

Reflecting on Vocation in Advent With the Church entering into a new year this Sunday, the first day of Advent, the National Office for Vocation will upload a video reflection each week focusing on a different state of life that God can call individuals to, as well as reflecting on the weekly Sunday Gospel. www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/advent-2020/

FR CHRIS: THOUGHTS ON THE READINGS:

This week and next week in Advent we are invited to prepare for |Christmas both by the Prophet Isaiah and St John the Baptist. To prepare for the coming of God to us. Isaiah speaks to the people in exile. God would come with power subduing all things to himself, revealing his glory. Israel did indeed return from exile but did God subdue all things, did he reveal his glory? No and yes. No, he did not reveal his power to Israel in ways that we humans would think or want. He did not establish Israel as a great world power in a great victory over the nations. He does not "subdue" as we would. Thank God. But yes, he was with his people comforting them and through providence, Israel returned home to seek to live the Covenant more faithfully as his chosen people. God's power and glory are not our way of power and glory: they are his and divine. Isaiah speaks of such but the people of Israel failed to grasp it as we fail to grasp it too: *He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes. This is the power of God, his glory. This is fully revealed in Jesus in all that he did and said. For he and the father are one. He is the absolute definition of the Father made flesh. And it is summed up for us by St John in the Prologue of his Gospel that we read on Christmas day: We have seen his glory.*

Yes, God has revealed his glory and continues to reveal it day in and day out if we have eyes to see, ears to hear! Great acts of grace abounded in Christ and continue to abound. In our prayer we might reflect on God's presence and action in our life. It is only through prayer that we recognise it. We could say we tune into the right frequency on the radio. Otherwise we have only hiss or static. Through prayer we become tuned into to God's ways and thinking. We will see things differently and when we do that Advent hope is born in us. If we are troubled by our own lives or the world around us prayer will help.

If we fail to appreciate God's glory in Christ, there are so many who see it less or not at all. We know that in Christ the promises were fulfilled. The reign or Kingdom of God was made present, yet it remains to be made manifest to all. That is for us. We are sent forth by the Lord himself. He wants us Christians to show forth the love and mercy of God - his glory in our lives. This is the awesome privilege and responsibility that we have. To give witness that God can and does great things. He is among us and for all. At times we wish God would manifest himself with great signs and portents that would bring people to faith and heal our world. And yes, he will manifest himself but through us in his way not ours. The little way of the weakness of love. Our Christian witness is vital. His glory must be seen through us. We can do this in a special way in advent and Christmas by not hiding our faith but sharing our joy in Christ with all whom we meet. We do not need to shove it down peoples throat as happened to me the other day when I was collared by an evangelical but rather it should shine through in our lives. They will know we are Christians by our love as the hymn goes, even though we must speak when the situation asks for it not least on moral issues in our world where people are so often in deadly darkness. Our Lord came, will come again and comes to us in the here and now. Marantha! Come Lord Jesus!



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

6th December 2020
2nd Week of Advent
Psalter Week 2
Year B

Times of Services

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass : Gaughan - McClone families RIP

Sunday: 9.00am Mass: Sister Carmel Ruane (Ruane)

Sunday: 11.00am Mass: People of the Parish

Monday: St Ambrose

10.00am: Sylvia Wilson RIP

Tuesday: Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary

Private Mass: Peter Paris RIP (Croucher)

Wednesday: Advent FERIA

10.00am Mass: Jim McCabe RIP (Family)

Thursday: Advent FERIA

Private Mass: Gertrude & Herbert O'Brien RIP (Phillips)

Friday: St Damasus

10.00am: Mass: James Sweeney RIP (Williams)

Saturday: Advent FERIA

11.00am - Sacrament of Reconciliation - CONFESSION

Sat 6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 13th - Robert & Jen - Good Health

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

9.00am: Mass: Sister Regina Gleeson RIP (The sisters)

11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish



*Make
straight the
paths of the
Lord.*



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.

