

**FR CHRIS: THOUGHTS ON THE READINGS:** In today's reading Job is in darkness. He is suffering a great trial of innocent suffering. This passage may sound familiar to someone who has suffered depression when the only thing is to get through the day as best as one can. It weighs very heavy like drudgery. Indeed, every moment is a weight. It may also reflect some of the experiences we have felt in the various lockdowns particularly those on their own. Certainly there are times when life hangs heavy on us for no apparent reason or fault on our part. These are Job's feelings and yet he keeps going despite everything. Even though he feels somewhat that God is oppressing him, he yet clings to God through his will as his one hope of release

Job is innocent and his sufferings are in no way a product of his sins despite what his friends simplistically argue. This can be true for us. We are not innocents and we suffer often the consequences of our own sins and sin does have consequences. However, there is that innocent suffering that comes of its own accord whether from a limited world or the nature of the fallen world around us. Not least illness physical or mental.

In Job there is the partial answer of Divine providence which is important: God allows the trial of Job and brings about in the end a restoration. Despite the seemingly arbitrary nature of his sufferings which come out of the blue, God has all things under his control and indeed Job is restored and much more! This is an important beginning. A sense of providence tells us that God is God and only he knows all things and if we are humble enough we realise that we cannot understand everything only God can and he has things in his hands.

However, the actual answer or explanation at the end of the book when God speaks is partial and somewhat unsatisfying. That God is God and we are not, that we cannot grasp the why and wherefore of everything because we are not God. It is unsatisfying because we desire to understand and have an answer, yet it is impossible because we are not God. What to say? We cannot understand it and leave it at that? No, God does give answer in the only language that can make sense of this. It is his own divine language the language of love.

It is the answer of Jesus Christ. In the Gospel we see his divine compassion for all who suffer in whatever way. He lets all come to him. Yet it is more than that for he does not only have compassion, but he takes on our suffering. He makes it his own. We can meditate on the speech of Job in the first reading as made by Christ as a reflection of his passion, as he entered into our suffering. The only way to makes sense of it is love and love makes him one with our suffering. This is the meaning of the word Compassion: to suffer with.

Yet this is not easy even for him. Indeed it is the cup from which he will recoil from in the Garden. How does he do this? The Gospel tells us that he would often withdraw to his prayer, into his communion with the Father. So it must be with us. As Christians we are called have the same mind as Christ like St Paul. In imitation of Christ, he was a slave with the slaves, a Jew with the Jews, outside the Law to those outside the Law, weak with the weak and in summary all things to all men in order to save them. Here is the key to the answer of suffering: to enter into the mystery of redemptive love in imitation of Christ, to make the sufferings of others our own and thus come to know and experience divine love through the power of the Holy Spirit: We can see this in many around us. In the words of St. John Paul II at a general Audience 1988: To put an end to this petty and unjust way of thinking (That all suffering comes from sin), it was necessary to reveal in its essential profundity the mystery of the suffering of the Innocent One, the Holy One, the "Man of Sorrows!" Ever since Christ chose the Cross and died on Golgotha, all who suffer, especially those who suffer without fault, can come face to face with the "Holy One who suffers", and find in his passion *the complete truth about suffering, its full meaning and its importance.* ...*In the light of this truth, all those who suffer can feel called to share in the work of Redemption accomplished by means of the Cross.*" *CF Apostolic Letter [Salvifici Doloris](#) which is a profound meditation on suffering.*)



# Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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Parish Pastoral Council Members: see photos on notice board

Diocese of Nottingham: Company Number 7151646 Charity Number: 1134449

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7th February 2021  
Week 5 of Ordinary Time  
Psalter Week 1  
Year B

## Times of Services

### **Sunday: 5th of Ordinary Time**

Sat 6.00pm: Mass - Mary Marston RIP (Davis)

9.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am: Mass: Fr Owen (Sparks Family)

### **Monday: Feria**

*Private Mass:* Paul & Helen Mulkerin RIP (Clearkin)

### **Tuesday: Feria**

**10.00am Public Mass:** Kitty O'Reilly RIP (Buswell)

### **Wednesday: St Scholastica**

*Private Mass:* In Thanksgiving( Taylor)

### **Thursday: Feria**

12.00am Funeral Mass of Bernadette Spicknell

### **Friday: St Agatha**

**10.00am Public Mass:** Fr Owen (Plowright family)

### **Saturday: Feria**

11.00am - Sacrament of Reconciliation - CONFESSION

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 14th: Richard and Gillian Clutterbuck

### **Sunday: 5th of Ordinary Time**

9.00am: Mass: Mrs Bingura RIP (Sisters)

11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish



*He cured many  
who were suffering  
from  
diseases of one  
kind or another.*

**BOOK NOW**

**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.

#### **FR CHRIS WRITES:**

Our prayers continue too for an end to the pandemic and a successful rollout of the vaccine – for the whole world. We mourn all the dead and pray for all the families affected. We pray that things can be eased in March with our schools beginning to open fully again. Please keep all our teaching staff in your prayers as they teach both those in school and those at home. Please remember the following:

- You should not turn up for Mass if you feel unwell particularly if you experience a new persistent cough, a high temperature, or a change in your sense of smell or taste.
- All must enter the Church through the through the Fairfield Rd door
- Please come in good time so we do not have large gatherings.
- Please sit where you are shown by the stewards for safety reasons. You can no longer choose which side.
- Our Lady's side to leave by the Coventry Road door and Sacred Heart side from Fairfield road.
- **Please do not stop and linger near the doors as this is unsafe and causes a hold up for people leaving.**
- Please do not mix with people outside your bubble
- Remember to always keep your 2m distance and remember there is no rush to leave Church

We will continue to review Mass in the light of our local situation.

