

FR CHRIS' THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY

Jesus's words in the gospel are very sobering and seem more appropriate to the end of the church's year when we think about judgement and the last things. But he points to a daily attitude that we need: to be vigilant that is watching and spiritually awake in our lives as he says dressed for action with our lamps lit. The servants do not know when the master is coming. It could be at the first the second or the third watch of the night which is a long night indeed. But not only should he find us vigilant and awake for his coming but also doing what we should be doing: faithful to our employment. This is the sort of vigilance required. That is to say doing the work that we should be doing, our vocation whatever it is - living properly the present situation of our lives. And there is a particular warning that we should not procrastinate. Now is the time not tomorrow and specially to repent of our sins to cease doing wrong - misusing other people and misusing ourselves. But as we all know waiting is difficult and we are waiting for the fullness of Christ to come whether it is the time of death, a moment of grace or indeed the end of the world. We are awaiting the meeting with our master who is the bridegroom. Time can seem to drag on and the expectation can lessen. So how do we remain vigilant and awake with lamps lit, living the present realities properly?

We do this as did so many in the past whether the great figures such as Abraham and Sarah or in the New Testament such as Saint Paul or throughout the ages such as the great Saints, we do this through faith - a living faith. Faith gives life; faith makes us see. For it can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, it proves the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. The presence of God here and now in our lives and the blessings which are to come. Today we have the great example of Abraham. He received many great promises. Of descendants as many as the grains of sand on the seashore and that of the promised land. He listened to the call of God to leave his homeland. Simply put he obeyed that call leaving the past behind for an unknown future humanly speaking. He responded to the call of God and hearing that word of God, receiving it in his whole self, he experienced the inner certainty of the gift of faith. He realised that the promises of descendants and land were a token of the real homeland to come: the real promised land of heaven. This life is a journey where we do not have our final home but are heading for heaven. Faith leads us onwards and upwards to the greater blessings still to come. the faith of Abraham reminds us that indeed at the end of our earthly pilgrimage all of God's promises will be fulfilled. Faith gives us that inner certainty.

So how do we grow in faith? The catechism of the Catholic Church gives us some basic hints. *To live, grow and persevere in the faith until the end we must nourish it with the word of God; we must beg the Lord to increase our faith; it must be "working through charity," abounding in hope, and rooted in the faith of the Church.* (CCC 162). Scripture & prayer as starters that feed our faith. But faith must be alive. A living faith is made so by active love so that faith does not remain an intellectual abstraction but takes flesh in our lives. It is who we are. When we face difficulties we hope against hope as did Abraham in all the trials that he and Sarah faced. Finally faith though being deeply personal is also ecclesial. It is not individualistic but rooted in the faith of the community and that indeed gives an inner certainty. In our gospel today Jesus underlines the importance of our daily tasks. In the words of the founder of Opus Dei: *"The secret to living out the theological virtue of Faith is to see that the here and now is the place and time in which God wants us to meet Him and to serve Him. It is not in the past, which is over. It is not the future, which we can only imagine and so is not real. The person in the state of grace who washes the dishes well, because it is his job, and who offers this work to God for the sake of his neighbour, is living out the virtue of Faith and is prepared to meet Christ."* (St. Jose Maria Escriva)



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
Safeguarding: safeguarding@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: finance@olvic.com
Parish Gift Aid Organiser: giftaid@olvic.com
Parish Pastoral Council Members: see photos on notice board

7th August 2022
19th Week of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 3

Times of Services

Sunday: 19th of Ordinary Time

Sat. 6.00pm: Father Kevin Eastell

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am Mass: Philip Green RIP

Monday: St Dominic

9.00am Mass: Personal Int

Tuesday: St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

10.00am Mass: Christopher Roberts & family

Wednesday: St Lawrence

10.00am Mass: Allen Winter RIP

Thursday: St Clare

10.00am Mass: Personal Int

Friday: Feria

7.00pm Mass: Thomas Murphy RIP (Marshall)

Saturday: Feria

6.00pm Mass: People of the Parish

Sunday: THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

9.00am Mass: Plowright Family RIP

11.00am Mass: William Mochan RIP



*You too must
stand ready.*

CONFESSIONS
11am &
5.15 - 5.45pm
Saturdays

Rosary at 4.30pm - This Week

PLEASE NOTE: Booking is no longer needed for Masses. However, please sanitise as you enter the church and we encourage people to wear masks but please respect those who do not. Please to not come to Mass if you have any symptoms of a viral infection

FR CHRIS WRITES: This week we had the feast of St John Vianney patron of the secular clergy. Please pray for all of us diocesan priests and for vocations to the priesthood. This week we are looking forward to the great feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven which will be celebrated on Sunday. It would be good to pray the rosary as a family in the run up to it. Also have you thought of a day out such as visiting the shrine of Walsingham this summer.

The **OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PEACE, PILGRIMAGE** to Walsingham will resume this year on August Bank Holiday Monday, 29th August 2022. The pilgrimage will be led by Fr Anthony Meredith I C (Institute of Charity otherwise known as the Rosminians) and gather at the Catholic shrine at 1.15pm. See poster.

