

'SYNOD AND SYNODALITY' on **Wednesday 6th December**. Caritas Leicester and Leicestershire invite all who are interested to Saint Wilfrid of York in Coalville (LE67 3JB) for an evening of reflection and discussion on the Synod and Synodality. Facilitated by Father Jonathan Cotton, it is a chance to talk about the Synod on Synodality and what it means for us. The evening will last from 7.00pm until 9.00pm.

Calling all young people, families and friends to join **LACY (Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth)** at St. Thomas More Church, 75 Knighton Road, Leicester, LE2 3HN for an afternoon of craft and liturgy, on **Sunday 10th December 2023** creating cards with Christmas messages to be distributed to the sick and housebound, both at home and in hospital. Help us to pass on the Christmas message of hope, love and peace. Our afternoon begins at 3.00 p.m. and ends with a short liturgy at 4.30 p.m. The LACY team will be joined by one of the Chaplains from the Leicester Hospitals, Ed Pike, and your presence will make the afternoon very special. Christmas treats, mince pies and drinks will be served in the hall during the afternoon. **We're looking forward to seeing YOU!** More information if required from Pauline Payne – Tel: 07885 187374 or e mail joshearer@hotmail.com/paulinepayne@hotmail.com.

The local Prison Fellowship group will be running the **ANGEL TREE PROJECT** this year at **HMP Gartree and Five Wells Prison in Wellingborough and would like your help.** The purpose of this project is to purchase Christmas presents for children of some of the prisoners. The gifts will be sent to the children as from their dad's. The value of each gift will be **approx £15**. The aim is to alleviate some of the sadness experienced by prisoners and their families at Christmas time. Angel Tree provides a crucial link between innocent children and their imprisoned father. If you would like to help with this project, either with a **monetary donation or a suitable gift** you will be given a gift tag with the first name, age and gender of the child. **The gift can be wrapped by yourself in Christmas paper** if you wish, but we do need to have a photo of the gift for security reasons otherwise a member of Prison Fellowship will wrap the gift. A handwritten gift tag from their dad will be attached to make it extra special. **All presents will be posted so please keep them light.** Local bank account details: Prison Fellowship (Gartree Angel Tree) Sort code: 40 32 04 Account: 91564005 For your donation to be **Gift Aided** contact in-fo@prisonfellowship.org.uk Thank you for your kindness this is very much appreciated by prisoners, their families, staff and chaplaincy. Maureen Douglas, Angel Tree Co-ordinator 43 Gardiner St, Market Harborough, LE16 9QN Tel 07966 515115 maureen.e.douglas@btinternet.com



FINANCE	26/11/23		READERS		
Envelopes	£289.53		Sat. 6.00pm	Sunday	10.00am
Loose	£258.72	2/3 Dec	C. Baldam	R. van der Liet	C. Sellechia
Standing Order	----	9 /10 Dec	M. Mihovilovic	J. Thayaseelan	P. Green
Total	£548.25				



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

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
 Diocese of Nottingham: Company Number 7151646 Charity Number: 1134449
 Registered Address: Wilson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham, NG1 5AW

3rd December 2023
 1st Sunday of Advent
 Psalter Week 1
 Year B

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent

6.00pm Mass: In Thanks and Prayers for God's Blessing
 10.00am Mass: People of the Parish
 Coffee after Mass
 3.30pm: Rosary

Monday: Advent Feria

9.00am: November Dead List

Tuesday: Advent Feria

11.00am Mass: Funeral of Catherine Ford

Wednesday: Advent Feria

10.00am Mass: Sister Carmel Ruane RIP
 School joining us for Mass
 2.00pm: School Nativity (Foundation)

Thursday: St Ambrose

9.45am: Rosary
 10.00am Mass: John Wagstaff RIP (Maureen & Christine)
 Coffee after Mass
 2.00pm: School Nativity (Foundation)
 No Holy Hour (Chapter meeting)

Friday: THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

6.30pm: Pro-life Holy Hour
 7.00pm Mass: Martin Joe Murphy (Brooks family)

Saturday: Advent Feria

6.00pm Mass: Jim McCabe RIP (Joan)

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

10.00am Mass: People of the Parish
 3.00pm: Parish Carol Service by the Catenians



*Stay awake!
 You never know
 when the Lord will
 come.*

CONFESSIONS

11.00am
5.15pm



FR CHRIS WRITES: We begin Advent this weekend and indeed the Church's Year. Advent is a time of hope and expectation and above all encounter with Christ. Advent is a spiritual season to grow closer to Christ and prepare for his coming to us in a new or deeper way. The words of John the Baptist ring true for this time: *prepare away for the Lord. Can we make space and time for him in these coming weeks? See the resources in this Newsletter.*
Also the Weekly Rosary Group meets every Sunday 3.30-4.00pm outside in front of the statue of Our Lady praying especially for Peace & Reconciliation in Society. Contact Maureen Douglas

The funeral of **CATHERINE FORD** from Evington in Leicester will take place on Tuesday 5th of December 11:00am. May she rest in peace.

WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS for adults and also children's booklets & calendars are available at church. They have a meditation for each day based on the readings for Mass each day including the Christmas period. They are a great resource to help us pray in this special season.

Also From the start of December **CAFOD** is sharing **daily Bible reflections**, stories of our global family, prayers and practical ideas for action, as we create a space to prepare for the coming of Christ. This **online Advent calendar** of daily prayer and reflection will offer an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. To sign-up for the Calendar, visit: <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-calendar>

A REFLECTION FROM POPE FRANCIS FOR THE YEAR OF PRAYER: The world is divided in two: those people who do not give thanks and those who do; those who take everything as if it is owed them, and those who welcome everything as a gift, as grace. The prayer of thanksgiving always begins from here: from the recognition that grace precedes us. A prayer sheet is available.

THIS FRIDAY: A Half Hour for Life on Friday 8th December (The Feast of the Immaculate Conception with exposition from 6.30 -7pm followed by Holy Mass at 7.00pm. An Opportunity to meet Our Lord and pray for the respect for human life from its beginning to its natural end!



Our Parish **CAROL SERVICE** organised by the Catenians is scheduled for **Sunday 10th December at 3.00PM**. St Joseph's children will also be taking part. Come along to take part and listen to the Christmas readings and the wonderful words of the carols



ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL invites you to their Nativities which this year are taking place in our church: **Foundation** (reception Class) on Wednesday and Thursday at 2.00pm. Year 1 & 2 Nativity on Wednesday 13th December at 2.00pm, Thursday 14th December at 11.00am & 6.30pm.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Thanks to our safeguarding coordinators, we have nearly got through our DBS checks. I thought we could have an initial meeting to take it forward **after the 10.00am Mass on 17th December**. Many thanks to Fr. Chris.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: We are now looking forward to First Holy Communion in 2024. Application forms are now available from Fr Chris after any of the Masses. Please return the form by **7 January 2023**. It is for children in year 3 and above. The first meeting for parents will take place on **Wednesday 17th January 2024 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 21 January 2023 from 9.20am - 10.20am and the children will join their parents and the congregation after the Liturgy of the Word .

If you are a **Gift Aid Declaration Holder** please advise your parish office, or the Diocesan Gift Aid Department (parish.giftaid@dioceseofnottingham.uk) of any change in your circumstances, such as **name change / address change / no longer a taxpayer**. If your spouse has died and the GA Declaration was in his / her name, and you wish to continue to contribute because you are a taxpayer, then a new GA Declaration Form will need to be completed. Please also advise of the date of your spouse's death. **Your continued support of both parish and Diocese is always very much appreciated – thank you!** If you do not Gift Aid your contributions, and you are a taxpayer, and wish to do so, please speak with your parish priest, or contact the parish office for a Gift Aid Declaration Form.

A REGISTER OF CHURCH VOLUNTEERS A register of **CHURCH VOLUNTEERS: Many thanks to all who have completed their forms. Last volunteers to fill out your details? Registration forms are now available in the Narthex or by email. Who does this apply to?** Really anyone who helps in any way in the Parish! From Church Cleaner, flower arranger reader, Coffee volunteer, church collection Bazaar Offertory PPC, welcomer and so on.. You can also receive the form by email from parishpriest@olvic.com **PS Just one form is necessary for all your roles in the parish.**



RED BOXES: Many thanks to everyone who continues to find coins to put into their Red Boxes (increasingly difficult in post Covid/card only times) to help the poor and needy in our world. Your support is so much needed and very greatly appreciated. As always, please leave your box on the table in the Cloister and it will be returned after emptying, to the same place. Should anyone wish to help by taking a box, please speak to Father Chris or to Bob and Chris Shepherd. Thank you very much once more.

School admissions to Catholic Primary Academies (Reception Year) - Children born between 01/09/2019 and 31/08/2020 The deadline for submitting your application for a school place is **15th January 2024**. Application forms are available on your 'home' Local Authority website. For every Catholic school you apply for if you wish your child to be considered and ranked under a **faith criterion** you **should also complete a supplementary information form**, and return this form to the school by the deadline, (forms are available from the LA and the school). You **MUST** also include the supporting **evidence*** as required with this form, eg baptism certificate (photocopies acceptable). Failure to supply the required supporting evidence will mean your child is ranked in 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.