**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.

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**NEWS OF FR OWEN:** Fr Owen continues to be looked after by the General Hospital and is grateful for your prayers. However, there is now new news in particular. May we continue to sustain him with our prayers. We keep a candle lit for him in Church. Here is a suggested prayer to St Therese of Lisieux which you might like to pray: O Little Flower of Jesus, Please ask God today to grant the prayer I now place with confidence and gratitude into your hands (mention your request) and please pick a rose from the heavenly garden, and send it to him with a message of love. Amen. Also the Chaplet of divine Mercy is very powerful.



**'WALK WITH ME ' PRAYER BOOKLETS** have been produced for our Diocese by *Alive Publishing*. The cover *Lent and Eastertide* and help us to live these seasons of grace in a special way. They are a gift to all the Parishes to help us encounter Christ and live as his disciples more deeply this Lent. From my experience in various parishes they have been most helpful. **So I would ask parishioners to take one home and take them to the people you know who are isolating and staying at home at the moment.**

This Lenten edition explores the theme of prayer as well as the great themes of Lent: Conversion, transformative healing and the Paschal (Easter) Mystery. It also draws inspiration from Pope Francis encyclical letter *Fratelli Tutti* and his book *Let us dream which explores faith in the light of the Pandemic*.

#### **CATHOLIC NEWS**

in England & Wales Please see the Bishop's [web-site: https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/news-and-media/news/](https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/news-and-media/news/)

**RECENT DEATHS IN THE PARISH:** **Parish** Bernie Spicknell died last week. Her funeral is on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 12 noon. On Monday last we lost Sheila Plowright a very dear Parishioner and fellow Christian. Her funeral will be on 15<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am Please pray for all these wonderful Parishioners.

**NOTTINGHAM 40 DAYS FOR LIFE 2021** is a peaceful and prayerful way to work for an end to abortion. In Nottingham Diocese, with the support of Bishop Patrick, we have prayed outside the abortion facility at the QMC during Lent for several years. Routine abortions no longer take place there so last year we prayed at the Stapleford Care Centre, which contains a BPAS abortion clinic, until the Covid lockdown meant that we could no longer pray outside the clinic. We completed the prayer campaign by praying at home.

During Lent from **17<sup>th</sup> February to 28<sup>th</sup> March**, people in our Diocese are invited to pray and fast for an end to abortion. We planned to return to Stapleford but are currently prevented from doing so by lockdown (although the abortion clinic continues to see women). So, we plan to start our 2021 campaign online.

You are invited to peacefully pray for an hour or more during a 40-day vigil running for 12 hours daily during Lent. Please **sign up now** to pray with us at [40daysforlife.com/nottingham](https://40daysforlife.com/nottingham), or you can contact us at [40daysforlifenootts@gmail.com](mailto:40daysforlifenootts@gmail.com). Bishop Patrick will celebrate Mass for us on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February** at the Cathedral at 7.00pm - if you live near Nottingham (and are not in a high-risk category) please do come. You can also follow the Mass online through the cathedral website.

**NEWS FROM OUR YOUTH SERVICE** including applications for the team 21-22. Also very online events every day for children and young people at home on the youtube channel: See [this link](#) for further news and events see.

**TO OUR CATHOLIC UNIVERSE AND CATHOLIC TIMES READERS IN THE PARISH:-** at the moment you are unable to collect your paper at Mass, but you can get it delivered direct to your home every week, POST FREE. Please go to [www.thecatholicuniverse.com](http://www.thecatholicuniverse.com) or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you. SPECIAL OFFER 3 MONTHS :-£25.00; 12 Months:- £99.00 Or DIGITAL COPY:- 12 Months: £55.00

**CLERGY APPOINTMENTS FEBRUARY 2021:** The Bishop has made the following new appointments, which will take effect in the week beginning **Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021:** Reverend Matthew Jakes from St Hugh's, Lincoln to St Bernadette's and Holy Souls, Scunthorpe, St Norbert's, Crowle and St Thomas of Canterbury, Gainsborough as Parish Priest. Reverend Canon Edward Jarosz, resident at St Hugh's Lincoln as Parish Priest whilst continuing as Parish Priest of St Peter and St Paul, Lincoln. Reverend Canon Geoffrey Hunton from St Bernadette's and Holy Souls, Scunthorpe, St Norbert's, Crowle and St Thomas of Canterbury, Gainsborough to remain resident at St Peter and St Paul, Lincoln, as Parochial Administrator.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR FR KEVIN GRADWELL**, my successor at Grantham, whose cancer has returned and who will be undergoing treatment in Hospital. The Parish will be without a Parish Priest for the moment. There is no obvious replacement which will mean more Parishes sharing one priest. This sadly is the future for us too in Leicestershire. Pray for young men to listen to the call of Our Lord!