

**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY, Loughborough (primary)** have a vacancy for a deputy headteacher commencing August 2021, 3 days non-teaching / 2 days teaching. For further details please visit [www.aquinas-cmat.org/vacancies](http://www.aquinas-cmat.org/vacancies) Closing Date: 19 April 2021.

#### **FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS ON THE READINGS:**

This Easter my thoughts are with those coming to the tomb on that first morning of all mornings, when the world was made new: the three women particularly Mary Magdalene and the two disciples Peter & John.

The women set out in the dark just before sunrise and as they are walking to the tomb the sun comes up at it does quickly in that part of the world; they walk from **the darkness into the light of the resurrection faith**. These women are driven by love – to attend to their beloved dead: *who will roll the stone away? they say. They do not consider that no one will be around at that hour to move the stone. They go because love drives them, the illogic of love, the foolishness of love. They want to show their love to their beloved Master, dead though he is. They come to the empty tomb and to their surprise, confusion, and amazement to find the tomb empty.*

Informed by the woman about the empty tomb Peter and John come running to the tomb. Peter goes into the tomb and is stunned by the truth that indeed the tomb was empty. He is amazed by this but that is all. John however the Beloved disciple goes in, sees and believes because he is driven by love; he is the one that was always close to his Master's heart. He is the first believer in the resurrection. No one as yet has seen the risen Lord.

But hope is dawning deep down in their hearts, which are confused and struggle to believe the unbelievable, despite even the words of the angel in the tomb and the barely remembered words of Jesus about "rising from the dead" swirling about in their heads but unable to take hold: The disciples go back to the upper room. None of them get it but St John. It is too good to be true. But Mary driven by love remains by the tomb.

It is only when Jesus comes to them himself, do they begin to believe: Mary in the garden in that most beautiful of encounters when Jesus speaks her name and Peter and the disciples in the upper room when he shows them his wounds.

We too are "slow of faith" too. We like those first believers fail to believe the words of Jesus, fail to "get" the truth of the resurrection. We live as if Christ had not risen, we admire him and his goodness but we leave him in the past. But he is alive and risen and with us, in our world and in our lives. All things are possible now, he is with us, love has risen no more to die. Eternal life has irrupted into the present.

On this Easter Sunday we ask the Lord for a greater faith and hope. To take to heart in a deeper way that Jesus is risen. Love recognises love. Our Love for Jesus is the route to this deeper faith as it was for Mary Magdalen that led her to the tomb and meeting Jesus, as it was for Peter whose contrite tears led to the first appearance to him and his later declaration of love, and St John who was the great lover of Jesus close to his heart who believed first. We can ask him to speak our name so that we may recognise him – most especially in the "breaking of Bread" and in then in eternal life.

**God bless you and your families! Fr. Chris**



# Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

4th April 2021  
First Week of Eastertide  
Psalter Week 1

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)

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 432959

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

## Times of Services

### Sunday: Easter Sunday

Sat. 7.30pm Easter Vigil - John Kelly RIP

9.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am: Mass: Bogush Nowakowski RIP

### Monday within the Octave of Easter

*Private Mass:* November Dead List

### Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

10.00am Mass: Sr. Claude Meagher RIP

### Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

*Private Mass:* Marie Caley RIP

### Thursday within the Octave of Easter

2.15pm Funeral Of Maureen Hailwood

### Friday within the Octave of Easter

10.00am Mass: Sister Teresa Horigan (60th Jubilee)

### Saturday within the Octave of Easter

Sat 6.00pm: Thomas Murphy RIP (Marshall)

### Sunday: 2nd of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday

9.00am Mass: Fr Owen (Goddard)

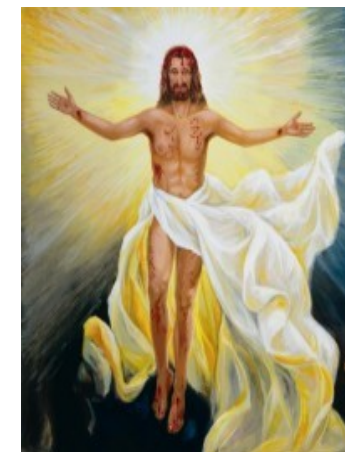
11.00am Mass: People of the Parish

**PS If you have missed out for Easter Sunday, Easter Day is celebrated over 8 days to next Sunday inclusive. So come to Mass during the week or next weekend & Celebrate**

