

FR CHRIS: THOUGHTS ON THE READINGS: We reread again the great Gospel of Christmas Day which many do not hear, since we come to the different Masses of Christmas. So, on this 2nd Sunday of the Christmas season, we can rejoice in this masterpiece of St John in praise of the Word made flesh. We can rejoice and praise God for his love and mercy in revealing **his great wisdom** to us, his only begotten Son.. Our first reading from Ben Sirach reveals this wonder of God's wisdom which he recognised from the beauty, glory and order of the world. This is something that many do but so many, many others fail to do. To draw from this amazing and mysterious universe the wisdom behind it.

But our reading then recognises that this great wisdom dwells amongst the People of Israel, in a prophetic expression: "pitched his tent in Jacob". I think he finds this extraordinary. There is a general nature to wisdom you could say as revealed by our Universe, but in choosing Israel our author recognises a particular personal aspect of wisdom on the part of God. She chooses to pitch her tent with this People. Why does God so choose? This reading borders on the revelation of the New Testament which is revealed by John in our Gospel.

This wisdom of God, dwelling with God from all eternity revealed in so many partial ways (in Creation and the Old testament) is now revealed as his eternal Word who is with God (the Father) and who is God. He perfectly is the wisdom of God because he is the Word of the Father eternally existing who fully expresses the person of the Father because he is a person. God's wisdom is a person! Not a general principle or even a quality of God. This so important! So many need to hear this. Our world can be so impersonal. People feel at the mercy of so many forces and events beyond their control, victims on a tide of things beyond their control whether of nature such as natural disasters or indeed this pandemic or the broader forces of human society such as the economy which seem to take up and then discard randomly.

Above these forces or the darkness caused by men is the personal Word of God who in fact has a word for each person, a word of love for each for he chooses us. A person who chooses does so because he desires because he desires what he chooses or in the case of people because he loves whom he chooses.

Each of us everyone who exists is a choice of God and therefore not insignificant but born from an eternal love. AS St Paul says he choose us before the world was made indeed in Christ. Indeed, if we think about it each moment of our existence is a continuing choice of God. If he did not continue to choose us and love us, we would cease to exist in an instant. We can see the constant nature of that love in the choice of creation in the Word through to the word made flesh our Lord who comes with grace and truth to save us and make us his children.

We need to take to heart the great canticle of St Paul in our second reading. We can make this prayer our own by praying it in the singular as well as the plural: *Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved.*

My wishes for the New Year are the same as St Paul: *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.*



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

Schools:
 Parish Primary: St. Joseph's Academy 01858-465359.
 Deanery Comprehensive: St. Paul's 0116 241 4057
 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

3rd January 2021
 2nd week of Christmas
 Psalter Week 2
 Year B

Times of Services

Sunday: 2nd of Christmas

Sat 6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 3rd January - Allen Winter RIP

9.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am: Mass: Bogush Jan & Mirek Nowakowski RIP

Monday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Baugh Family RIP

Tuesday: Feria

Private Mass: November Dead List

Wednesday: Solemnity of the Epiphany

10.00am Mass: Bogush Nowakowski RIP (Birthday)

Thursday: Feria

Private Mass: November Dead List

Friday: Feria

10.00am: Mass: Dorothy Glenn Klopsch RIP

Saturday: Feria

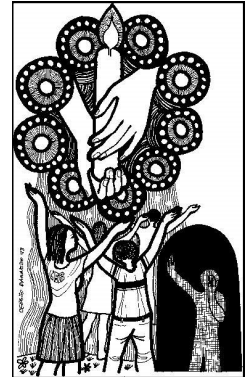
11.00am - Sacrament of Reconciliation - CONFESSION

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 10th January: Brian Davies RIP

Sunday: Baptism of the Lord

9.00am: Mass: Gordon Clark RIP (Cyprian)

11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish



*The word was made
 flesh, he lived
 among us.*

BOOK NOW

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

TO PRE BOOK TO COME TO MASS:

You can only make your booking on Thursday or Friday evenings between 5pm and 7pm.

(Please note just Thursday and Friday Now)

TO BOOK TO COME TO THE 6PM MASS, please ring Angela Wade on 01858 462293.

TO BOOK TO COME TO THE 9AM MASS, please ring Jo Shellard on 01858 440983.

TO BOOK TO COME TO THE 11AM MASS, please ring Stephen McGlone on 01858 465939.

FR CHRIS WRITES:

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. I hope that Christmas was filled with the joy of Christ even if we could not celebrate it as we would have wished. And to all those who prepared our Christmas Celebrations: flowers, cleaners, musicians, those who prepared the Crib and the tree. 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!

