

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY are seeking to appoint an inspirational and enthusiastic person to join their staffing team as a Sports Coach. See the website or contact the school for more information: www.stjosephs.leics.sch.uk

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

The People of Israel looked forward to the Day of the Lord which Isaiah talks about today. The day when God acts and comes to visit his people with salvation. It is often too called the day of Vengeance or retribution of God. We have both a day of salvation and a time of retribution in this reading where Good News is announced. Indeed this theme of Judgement, the Day of Wrath is often found side by side with that of the joy of God's saving his people. What to make of It? I has to do with the mystery of Justice and mercy of God. Through both he comes to save us as Isaiah says. Certainly, in all of scripture there is the theme of justice of God but also he is mercy made flesh as our Gospel indicates. Israel is often warned of the coming judgement of God if it doesn't repent and the disaster that would follow. But in the next moment as in today's first reading when the worst has happened such as the Exile to Babylon, he gives them the promise of his mercy of a new beginning - the day of the Lord becomes the day of salvation. Isaiah is not talking about physical healing but much more about spiritual healing. God had warned him that people would hear him but not hear see and not see. Words that Jesus himself would quote. Isaiah is looking to the gift of the Christ and the Holy Spirit. When God would come and help people to see truly to listen to God with an open heart and truly proclaim his wonders through the Holy Spirit. The Day of the Lord Comes with Christ.

Thus in our Gospel Jesus healing of the deaf and speech impaired man is a sign of the Day of the Lord present in Jesus. Of course, he has great compassion for the suffering of the man. We are told he sighed or groaned as he looked up to heaven. He recognises his isolation from society and more than that - his isolation from the Community of faith and God. He was unable to hear the Word of God and praise him with his lips. He touches and spits on him. This is an image of creation as Jesus makes him anew. 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' *Hear the word of God and Speak it. As we say in the Baptismal Ephphatha prayer over the child: The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father. The true healing of the deafness and muteness that comes from sin. It is the closing of the heart. The man can now hear Christ and praise him. The people say: 'He has done all things well, 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.', quoting the fulfilment of Isaiah whether they understood or not. The Day of the Lord was truly present.*

It is present for us too and began on our Day of Baptism when we were created anew by the Holy Spirit. Be opened. Have we let that grace open our ears to his word and our mouths to proclaim his faith and love to others which is our mission from Baptism? For most of us it is an ongoing task and at times we have fallen away from it. Do we realize that we are still somewhat deaf? Does it occur to us that, as individuals (and as a church), we do not yet fully listen to the Gospel? Perhaps that is why we have a speech impediment and do not share our faith well and the people of our time no longer understand us when we try to proclaim the Christian faith?

Perhaps we need a little bit of that Day of Judgement or retribution in our lives. To be aware of the just anger of God with us and our world. How our sins appals him, not least our treatment of the poor or as Pope Francis says those on the peripheries. For then we might repent and the day of retribution then becomes the day of salvation. The Psalm today forms a good prayer if we can really pray it as people who know we are oppressed, hungry, blind, bowed down indeed imprisoned by our sin.



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

5th September 2021
23rd of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 3

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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: 23rd of Ordinary Time

Sat. 6.00pm: Joseph Garfield RIP (Lowe)
9.00am: Mass: People of the Parish
11.00am: Mass: Annie O'Rourke RIP (McGlone)

Monday: Feria

9.00am Mass: Charlie Ellington RIP (Blamires)

Tuesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Arthur Wellington RIP (Bretherick)

Wednesday: THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

10.00am Mass: Brian Lohan RIP (Sisters)

Thursday: Feria

10.00am: Mass: Daphne Bennett Ints (Blamires)

Friday: Feria

7.00pm Mass: November Dead List

Saturday: Feria

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 12th - O'Neill Family (C.O'N)

Sunday: 24th of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish
11.00am Mass: Mary Cunningham RIP



*He makes the deaf
hear and the dumb
speak.*

CONFESSIONS
11am Saturdays

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

FR CHRIS WRITES:

Dear All, You may have heard or seen in the press that the Holy father has called a Synod of Bishops in October 2023 entitled: “**For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission.**” The stated aim of the Holy Father that the Church in today’s world should have a vision of missionary communion orientated to evangelisation However for the first time this will involve the whole Church over the coming two years in a more formal way. It is due to begin this October in local churches such as dioceses and then in Spring next year a national synthesis will be made. In September next year a first Instrumentum Laboris or working document will be produced which will be discussed on an Continental level Those 7 assemblies will then feed into a second Instrumentum Laboris for the Synod itself This whole process draws on the teaching of 2nd Vatican Council that the whole People of God in its universality enjoy the anointing of the Holy Spirit and thus have the *sensus fidei* - the sense of faith. This means as Pope bishops and the faithful together we are called to reflect on our faith handed down in the present circumstances of our world (not least after/in the Pandemic) according to our Charisms and how to share our faith with the world in which we live. As the word synod suggests, the essence of the Church is a Communion of faith that walks or journeys together evangelising the world we live in. This we could call the DNA of the Church. We hope and pray that the Holy Spirit will speak to us through each other and that we may all listen to him. As I understand it the first part this Autumn will involve us as Parishes schools and so on. This is all I know in respect of details. I will share more thoughts in the weeks to come.

