. This is a Standing Order, NOT a Direct Debit, so you would have full control over the amount and payment dates and intervals.

As you all probably realise, our income has drastically reduced during the past 15 months, just when our beneficiaries need help the most - they have suffered because of Covid19 too, and are situated in countries where vaccinations are scarce if available at all – so, if you are not a member of this scheme yet, please consider joining. Existing members can also change their payment method if they wish. You can set up a donation online or, if you prefer to take instructions to your bank, we can provide a form for this. We just need some very basic details so, anyone considering taking this step, please contact Margaret Atkins: margaretatkins52@gmail.com or 01858 446369.