

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS ON THE READINGS:

Generally speaking, we do not like people who lay down the law to us. We suspect them of motives such as control and domination if not of being arbitrary. We do not want to be treated as slaves or servants. We tend to rebel in action or in thought. We value our freedom. God is not like that and his Law is not like that. Yet we can rebel. The ten commandments are often called the 10 Words of life. One context of the commandments is freedom. The Lord has just freed the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. The Commandment are the path to life and to keep us free from slavery not least to ourselves and our whims. When we disobey God's Law we enslave ourselves to a greater or lesser extent in small or great matters.

The second context is that of the Covenant which was sealed at mount Sinai. The first part of the Covenant was God's loving initiative by freeing his people and inviting them to be His chosen people. The commandments reflect our loving response to God's initiative. Covenant is fundamental to our relationship with God. In a covenant an agreement is made by an oath on both sides normally a family relationship. Simply put in the Covenant God invites Israel into his family. Indeed they have a family meal on Mt Sinai to seal the covenant. This is not laying down the law on God's part but making us part of his family. Only in the New Testament will we see the full implications of this in the New Covenant with its Eucharistic banquet. Family life has its rules we all know. It could not work without them. So too, with God we have the same. The Decalogue give the principles of our relationship with God our father in the first three and then the others for our relationship with each other so that we may all live and thrive and grow in peace as a family. The two stone tablets. According to St Augustine the first three commandments were written on one tablet and the other seven on the other, and of course they were placed in the very Ark of the Covenant. Within the context of the Covenant with the whole people they are addressed to each member of the family in the singular in a personal way.

They are the sine qua non of our friendship with God and starting point as we seek to love as Jesus loved us. But we cannot ignore them get round them with all their implications in small or great matters. Thou shall not kill implies we should not be rude or abusive. Thou shall not commit adultery implies a purity of conversation. They are a real gift of God of himself as he make his will known to us clearly. So as we prepare to renew our covenant relationship with God as his sons and daughters by Baptism at Easter we need to examine ourselves in their light during this time of Lent. We could take a commandment each day or so and so prepare ourselves to make a really good confession to prepare for Easter and experience the true freedom of God. Like in the Gospel, we can let our Lord clean up the mess within us that disfigures his Temple for we are indeed his Temple.

The Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Education Service is seeking to appoint a **Deputy Director of Education** who will provide a strategic lead in the areas of Catholic Life, Formation, Inspection, Religious Education and Collective Worship.

For further information / application pack or if you wish to arrange an informal conversation with the Director of Education, please contact Julie Sweeney: julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk **Closing date 30 March 2021**

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



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

7th March 2021
Third Week of Lent
Psalter Week 3

Times of Services

Sunday: 3rd of Lent

Sat 6.00pm: Mass - Fr Owen (Catemians)

9.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am: Mass: Timmy Kelliher RIP

Monday: Lenten Feria

Private Mass: Alan Wright RIP (Sr Lucy)

Tuesday: Lenten Feria

10.00am Mass: Ken & Joan Goodman RIP

Wednesday: Lenten Feria

Private Mass: Kath Donahue RIP (Bretherick)

Thursday: Lenten Feria

10.00am Mass: Sr Assumpta Mulroe RIP (Philips)

Friday: Lenten Feria

9.30am: STATIONS OF THE CROSS

10.00am: Public Mass: John Weldon RIP (Pat)

Saturday: Lenten Feria

11.00am - Sacrament of Reconciliation - CONFESSION

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 21st March: Kitty O'Reilly RIP (Boyko)

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Lent

9.00am: Mass: Sheila Plowright (Presentation Sisters)

11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish



*Destroy this
sanctuary,
and in three
days I will
raise it up.*

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MUST PRE BOOK FOR OUR WEEKEND MASSES: [BOOK NOW](#)

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: I encourage you to continue with our Lenten spiritual journey whether in Church or shielding at home. There are various resources that this newsletter points to including some Lenten talks by Bishop Patrick.

We are looking forward to an easing of the lockdown. Our school classes all return on Monday. In respect of church, we hope that Baptism may be allowed around the 17th May and also weddings with up to 30 people from that date. However we are awaiting details from the Bishops' conference and all depends on the infection rate of the virus continuing to come down.

Many have asked about **First Holy Communion**. We are aiming to have a celebration in June after the 21st for the children who prepared last year.

For **next year** we will start to prepare those who will be in **Year 4** next January. This is the wisest course as we cannot know what restrictions will be in place so we need to keep the group relatively small. I believe other parishes are doing the same. The Application Form will be available in the Autumn. Keep an eye on the Newsletter!

We are hoping to prepare a **little Pack for Holy Week** for those who are housebound or shielding at the moment (as well as reaching out to our school families) so that people can join in at home spiritually. It will contain the leaflets for the Triduum and a Palm and one or two other things. If you are shielding or you know of someone who is shielding, email me (or phone) with a name and address so we can make them available. We may be looking for some help to make some deliveries! God Bless you all Fr. Chris

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: we will soon be in April again. We hope to deliver the new envelopes through your post box soon. We think that is the safest way to do it in the present circumstances: If you have a problem with that please let us know. You can leave them to sanitise for a bit!! If you are new and would like some envelopes please let me know. Many thanks to all who continue to give to the Church. I have forms for making a Standing Order and of course gift Aid forms if you are a tax payer and make a donation to the Church email Fr Chris parishpriest@olvic.com and I can send you one by email. We can claim an extra 25% on top of anything you give if you are tax payer.



