

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

Saint Paul's passage is one that I find very encouraging: he talks about his struggles or difficulties. We often make the saints superhuman and so not relevant to us. But they are not like that. We reflected about that on the Feast Day last week of SS Peter & Paul who both experienced weaknesses. Today St Paul speaks very personally about his weaknesses. He lists his weaknesses first and foremost but also insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies. And simply he reports that Our Lord says **my power is at its best in weakness.**

There are a few things we can say. St. Paul helps us to understand why God sometimes allows "bad things" in our lives—sickness, unemployment, poverty, failure, etc.—even though we pray that they be removed. God does this to teach us to depend on him, to let his grace work in and through us. Otherwise, content with what we can do with our natural powers, we never learn to live a truly supernatural life, a life in Christ. We rely on ourselves alone and we become convinced we are okay: we do not need God. We are okay on our own. We become proud with a lack of faith rather like the People of Nazareth in today's Gospel. Their pride stops them believing in Jesus; they could not accept who he was because they thought they knew him. They had become hard hearted and would not except his call to conversion. They would not allow the grace of God to be in them.

We can sometimes think that difficulties are somehow a punishment from God because we are not good enough or holy enough. The "weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and agonies" St. Paul mentions are a sort of summary of the curses or punishments of the Old Covenant that were eventually experienced by Israel (see the psalm) because they wouldn't listen to the prophets like Ezekiel (see the first reading). So why is Paul still experiencing "covenant punishments," as it were, even though he has entered into the New Covenant? Life in Christ does not necessarily avoid or remove the troubles in this world that result from sin, but the grace of God in the New Covenant radically changes their meaning and effect for those in Christ. No longer are these hardships punishments, but opportunities to live a radically different life, allowing the "power of Christ to dwell in us," and become closer to God.

We do have troubles and we pray about them. Rightly so. And we are worried when our prayers are not answered. We should not be. St Paul suffered the same thing!! Not all prayers are answered in the way we would wish, not even all prayers of great saints, like the Apostle Paul himself. He prayed, and God said, No. I find this helpful when we think our own prayers go unheard, or that they are not answered because we aren't holy enough yet. What about the thorn in his flesh St Paul suffered from? What his weakness or trouble was, we do not know. I don't think it is important. The point is that it prevented Paul getting proud and made him rely on God's strength to deal with it. It could be any number of things for us: some of the things we've mentioned such as illness but I think it's more likely to be a personal thing either bad habit of ours or a person we find difficult or annoying. It could be a situation in our lives we struggle to cope with, such as in our family or work that we have to live with. We pray about it rightly but the Lord says that we can live with it we can cope with it with his grace. *'My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.'* What is the thorn in our side?



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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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

4th July 2021
14th of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 2

Times of Services

Sunday: 14th of Ordinary Time

Sat. 6.00pm: Angela & Salvatore Stifanelli
9.00am: Mass: People of Parish
11.00am: Mass: Paolo & Giovanna Di Cicco RIP

Monday: Feria

7.00pm: Confirmation Mass

Tuesday: Feria

Private Mass: Norman Phillips (Anniv)

Wednesday: Feria

10.00am: Mass: Fr Owen O'Neill RIP

Thursday: Feria

Private Mass: November Dead List

Friday: Feria

Private Mass: November Dead List

Saturday: Feria

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 11th July - Tony Dolby RIP Anniv

Sunday: 15th of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: John & Bridget Ruane (Tom)
11.00am Mass: People of the Parish



*A prophet is only
despised in his own
country.*

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

Please note this newsletter is for 2 Weeks

Times of Services(week beginning 11th July)

Sunday: 15th of Ordinary Time (Sea Sunday)

Sat. 6.00pm: Tony Dolby RIP Anniv
9.00am: Mass: John & Bridget Ruane (Tom)
11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

Monday: Feria

Private Mass: November Dead List

Tuesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Fr Owen O'Neill RIP (Grundy)

Wednesday: Feria

Private Mass: Peter Gabriel Carter, RIP (JF)

Thursday: St Bonaventure

10.00am Mass: November Dead List

Friday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Johnson Fund Benefactors

Saturday: Feria

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 15th July - November Dead List

Sunday: 16th of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: Fr Owen O'Neill RIP (Page Family)

11.00am Mass: People of the Parish



*Jesus summoned
the Twelve and
began to send
them out.*

FR CHRIS WRITES:

We will be completing a double celebration on Monday with the presence of our Bishop Patrick to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at last after a years delay. Sadly the numbers are still limited and that is hard on the families. Please pray for all our candidates that they will be open to the Holy Spirit in a special way. It will be good to welcome our Bishop.

Thank you to all our prepared our first Communion celebration which went so well especially our catechists.

I shall be away this week from Wednesday to Friday at the clergy conference in Nottingham. We shall be reflecting with Bishop Patrick on the effect of the Pandemic on the clergy and our Lives As Priests. Normally each year we meet for a few days. It used to be at Hothorpe which has sadly closed. Please pray for us.

Congratulations to Billy McCann & Elaina Boswell who were married on Saturday 3rd July/ Please note it is the last Chance to complete Bishop Ptricks survey: **How has Covid-19 Affected You and Your Faith?** 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.. **The deadline for submissions is July 4th 2021.**

The Church is open for Private prayer each day

Enter through Fairfield Rd

Sanitize your hands on Entry & Exit

Please sign in on the list or use the Covid NHS App Q code displayed

PETER'S PENCE: raised £165.39.
Many thanks.

DIOCESAN YEAR BOOK:

There is a new diocesan Year Book available for £4.00

Sea Sunday – 11th JULY 2021 Next week is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. There will be a second collection for Stella Maris (The Apostleship of the Sea), the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. For an appeal talk from Bishop Paul Mason, and a video showing some of what Stella Maris does, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday To donate and for more information, please visit: www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate or text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Stella Maris is dependent on voluntary donations, so please give generously. Thank you.



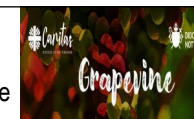
ARE YOU CALLED? The Vocations Team are holding their next Zoom café on Monday 12th July at 7 pm. This month's guest speaker is Maggie Mairura from CAFOD who will be talking about how she lives her call today. If you would like to know more about Vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life and would like to meet the team please email Diane at vocationsadmin@dioceseofnottingham.uk for the Zoom link. A warm welcome awaits you. Cf <https://nottinghamvocations.co.uk/>

ALTAR SERVERS:

Just to keep everyone up-to-date, we are still being restricted to one Server at the Saturday Vigil and the two Sunday Services or two from the same household/bubble. The rota system is working well so a big thank you to all the servers for their help and support. However as we enter the holiday season I need to ask our servers and/or parents to let me know as early as possible if you have any dates you are away or not available. Any advance warning will be helpful. As I said a few weeks ago, please do get in touch on 07981 205861 if you would like adding to the rota. Again absolutely no pressure to come back if you or your parents are not comfortable, we completely understand and welcome you back when you are ready. Thanks to everyone and Stay Safe. Dave Percival



GRAPEVINE 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](#):



NEWS FROM THE BISHOP'S CONFERENCE can be found at [Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales \(cbcew.org.uk\)](http://Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales (cbcew.org.uk)) on all sort of areas.



SUPPORTING PRISONERS' FAMILIES: COULD YOU BE A VOLUNTEER?

Pact is a Catholic charity and their Prisoners' Families Helpline are currently seeking to recruit more helpline volunteers. The role can be carried out remotely. [Click here to find out more about what the role involves](#) or see <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/Pages/Category/volunteer>

