

## A PARISHIONERS TRIBUTE - FIVE YEARS AFTER THE FIRST!

I first wrote about my journey into the Catholic Church back in June 2015 for Fr Owen's Golden Jubilee. I write this as I have finished typing up what Fr Owen has handwritten for the newsletter, as he has done every week since I took over from Sr Marie. I have been typing up the content - after I have deciphered what's written out, I do find it quite easy now to understand Fr Owen's writing with only an occasional issue here and there!

I have enjoyed creating Fr's vision each week for approximately the last seven years - I had to double check the time line, the years have just flown by. It has been an honour and a privilege to help out weekly and occasionally at other times as required. One thing I know I will miss, is the times I'd be in the Presbytery office typing away, Margaret Kenny was there on occasions. Fr. would leave me to carry on while he did something else, I knew Fr Owen and Margaret were chatting away in the kitchen, although I had no idea what they were talking about, but my concentration would often be broken with them both in fits of laughter. I was often intrigued by what was so funny. Fr often came back into the office still chuckling to himself. It's no wonder that three months became 19 years, I know Margaret will miss housekeeping for Fr Owen as much as he will miss her.

Whilst sitting in the office almost every Thursday, I have been witness to the many comings and goings of what happens around the Church every week. Whilst many of us turn up at Mass every week, stay for the duration, and then a quick goodbye before heading home, it takes a huge effort on the parts of the many to keep the church going. At Easter and especially Christmas, it was more evident of the many tasks that needed attending. From Cleaning the Church itself, cleaning the halls, toilets and kitchens, arranging the flowers, polishing brassware, washing altar cloths etc, setting out the extra chairs at Christmas, and many more. So many parishioners quietly going about their tasks without praise or glory, just helping out because they can. There is also the many phone calls and knocks at the door Fr gets, often several in a row, but I've never heard him complain once. I know how much Fr. genuinely appreciates it when thanking all at Christmas and Easter.

Over the years as a family we have celebrated many of the Sacraments with Fr Owen at the helm, 3 First Reconciliations, 3 First Holy Communions, 2 Receptions in the Church, 4 Confirmations, 3 Baptisms, 1 Wedding - Mine, and sadly the Funerals of Baby Owen who died unexpectedly at just 21 hours, and he also resided at the funeral of my Dad. My sister and I created the booklet for our Dad's funeral Mass. Fr Owen being as kind and helpful as always, allowed me the use of the office computer to type it up. We, as a family, were very lucky to have Fr Owen's wisdom and support during very difficult times.

Unfortunately due to Covid-19 Fr Owen will have retired by the time we can hold the Baptism of the latest member of the Winter family, Baby Skylar who was born a couple of weeks into lockdown. Instead she will be the first within our family to have received a sacrament from Fr Chris instead.

I hope that the parish welcome Fr Chris in the same manner Fr Owen greeted my mum and I when we first met him was back in March 2005. Fr Chris certainly has a lot to live up to. Fr Owen, it is us (the parish) that have been truly honoured, truly privileged, truly blessed to have had you as our parish priest for the past 19 years - 15 1/2 for myself and mum. Fr, I'm sure I speak for the entire parish in wishing you a long, happy and healthy retirement with many hours on your favourite course as often as you wish! May God bless you always.



# Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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Convent: Presentation Sisters 01858-462432  
Catholic Club: 01858 463 601  
Parish Website: www.olvic.com

Diocese of Nottingham: Company Number 7151646 Charity Number: 1134449  
Registered Address: Wilson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham, NG1 5AW

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: Stephen McGlone 01858-465939  
Parish Pastoral Council Members: see photos on notice board

6th September 2020  
Week 23 of Ordinary Time  
Psalter Week 3

## Times of Services

### Sunday: 23rd of Ordinary Time

Saturday: 6.00pm - The Parishioners

**N.B.** 9.00am Mass - Personal Intention

**N.B.** 11.00am Mass - Suzanne Packer's Dad R.I.P.

### Monday: Feria

3.00pm - Funeral Mass for Linda Farrell

### Tuesday: The Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary

8.40 a.m. Rosary in Church

9.00 a.m. Mass in Church - Rosanne Thurlow R.I.P.

### Wednesday: Feria

Private Mass: Dr Andrew Mitchell R.I.P.

### Thursday: Feria

Private Mass - Sr Eileen Keating - Golden Jubilee

### Friday: Feria

Private Mass: Wellbeing of N.S.

### Saturday: Feria

Private Mass: Edna Waters R.I.P.

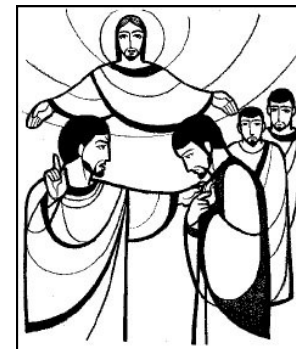
11.00am - Sacrament of Reconciliation - CONFESSION

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday September 13th - The Parishioners

### Sunday: 24th of Ordinary Time

**N.B.** 9.00am: Mass - Fr Owen's Deceased Family Members, Relatives and Friends

**N.B.** 11.00am: Mass - Pat Curran R.I.P.



*If he listens to  
you, you have  
won back your  
brother.*

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

### **TO PRE BOOK TO COME TO MASS:**

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

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**

**THIS COMING TUESDAY** is the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Hopefully we will be able to have Mass in Church at 9.00am. I will clarify the situation for you on Sunday. If we can have Mass at 9.00am, I propose that we meet for Rosary at 8.40a.m. Pre booking will not be necessary for this Mass, but a steward will take your details from you at the Church door. If more than the permitted number come, we can only apologise to you, but we have got to stick to the mandatory regulations and conditions.