FR. OWEN is comfortable at Peaker park. Please remember him in your prayers for which is very grateful.

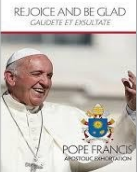


BISHOP PATRICK'S LENTEN TALKS - You are invited to join Bishop Patrick and people from across the diocese this Lent in reflecting on our relationship with God. To be a disciple of Jesus means to know and love him, but to also know we are known and loved by him too. Bishop Patrick will give two talks on Zoom exploring God's Love for us and how we can respond to it.



1. **Knowing the Heart of God** (clearing false images of God that we may carry around with us) - **Thursday 11th March, at 7pm**
- 2) **Knowing the Love of God** (understanding our identity as God's sons and daughters) - **Thursday 25th March, at 7pm**. Each talk will include input from Bishop Patrick, a time for questions and answers, and small group discussion. You can register for one or both talks on the diocesan website: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk

LENTEN SESSIONS ON DISCIPLESHIP AND HOLINESS: One of our ongoing themes as a diocese is that of deepening our **Discipleship** of Christ. Indeed missionary discipleship. I thought a good help for that would be the wonderful letter of our Holy Father Pope Francis on "**the Call to Holiness in today's world**" ([Gaudete et Exultate](https://www.vatican.va/holy_father_pope_francis/encyclicals/encyclical_2020/gaudentes-et-exultate_en.html)) which is down to earth. I propose some prayerful sessions on Zoom to study the document or better put be inspired by it to discover how Our Lord is calling us to holiness as a disciple in our everyday life. I propose some prayerful sessions on Zoom to study the document or better put be inspired by it to discover how Our Lord is calling us to holiness as a disciple in our everyday life. I propose **each Wednesday at 7.00pm to about 8.00pm or so**. **3rd Session on the 3rd Chapter on Wednesday 10th March**: each one will be based around a Chapter of the Popes exhortation. There will be a prayerful reflection and Discussion on each Chapter. Just underline those passages that stand out. The Document can be down loaded from <http://w2.vatican.va> under Pope Francis and Apostolic exhortations or [click here](https://www.vatican.va/holy_father_pope_francis/encyclicals/encyclical_2020/gaudentes-et-exultate_en.html). Google will find it. There is an ebook too. If any need a printout I can do that too. Zoom link for the 3rd session: is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81020639350?pwd=dWpWMFp6NHFDaWYvRWlNdmZjbnk5PzZ09> Password Olvic. I can email it to anyone who requests which is the easiest & safest way of doing it.



VARIOUS ONLINE RESOURCES FOR LENT AND OTHER TIMES:

"Walking with Christ on the Way of the Cross, in the Time of the COVID-19 Pandemic - Online Resource for Lent 2021. The Stations of the Cross begins and ends in the beautiful Pugin Blessed Sacrament Chapel of the Cathedral of St. Barnabas. As we journey together with Christ on the road towards Calvary, so we meditate and pray at different Stations along the way, where we hear short meditations and reflections from a number of students, filmed by them from wherever they are based during this time of the Pandemic. <https://youtu.be/dQ09wqJcxX0> Accompanying Booklet: <https://www.uonatholiccommunity.com/prayer-resources> 'God of Mercy and Compassion' - sung by Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles, ...

Walking with Christ on the Way of the Cross, in the time of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Knowing Jesus Online Retreat — Daily Prayer and reflection led by the Ignatian Spirituality Centre, option for group discussion: **Retreat Information:** <https://www.onlineprayer.net/>
Christian Heritage Centre — The Christian Heritage Centre, based in Stonyhurst, have a range of courses, talks and conferences aimed at: young adults, healthcare professionals, parishioners and more: **CHC Events:** <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/>
Lenten Retreat on Hope — The Dominican Sisters of St Joseph will lead a weekly 45min talk on how we can find hope by looking at a different biblical character every week in Lent. Register here: **Finding Hope:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtc-2grikiGtU8vPFJea2ktvR5U0MZ1mrl> ;

CAFOD Our CAFOD fast Day Collection has raised £684.60 so far. Thank you so much. Your generous gifts will help people like Hagos in Ethiopia, struggling to cope in an increasingly hotter and drier climate. Hagos and his family nearly starved due to drought, but thanks to our Church family and support like yours, we provided him with solar-powered water pumps. Hagos and his neighbours now have flowing water to cultivate their land. Remember, it's not too late to give to our Lent appeal. www.cafod.org.uk/lent



Romero Trust: There is an Ecumenical Service—[Let us dream; unmasking a Post COVID future with Oscar Romero](https://www.romerotrusted.org.uk/) on Sat 13 March at 11am from St Martin-in-the-Fields to mark the forty-first anniversary of the martyrdom of St Oscar Romero. It will be live-streamed at <http://www.romerotrusted.org.uk/>