

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY

AS we draw to the end of the Church's year we think about the so called last things. Death heaven, hell, judgement and of course in this month of November we think about the holy souls in purgatory. They are also called the novissima the newest of things. They should fill us with hope not dread! I think our readings today can shed a little light on purgatory. In the gospel Jesus warns his disciples about the religious leaders. For all the show of religion, for all their practice of good works, they are not as good as they seem to be on the outside. In fact they do many wrong things such as defraud the widows even though their prayers are lengthy. At that very moment he sees a wonderful thing going on in the temple. A poor widow comes and puts into the Temple Collection two little coins. In monetary terms nothing more than a penny. But it was everything that she had; she gave all to the Lord holding nothing back. The other people who were there gave plenty but what they gave was surplus what they had extra. The widow's trust in God is absolute, her faith total. She holds nothing back from him.

We can say, at that moment if she were to die, she would go straight to heaven because she held nothing back. Her heart was totally God's. She was already at one with him. In contrast we have the scribes who defraud the widows. They are far from God and Jesus says they will need to suffer a severe purification to bring them close. And then we have the others who are giving in the temple. They are doing a good deed. They are following the law of Moses in giving what they are supposed to. They are doing their duty. However, their heart is not totally God's. They give what they do not need, they are holding back something from God. They are not at one with God. They do not love him as the widow does. They are not following the two great commandments: "This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself." We can say they are not ready for heaven.

This then is the mercy of Purgatory. It is for those who die in God's grace but are not yet perfect. They are perhaps good to a greater or lesser extent but are not good as God is good because they have not let God into every part of their being. On All Saints Day we read in the letter of Saint John that those in heaven will see him as he really is they shall be like him. If we are not like him enough, we need the time of purification in purgatory or else it would be impossible to enjoy heaven. It would like going into a light which was too bright which my eyes could not stand - it would be total pain. Or put in another way it is like when we say to children, they cannot do something because they are not old enough to appreciate it. Perhaps the pain or punishment of this time is the gradual letting in of the light of God and we will find it painful as it burns away the dross. It is a fire without the light. It will bring into the light Of God's mercy those truths about ourselves which we have suspected but avoided and kept away from the healing light of Christ. We face up to the whole truth. There is no running away or putting off anymore. We know in this life the pain of recognising a fault or having someone else point it out. It is painful but liberating and lifegiving. In purgatory we willingly undergo the suffering as we yearn for the fullness of God's light but know we are not yet ready.

The Good news of this is that God truly desires to save us in the entirety of our being right down to the roots. This is the justice of God. He wants us to truly be in communion with him to know him as he truly is. So let us pray for our brothers and sisters who are undergoing the purification of love in purgatory. Our prayers can help them at this time and give them peace and comfort. for ourselves it is better to tread the road of love of self sacrifice in our life today. We asked God that our hearts may be more fully his and may that good widow pray for us!



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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Parish Pastoral Council Members: see photos on notice board

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7th November 2021
32nd of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 4

Times of Services

Sunday: 32nd of Ordinary Time

Sat. 6.00pm: November Dead List
9.00am Mass: People of the Parish
11.00am: Mass: Jen Lee RIP (anniv(Lee))

Monday: Feria

8.30am Mass: November Dead List

Tuesday: THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

NO MASS

Wednesday: St Leo the Great

7.00pm Mass: Remembrance Mass for those who have died,

Thursday: St Martin of Tours

9.00am Mass: Deceased Relatives (Davies)

Friday: St Josaphat

7.00pm Mass: November Dead List

Saturday: Feria

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 14th: People of the Parish

Sunday: 33rd of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: November Dead List
11.00am Mass: Patrick Curran Birthday



*This poor
widow has put
in more than
all.*

CONFESSIONS
11am Saturdays

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

Also it would be helpful to book for weekdays too, though not necessary at the moment as we are not full.

Booking is now online: www.Massbooking.uk You can sign up there and then book. If you do not have the internet you can ask someone else to book for you, a child or grandchild or ring or email Fr. Chris on 01858 462359 giving your name and phone number. Please see instructions on our website: www.olvic.com/news.htm

FR CHRIS WRITES: I have received memorial cards for Fr Owen from his family. They are most grateful and "wish to express deep appreciation and sincere thanks for your kind expression of sympathy" will offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for all. There should be enough for one for each family at least to begin with.

In this month of November we have the visit and blessing of graves at the cemetery on Sunday at 3.00pm and also on Wednesday a special Mass for all who have died this last year at 7.00 pm **and for all who want to remember their dead loved ones in a special way. You will be able to light a candle.**

Also as below please reflect on the Synod questions and send in your replies. If you want to meet as a particular group let us know and we can more than likely accommodate you in one of the Parish rooms.