**PERSONAL MEMORIES:** As I write this newsletter, I am very mindful of the fact that it is my second last. Can I say straight away that I am very much at peace with myself. I know that now is the right time. Whilst I still love the pastoral side of my ministry, I am no longer able to cope with the responsibility and the admin. which is becoming more and more every day. I am also very blessed and very lucky to be going into a very nice, fully furnished apartment in the redundant presbytery in Lutterworth. As you already know, my priest friend and one of my golfing partners, for 55 years, Fr John-Joe Maloney is living in the downstairs apartment. He retired one year ago and is really enjoying his retirement. We will have a shared kitchen - a very nice and big kitchen. Both of us can cook (although I must acknowledge that Fr John-Joe is a better cook than I am. I am a basic plain cook. Fr John-Joe is much more adventurous than I am, especially when it comes to the "sweet or dessert". I shall be very happy to do the washing up.



**"REELING BACK THE YEARS"**: I will never forget the day Bishop Malcolm, now Archbishop of Liverpool, called me into Bishop's House and asked me about the possibility of moving to Market Harborough. I also recall what he said - "Go away and think about it. I know you are nearly 60 years of age and if you think what I am asking from you is too much at your age (having already discussed with me what he would like doing to the Church), the Bishop said "I fully understand if you say no". I really didn't need time to think. From my years in Leicester, I knew a little about Harborough and especially about the great annual parish Bazaar. I also knew Fr Jim Cahill, my predecessor. We were, in fact priest friends. I had a very high regard for Fr Jim, his love of this parish and your love for him.

I arrived on September 14th 2001, three days after the Twin Tower bombings in New York. On my first Sunday here, as I stood on the steps outside the front door of the church, I have never forgotten a beautiful act of love by Angela Butlin, whom we all know is blind. She said to me "I want to see what you look like. Do you mind if I put my hands on your face?" Angela, I have never forgotten that. I can still feel that beautiful touch - bless you. As many of you know, Margaret Kenny was part time housekeeper to Fr Jim for a number of years. When I visited here before moving in, I asked Margaret if she would continue to part time housekeep for me. She said she would do so on a trial period for 3 months. Three months has turned into 19 years. I don't know what I would have done without you Margaret. You have been "my rock", my friend, everything to me and for me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Like anybody moving to a new post, whether professional, industrial, economic or ecclesiastical, it takes time to "bed in", to get the feel of the place, to get to know people by name, and for them to get to know you. Reordering the Church was very much on the agenda for the

coming years. That was achieved by May 2005, with the re-consecration of the finished work. What a happy and celebratory occasion that was. You will recall that a number of my family and friends came from Ireland. It is always so nice to welcome family members, to give them back in appreciation, some of the love and support they have given me over the years. I am very blessed with such a supportive, united family, a relationship that is now filtering through the different generations.

After the reopening of the now re-ordered church, a mighty debt had been incurred and borrowed from the Diocese and had to be repaid. In just 12 years that debt was cleared. What a wonderful, generous response from the entire parish. It now means that I can hand over the parish to my successor in a healthy financial state.

Like every parish we have had our annual joys and celebrations through First Holy Communion days, Confirmations celebrations, Weddings and many more. But we have also had the sad occasions through funerals, news of someone with incurable illness and so on. I suppose, in many ways, on a social and financial side, our annual Bazaar took pride of place. It doesn't look at this stage, as if you will be able to have the Bazaar this year.

In June 2015, the parish did me proud with the celebration of my Golden Jubilee of Ordination. Again what a memorable occasion that was. Everything was so well organised. Again it was so wonderful to welcome so many of my family from Ireland. They still talk about that celebration.

In short, I have been truly honoured, truly privileged, truly blessed to have been your parish priest for 19 years. I will take away with me so many happy memories of a very lovely parish and very special parishioners. Obviously because I am not moving far, I'm sure I will be meeting some of you from time to time, either shopping, out walking or whatever. The one thing and only thing I ask, is that you will welcome Fr Chris and support him as you did for me over the past 19 years.

By the way Fr John from Ghana spoke to me on the phone over this past week. He is hoping his contact with this parish might be able to continue in the future. Meanwhile, he sends his regards and good wishes to all our parishioners. Finally, many of you have asked me for my contact details, my address will be:

"MASSBROOK"  
28A BITTESWELL ROAD  
LUTTERWORTH  
LE17 4EY  
Tel: (M) 07949 136147

The house is attached to the Catholic Church which is just along the road from Morrison's supermarket.

#### **THIS WEEK'S READINGS:**

The First Reading from the Old Testament is from the Prophet Ezekiel Ch. 33: 7-9. The appointed leaders bear the responsibility to point out to two wrong-doers the error of their ways and to try and get them to reform.

The Second Reading is from St Paul's letter to the Roman's Ch. 13: 8-10, which tells us that if we truly loved our neighbours we would not harm them in anyway.

The Gospel Reading is from St Matthew Ch. 18: 15-20. We hear about the duty of a Christian to correct an erring brother or sister. But there is a proper way of doing it.