One of the things we have started again is that our Eucharistic Ministers are taking take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound with all the proper precautions. If you know of anyone who is sick or housebound, please let me know. People sometimes get missed especially after this time of lock down.

There will now be Public daily Mass available. The Mass times will vary on weekdays depending on my duties and funerals and so on. **Always check the Newsletter!!** Please follow the instructions as below. We shall keep weekends Masses as they are with the same booking system, though we can seat people closer together if necessary. We are also thinking about the Thursday Coffee again!!

As we are now coming out of lockdown we do **need a Parish Health & Safety representative** if someone could volunteer who has some relevant background.

Covid 19: As you all know the Government removed regulations on Monday 19th July and from 16th August the contact Isolation rules change for the double- vaccinated. However, the Virus is still about and the rate of infection remains high. So we need to proceed carefully and slowly. This is the opinion of those whom I have consulted. With the Delta variant on the rise in our areas **Hands, Face, Space, Ventilate is just as important as ever.**

So we will still have to wear **masks** in Church as before: this is to protect all concerned and is an act of Christian charity

Mostly There will still be the 2m **social distancing** in Church., even if we can relax the spacing when necessary.

We will still **sanitise** hands as we enter and leave Church.

Continued.....

People can now kneel as before at Mass

Stewards will operate at the weekend Masses with booking for Mass as we do now. However, **on weekdays** there will not be a steward. We ask people to sign in or use the NHS QR code. **It will be easier if people book in online on a weekday.** On a weekday we will alternate sitting: on the Sacred Heart side on Monday, Our Lady’s on a Tuesday and Sacred heart on a Wednesday etc. If people could help sanitise the touch points after Mass that would be helpful i.e. the tops of the benches. I think we are now all accustomed to how to act in a safe way. We will review this every few weeks in the light of local conditions.

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**

A PRAYER FOR AFGHANISTAN: The Holy Father has asked particularly for prayer and fasting: He said in an interview this week as well as at the Angelus: *I believe that as a pastor I must call Christians to a special prayer at this time. It is true that we live in a world of wars, (think of Yemen, for example). But this is something very special, it has another meaning. And I am going to try to ask for what the Church always asks for in times of great difficulty and crisis: more prayer and fasting. Prayer, penance, and fasting, which is what is asked for in moments of crisis.*

Lord, compassionate and merciful, you hear the cries of all peoples, formed as they are in Your own image. Reach with into the hearts of all who call Afghanistan home; of all her people in this time of trauma; of all who flee, and all who can give them shelter; of all who have given of themselves in the cause of peace; and of all who have taken the nation in their hands. We pray for tranquillity, dignity and freedom; for the women, men and children of Afghanistan; and for wisdom and generosity in the international community. Jesus Christ, prince of peace, hear our prayer. Amen.

TALK ON ASSISTED SUICIDE by Baroness Grey-Thompson on Thursday September 9th On Thursday September 9th at 7.30pm, Baroness Grey-Thompson will deliver a talk entitled, ‘Assisted Dying: A Win for Autonomy or a Loss for Civil Society?’

Baroness Grey-Thompson, is a former Paralympian, disability rights campaigner, member of the House of Lords and opponent of legalised physician assisted-suicide who will address the Diocese on this vital moral issue, via Zoom. If you would like to attend this exclusive talk, please visit www.dioceseofnottingham.uk in order to register. **Also please see Bishops Patrick’s You tube video** concerning assisted dying and his request that members of the diocese write to parliamentarians and state their opposition to the Meacher Bill: [The 'Assisted Dying' Bill 2021: An Invitation - YouTube](#)

CHURCHES TOGETHER NEWS: Some of you will remember Donald Clinton-Smith who passed away recently at the age of 94. Donald was very active in the Churches Together over many years, especially with Fairtrade initiatives and the Justice & Peace Group. . A service of thanksgiving for Donald’s life will take place this Saturday, 4th September, at 2.00pm at the Methodist Church. Everyone is very welcome. Also this Saturday Rev Stuart Allen will be installed as the New minister at the Congregational Church. We pray for him and their fellowship. Churches together are meeting this Monday at 7.15pm at the Baptist Church.

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.