### **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.



*He must rise  
from the dead.*

### FR CHRIS WRITES:

**On this great feast may I take this opportunity of wishing you all the Joy of the risen Christ. And may I thank all who have helped us celebrate the Easter Triduum & all who keep the Parish running—, the musicians and singers, the altar servers, readers those who have prepared our wonderful flowers, those who have cleaned the Church our sacristans, our catechists, our stewards, Mass bookers, EM's and admin support and all who have helped in any way. May I thank all who help run our Parish in all the varied ministries and activities.**  
"Love lives again, Alleluia



**May God Bless you all and you loved ones in these coming Days of Easter Joy.**  
**Fr. Chris**

### Online Booking for Mass

As we gradually come out of Lockdown, after long reflection I have decided to move to online booking for Mass. I have been asked to do this by many of the younger families who find this much more convenient and it is easy for those who have internet access. Also you can see at a glance if a Mass is full. This will be happening more and more as numbers increase with the vaccine roll out but social distancing remains.

We have our own diocesan website for all the Churches to book Mass.:

<https://massbooking.uk/>

### How do I do it?

- You just sign up with your details and create a password (write it down! & NB confirmation email could go to spam folder)
- Click on the Churches tab & select our Church which is under Leicester & you will see a booking button next to the particular Mass. They appear about a week ahead.) Now you can book your seat or seats or choose to book for someone else.
- Some seats are allocated as family benches which are particularly for those who are 4 or more in a family or part of a "social bubble". (there are 2 family benches at present)
- **For Couples or 3 people in a bubble**, I suggest you book **one place** as you can sit together giving all your names.
- **For 4 people in a bubble** if there are no family benches left I suggest you book **2 places**
- **If you cannot come please cancel the booking.** You can go to **my details** on the web page when you have signed in. Someone else can use your place.
- **Booking closes 4 hours before the Mass.**

### How do I book if I am not online or find it difficult?

You can ask a family member or friend to do it for you. I would ask people to help those they know who do not have internet access. You can book for others with their details. That would help me. Otherwise you can email me( [parishpriest@olvic.com](mailto:parishpriest@olvic.com) ) or ring me at the Church (01858 462359). It will only take me a couple of seconds to book you in.

### What about weekday Masses?

Booking is not strictly necessary at the moment as they are not full. However it is helpful to the Stewards who will only have to tick your name.

*There is a very good help section on the website*

**EASTER OFFERING:** Traditionally the Easter Offering goes to the Priest of the Parish and forms a major part of his income for the year. Envelopes for the Offering can be found at the back of Church.

### APF Red Boxes:

Could you please bring in your boxes for emptying.



### POSSIBLE DATES FOR REOPENING:

**Baptisms & Weddings** from 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 with up to 30 People.  
**1st Holy Communion** will be celebrated in late June.

### 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 4<sup>th</sup> 2021.**



### OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:

I think you should have had your envelopes by now. Many thanks to our counters for dropping them off. Many thanks to all who continue to give to the Church. I have forms for making a Standing Order and of course gift Aid forms in the Church if you are a tax payer and make a donation to the Church email Fr Chris [parishpriest@olvic.com](mailto:parishpriest@olvic.com) and I can send you one by email. We can claim an extra 25% on top of anything you give if you are tax payer.

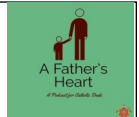


**FR. OWEN:** Please remember him in your prayers. He is a bit weaker this week with some pain which he is being treated for. He is in contact with his family but that is all he can manage at the moment



### A FATHER'S HEART - A PODCAST FOR CATHOLIC DADS:

The Diocese of Nottingham has launched a new Podcast to celebrate the Year of St Joseph. A Father's Heart takes its name from *Patris Corde* (Pope Francis' letter that launched this special year). This letter is split into 7 sections, each highlighting a different characteristic of St Joseph's fatherhood. Each month the podcast will pick a section for 2 dads, from around the diocese, to reflect on and discuss. Find out how to listen (and subscribe) by going to: [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/podcasts](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/podcasts)



### SHARING THE CHURCH'S STORY:

Catholic Voices will be hosting an online conference exploring simple, powerful tips and workshops so that everyone can share the Church's story with charity, clarity, and confidence. Register for the conference on Saturday 17th April here:

Please remember those who have died: **Maureen Hailwood, James Van Der Liet, Dennis White.** Our Condolences to their families. May they rest in peace