BOOK NOW

FR CHRIS WRITES:

It is good to have our Church open for Mass again as we prepare for Christmas during Advent. On Wednesday we are streaming Mass to the School at 10.00am. This week our Masses are on Monday Wednesday and Friday. However generally they will be Monday Thursday and Friday due to my Prison commitments. Please pray that we will get more chaplains as we are short at the moment. I encourage those people who can, to come to Mass on weekdays so others can come at the weekend. The Sunday obligation is suspended at the moment. We are also considering using an online booking system in the New year as some have asked for it. People who do not have internet access will still be able to ring. Could I ask people to wait to be seated by the Stewards. You may not be in the place you normally sit but it is for safety reasons.

God Bless you all and especially all who are isolating and unable to come to Church.

Please pray for the repose of the Soul of Barbara Read who died this week. Our condolences to all the family. Her funeral will be on Wednesday 16th December at 2.00pm

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.

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Christmas Eve:

6.00pm & 10.00pm: to book ring Angela Wade on Thursday & Friday (5.00pm – 7.00pm)

Christmas Day

8.30am: to book ring Jo Shellard on Thursday & Friday (5.00pm – 7.00pm)

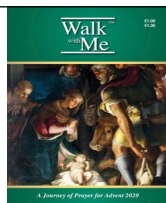
10.00am: to book ring Stephen McGlone on Thursday & Friday (5.00pm – 7.00pm)

I remind people that Christmas is celebrated over 8 days finishing with Mary the Mother of God on January 1st. We call it the Octave, so aim to come on one of those days.

ADVENT RESOURCES:

Walk with me Booklets 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 there is an advent and Christmas calendar for children with a little thought for each day.

Praying with Our Lady through Advent – We invite you to pray one extra Hail Mary each day in Advent, asking for Our Lady's prayers to help all of us as a diocese, open our hearts and minds to welcome Jesus afresh this Christmas. She was the first person to welcome Him into her life and her intercession can help us to draw closer to Him and feel His presence with us anew this Christmas. Every other day you will be able to watch people from our diocese pray the Hail Mary in different languages on the diocesan social media sites, search for Diocese of Nottingham or Bishop Patrick McKinney on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.



ADVENT RESOURCES: continued:

Living Advent Podcast – Living Advent is a weekly podcast series throughout Advent exploring the virtues of Hope, Love, Joy & Peace with people from across the diocese and how we can live them out. We speak to a young husband and father, a musician, a retired social worker and a police officer. You can find it on your usual podcast service by searching 'Living Advent Podcast' or visit www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/podcasts for links on how to stream or download it.



DIOCESAN CAROL SERVICE – Carol services are a wonderful family tradition of our Advent and Christmas celebrations, and often are a great opportunity to invite those who are not regular Churchgoers to connect with our parish or chaplaincy community. This can be quite challenging to do this year so we are offering a virtual diocesan carol service. We will celebrate a short online carol service on **Friday 18th December at 6pm** on Bishop Patrick's YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/BishopPatrickMcKinney>) with readings, music, prayers and reflections. Please join us as a family and invite others to join us too. After the service grab a mince pie, something warm to drink and join us on zoom for our family Christmas Quiz (6:45pm-7:15pm). The link and access code will be given out during the service.



NCDYS(youth Service) : You're invited... Join us at 8PM on Wednesdays through Advent as we explore the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. WEEKLY INPUT, PRAYER, COMMUNITY AND ACTIVITIES... PLUS A CHRISTMAS EVE SPECIAL! [Subscribe for free at YouTube and turn on notifications](#) (www.youtube.com/ndcyslive)

CARDINAL NICOLS:

Cardinal Nichols wrote to all MPs expressing his concerns about UK spending cuts on overseas aid. In his letter he calls on all parties to not step back from our responsibilities to the world's most vulnerable people in these trying times. He also highlights the impact this will have on tragedies such as forced mass migration and human trafficking. See www.cbcew.org.uk/cardinal-vincent-nichols-concern-regarding-overseas-aid-reduction/

PRISON FELLOWSHIP ANGEL TREE PROJECT: The local Prison Fellowship group will be running the Angel Tree project this year at HMP Garret and would like your help. Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions please would you kindly consider making a donation of £15 to Prison Fellowship (Angel Tree). This is instead of purchasing a gift for a child whose parent is in prison. A member from Prison Fellowship will buy a gift and post it to the child on your behalf. Thank you for your support. **For more information on how to make a donation please contact Maureen Douglas on 07966 515115**