ST BERNADETTE RELIC TOUR 2022: In September and October this year, the relics of St Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage to England, Scotland, and Wales for the very first time. This very special once in a lifetime event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes, in a church or cathedral near them. The Relics will be in our diocese on: • Thursday 6th October, in Saint Bernadette's church, Scunthorpe; 8.00am – 5.00pm. • Thursday 6th October – Friday 7th October, in Saint Barnabas Cathedral; 6.30pm (Thursday) – 10.30am (Friday).

FROM PAX CHRISTI: At this time we remember the devastation caused in **Hiroshima and Nagasaki** when the atomic bombs were dropped, on 6 and 9 August 1945, and we pray that nuclear weapons will be abolished so that they can never be used again. In his message, 'A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace', Pope Francis asks, 'How many resources are spent on weaponry, especially nuclear weapons, that could be used for more significant priorities such as ensuring the safety of individuals, the promotion of peace and integral human development, the fight against poverty, and the provision of health care'. In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi. Their website suggests many ways we can all promote peace in our daily lives, including activities for families to do at home, and a 15-minute peace liturgy for young children. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2022/> Donations can be made at <https://tinyurl.com/yxfcw67x>

MARCH FOR LIFE: This year marks the sad milestone of 10 million abortions in the UK since the 1967 Abortion Act. It is more important than ever that all people of goodwill, and especially Catholics, give public witness to the inalienable dignity of human life. We can do so at the annual March for Life held on Saturday 3rd September. Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate Mass at 11.00am in Saint George's Cathedral, Southwark. LifeFest22 is a pro-life, family friendly festival held from 10.30am until 1.30pm at the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street SW1P 3DW. The March itself starts at the Emmanuel Centre at 2.00pm, proceeding to Parliament Square, where there will be testimony and speeches, with the day concluding at 4.30pm. Our witness is vital; please do encourage parishioners to attend this event, or to join in prayer on that day. More information can be found at: <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk>

KEY HOLDERS: We need to establish a list of key holders to Parish Property. I do not have one. Could those who hold keys to the Church Hall or Presbytery let me know what keys they hold. Many thanks

IRELAND PILGRIMAGES REUNION: Thursday 8th September in Lutterworth. 10.30am Parish mass followed by coffee. Catch up and buffet lunch. parking at the church which is right next to father John Joe's house at 28 Bitteswell road, Lutterworth, LE174EY. please tell any former pilgrims who you think might be able to come. Some people may need a lift if you can offer one. See poster in the porch.

CLERGY CHANGES: Further to last week more appointments this summer: **Father David Cain**, as Parish Priest of the parishes of Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Mere Road; and Our Lady of Good Counsel, Rushey Mead. • **Father Roji Kuttivayil MSFS**, as Parish Priest of the parishes of Saint Alban, Chaddesden; and Saint Hugh, Borrowash. From 4th October: • **Father Andrew Harding**, as Parish Priest of the parish of Our Lady of Mercy and Saint Philip Neri, Melbourne with Risen Lord, Castle Donington; continuing as Parish Priest of the parishes of Our Lady of Lourdes, Ashby-de-la-Zouch; and Saint Charles Borromeo, Measham. • **Father Joel Nwalozie**, as Parish Priest of the parishes of Saint Pius X, Narborough; and Our Lady of Victories and Saint Alphonsus, Lutterworth. • **Father Gabriel Ofori**, as Parish Priest of the parish of Holy Cross, Whitwick; continuing as Parish Priest of the parish of Saint Wilfrid of York, Coalville.

THE SOCIETY OF VINCENT de PAUL (SVP) are fundraising to redevelop their camp site and building in Mablethorpe, Lincs. The site provides holidays for up to 200 children from the diocese of Nottingham every summer. If you would like more information on the project or if you would like to donate to this appeal or are able to provide materials or resources for the project please contact Dom Merrison by email at mablethorpe@svp.org.uk.

CATHOLIC VOICES and WORD ON FIRE are hosting a conference called **Sharing the Church's Story**. Join Catholics who are passionate about the renewal of the Church in the UK, and a host of dynamic speakers including Bishop Robert Barron. This conference is for all: volunteers, parents, catechists, clergy, and religious. The Conference is being held on Saturday 17th September, 10.00am – 6.00pm, at Friends House, Euston Road, London; more details at: www.sharingthechurchsstory.com

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY - New admissions 2023: We are delighted to be holding an Open Morning on Friday the 16th of September to welcome parents / guardians and children who are looking for school places for August 2023. Please come along to see our wonderful school. Refreshments 9 - 9:30am, Welcome from Mrs. Dabbs, Headteacher 9:30, Tours of school 9:45 - 11am. No bookings are necessary; please contact Mrs Liddle at the school office if you have any questions or would like to arrange an alternative time. 01858 465359 office@stjosephs.leics.sch.uk

		Sat. 6.00 pm	Sunday, 9.00 am	11.00 a.m.
Readers	6/7 August	J. Rowland	D. Chappell	R van der Liet
	13/14 August	M. Mihovilovic	M. Crook	C. Sellechia