Synod 2021-2023: We have prepared a simple handout to help discussions based on questions the Bishop has asked us to reflect on. This will help us as a Parish as continue our mission in the Post Covid era. **Please pick one up from Church or download from the website.** The Bishop hopes that as many will participate as possible. You can reflect individually or as part of a Parish group or a group of friends. YOU can also send in emails letters and so on. There will be the opportunity to also come to a Parish meeting in November: Wednesday 17th November 7.00pm and Thurs 18th November at 10.30am after the 10.00am Mass.

Above all we must pray for the Holy Spirit to speak and that we listen. **Please see the Synod page on our Website www.olvic.com/synod.htm.** What is our vision for the Parish. How do we reach out to others in our mission given to us by Christ: Go, make disciples of all...

Please pray the Synod prayer (card available) or whatever prayer asking for a new vision for our Church both local and all love the world. This is Key.

MISSIO Also could People bring in their **Red Mission Boxes** for emptying. If anyone



PRISON FELLOWSHIP ANGEL TREE PROJECT:

The local Prison Fellowship group will be running the Angel Tree Project this year at HMP Gartree and would like your help. The purpose of this project is to purchase Christmas presents for children of some of the prisoners. The gifts will be sent to the children as from their dad's. The value of each gift will be **approx. £15**. The aim is to alleviate some of the sadness experienced by prisoners and their families at Christmas time. Angel Tree provides a crucial link between innocent children and their imprisoned father. If you would like to help with this project, either with a **monetary donation or a suitable gift** you will be given a gift tag with the first name, age and gender of the child. **The gift can be wrapped by yourself in Christmas paper** if you wish, but we do need to have a photo of the gift for security reasons otherwise a member of Prison Fellowship will wrap the gift. A hand written gift tag from their dad will be attached to make it extra special. **All presents will be posted so please keep them light.** Please let us know if you would like your donation to be **Gift Aided**. Thank you for your kindness this is very much appreciated by prisoners, their families, staff and chaplaincy. Maureen Douglas, Angel Tree Co-ordinator 43 Gardiner St, Market Harborough, LE16 9QN Tel 07966 515115

Torch House! Coffee Morning at Torch House on the 18th November at 10:30 a.m. Once again, the plan will be for everyone to come along and share fellowship together over a drink and something sweet to eat. At 11.30 we'll have a time of sung worship and then some prayer. There's no need to book - you can just turn up. If you would like to let us know that you're coming, that's good too so that we can get some idea of how many biscuits to get!

ON 13th NOVEMBER - HERE: NOW: US COMES TO LEICESTER:

Here: Now: Us Day Here in our parish, our city and the wider world; **Now as we emerge from lockdown into a new "normal"; Us God's people called to build the Common Good.** Led by Caritas helping you to put Catholic Social Teaching into action, grow in confidence and leadership and reach out to the community. Day held at St Joseph's, Goodwood Road, Saturday 13th November 2021 10.00am – 4.00pm Full details and booking at www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/herenowus This looks interesting as we are called live of faith sharing in the Commission of Jesus: Go Make disciples.....

Here: Now: Us: People

Growing lay leadership for outreach in the Diocese of Nottingham with Together for the Common Good

REPOSITORY: Christmas Cards, dairies and so on are available in the Repository.

The Church is open for Private prayer each day
Please sign in on the list or use the Covid NHS App Q code displayed



Please pray for the success of the upcoming UN climate talks in Glasgow, COP26, from 31 October to 12 November. There are prayer cards at the back of church; please do take one and pray that that world leaders will put the needs of marginalised communities around the world, those most affected by climate change, right at the heart of these climate talks. For more information see cafod.org.uk/COP26



May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 and instil in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the most vulnerable. Many thanks for the magnificent total which is now £960.00 not including the donations online.

NOVEMBER MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

NOVEMBER DEAD LIST The Catholic Tradition of praying for the Holy Souls, particularly our own departed family and friends, takes on a special focus in November. During this month and during the rest of the year Masses will be offered with this intention in mind. If you would like to make a list of your deceased loved ones, it will be placed near the Altar during our November Masses. An offering is given and a series of Masses are offered for all our dead Loved ones in November and throughout the year. **Forms & Envelopes are available as you leave Church.**

OUR ANNUAL VISIT TO MARKET HARBOROUGH CEMETERY: Sunday 7th November at 3pm. We will meet at the cemetery gates and process through the cemetery in prayer with some of the Rosary. When we reach the "Catholic Section" all those who have loved one buried in Harborough will go and stand at their graves and I will bless them with Holy water.



THIRD WORLD GROUP: Unwanted Items Heartfelt thanks from the Third World Group for the extremely generous response to our appeal for your unwanted clothes, shoes and goods which far exceeded all our hopes. To date, we have managed to raise just over £2,500 from selling your items which has enabled us to send donations to four of our very needy causes. We still need to send contributions to Father Ed and Father John so we hope that you will continue to leave any of your surplus goods in the Cloister to help us fulfil our commitments. Once again, very sincere thanks to you for enabling our parish to support very poor and disadvantaged communities in our world.