PS Those of you with internet please print off a copy of the Newsletter for Parishioners who do not have the internet. Paper copies are available at church

WORLD DAY OF PEACE, 1 January 2021:

In his message for the Catholic Church's World Day of Peace, Pope Francis appeals to the international community to foster a 'culture of care' by advancing on the "path of fraternity, justice and peace between individuals, communities, peoples and nations."
"There can be no peace without a culture of care," the Pope stresses in his message for the 54th World Day of Peace marked on 1 January 2021.
See [Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales \(cbcew.org.uk\)](http://Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales (cbcew.org.uk)) for this and other news.

BEING A DISCIPLE' WEB SERIES - January is a time when we try and work at being a better person, why not explore how we can be a grow as a disciple of Jesus? On the 4 Thursdays of January we will explore a different aspect of what it means to be a Catholic disciple with Brendan Thompson the CEO of Catholic Voices in a web series on Zoom. Catholic Voices are an international organisation that shares the Good News in the global media. This will be a great foundation for parishes, chaplaincies and individuals to explore how we can support each other in growing as Catholic disciples. Register for the series here: <https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJMrCuyqjwpGdNBRC5NIQ46Eu1bleEq246A>

For information on how to access things on zoom visit: https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/information/diocesan-commissions/01_commission-adult-formation/using-zoom

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL:

The Annual White Flower appeal will take place next weekend 9/10 January 2021 for SPUC (The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children). SPUC is currently campaigning to stop home abortion which gives women abortion pills to take at home without medical supervision. This is one of the most dangerous threats to unborn women and their mothers in decades. Please be as generous as you can to help us defeat this latest attack on unborn babies and their mothers. We will have a retiring collection and also donations can be made on line at www.spuc.org.uk/donate



STOP PRESS!! HEAR THIS! HEAR THIS!

LACY and the Uniform Groups celebrate THE EPIPHANY!

On **Wednesday 6th January! 6.30 p.m.** LACY will be holding a Celebration with the Uniform Groups of St. Mary's South Wigston on the Feast of the Epiphany via Zoom! Enjoying to bring forth our prayers and actions as gifts to the child Jesus just as the Wise Men did. A special time to think about the distance that the Wise Men journeyed to find the child King! Fr. Simon Gillespie will be leading us in the celebration and a warm invitation is extended to all, especially to those who are involved in Scouting and Guiding. Invite your groups to be with us – we'd love to see you! Come and join us for this time together and share in the reflections, prayers and fun time led by our young people and their leaders. For more information contact paulinepayne@hotmail.com. The link in for Zoom is as follows: **ID 875 2705 0411 and the Password: 588674. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL!!**

BISHOP PATRICK IN AD CLERUM: The message of Christmas is, in a sense, an unspoken one. In the infancy narrative, as described by Luke, there is an atmosphere of silence. There's certainly much movement, but few words! The child in the manger cannot speak. Of Joseph, described by St Francis in 'Patris Corde' as a tender, loving, obedient, accepting, creatively courageous and working Father, no word is recorded. Mary, the mother of Jesus, also says little, but ponders all these things 'in her heart' (Lk 2:19). It can be said that the events of Christmas speak for themselves; that they are indeed more eloquent than any amount of words. They speak to us of the immensity of God's love which, as St Paul reminds us in the 2nd Reading of the Dawn Christmas Mass, we have done nothing to merit: "When the kindness and love of God our Saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us" (Titus 3:4-5). We know God speaks to us at all times but, especially at Christmas, he speaks to us through his beloved Son, the Word made flesh, in whom he is well pleased. In the midst of all our preparations for Christmas, let's each accept the invitation to a little more attentive listening than usual; to create within ourselves a zone of inner silence where that 'still small voice' of God can be heard.

GRAPEVINE 16TH NEW EDITION: Grapevine is the Diocesan Newsletter for Adult formation, Justice & Peace and Caritas in our diocese. **This week** there are various bits of news and events. Please ctrl + click on the image above or [this link](#):



JUBILEE FOODBANK: The Most Useful Foods Tinned Meat, Tinned Chicken, Corned Beef, Hot Dogs, Fray Bentos Pies, Sugar (500g), Biscuits (small packets), Toothbrushes, Shampoo. The following supermarkets are still kindly collecting for us: Sainsbury's, Waitrose, B&M and both Coops. Refill Revolution at the Eco Village is our newest donation point. Lidl is on board now too! Thank you to the supermarkets and the work of their teams! We do not need: Beans, tinned tomatoes, tinned fish, soup, fizzy drinks, pasta & meatballs, pasta sauce, rice, cereal, tins or large/family size packets of biscuits.

**JUBILEE
FOODBANK**