

A PRIVILEGE AND A WONDROUS BLESSING.

When I was a young boy in Ireland, growing up in a family of five, how often my dear late Mother used to say to all of us “stop complaining and count your blessings”. As I have been a priest in active ministry for 55 years, and have now decided that my time to retire from active ministry is drawing nigh, I look back in gratitude over those many years and recall those lovely and fitting words of my mother, because I have so much to thank God for, so much to thank him for his blessings to me and on me. His blessings have been so numerous and so wonderful. I was ordained in 1965 as a Roman Catholic Priest for the Catholic Diocese of Nottingham which embraces the counties of Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Rutland. Unlike many other Christian traditions, when a Catholic priest is ordained for a particular diocese, he remains in that Diocese for all his priestly ministry, except for some specific responsibility for which he may be appointed outside his own diocese. I have spent 31 years of my priestly ministry in Leicestershire, the last 19 years here in Market Harborough. I think I am currently the longest serving Church Minister in Harborough and district and probably the oldest still active in parish ministry. In mid September I will be retiring from the responsibility of Parish ministry, but still hoping to help out from time to time, when requested to do so, and especially so at week ends in some of the Catholic parishes adjacent to where I shall be living.

My past 19 years here in Harborough have been years of absolute happiness, fulfilment, joy and blessings. They have been years of real pleasure, of real privilege. To serve the Catholic Community in Harborough and district has been so special, so rewarding, so wonderful. To share ministry, to share the joy of our faith with all the Christian Churches here in Harborough and district has been truly a God given privilege. The love and support of all the different Church Ministers here in town and district, has been truly remarkable. I am so grateful to each and ever one of you for the mutual trust, fellowship, faith and hope, we have shared together. I thank God every day in prayer, for that mutual love and cooperation of Churches Together in Harborough. Churches Together is so wonderful, so prayerful, so supportive. May you go from strength to strength in faith, hope and love.

As I will be leaving you in September, my successor, who will take over on the day I leave, will be Canon Chris O'Connor, who is currently Parish Priest in Grantham. If he will be half as happy and fulfilled and supported here, as I have been over the past 19 years, he will be a very, very happy priest indeed. I'm sure he will give to, and receive from Churches Together in Harborough the same love, support, and the joy of our Christian faith, that has been my experience in this lovely town and district. To people of faith, whatever that faith might be, to those with no faith, to each and every one, I thank you for the pleasure, the privilege, and the blessing of spending 19 years in your midst.



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

Parish Priest: Fr. Owen O'Neill
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Convent: Presentation Sisters 01858-462432
Catholic Club: 01858 463 601
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: Stephen McGlone 01858-465939
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

9th August 2020
Week 19 of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 3

Times of Services

Sunday: 19th of Ordinary Time

Saturday: 6.00pm - John & Sheila Smallman R.I.P.

N.B. 9.00am Mass - The Parishioners

N.B. 11.00am Mass - In Thanksgiving - Roger & Mary Lewin's
40th Wedding Anniversary

Monday: St Lawrence

Private Mass - Fr Owen's Deceased Parents and Brother
(His Dad's Anniv.)

Tuesday: St Clare

Private Mass - Deceased Members of the Hayes
& Leamy Families

Wednesday: Feria

N.B. Private Mass - God's Comfort & Healing for IZ.

Thursday: Feria

N.B. 2.00pm at St Mary's, Husbands Bosworth - Funeral Mass of Howard Knight

Friday: St Maximilian Kolbe

Private Mass - Thomas Murphy R.I.P. (Birthday gift for August 13th)

Saturday: Feria

Private Mass: Personal Intention

11.00am - Sacrament of Reconciliation - CONFESSION

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday August 16th - The Parishioners

Sunday: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

N.B. 9.00am: Mass - Personal Intention

N.B. 11.00am: Mass - Wellbeing of Princy Romy



*Lord, tell me
to come to
you across the
water.*

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

N.B. ESSENTIAL: It is ***absolutely essential*** to pre book your intention of coming to Mass. Unless you have previously booked, and all places are filled to our limited capacity, it will not be possible or permissible for us to let you in. It goes without saying that this disappoints and hurts us as much as it does you, and especially so the stewards who have the responsibility to implement the very strict rules and regulations imposed on us by Government Law, together with our Church Compliance and implementing of those laws. Also please note that nobody should, or can enter the Church for Mass without being greeted and taken to a seat by one of the stewards.



OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCE are offered to the family and friends of Howard Knight from Knaptoft who died unexpectedly on Sunday last. Howard was a retired farmer, a true gentleman and a committed member of our parish family. His Sunday place of worship for Mass was at St Mary's, Husbands Bosworth. His final and farewell Mass, his funeral Mass will also be at St Mary's on Thursday 13th at 2pm. He will be buried with his beloved wife, Mollie at Knaptoft, who died in 2013. May they both rest in peace and rise in glory.

OUR PRAYERS AND GOOD WISHES are offered to Roger and Mary Lewin as they celebrate their 40th Wedding Anniversary at this time. As we rejoice and give thanks to God with you, for 40 years of married life, love and the blessing of family, we pray that you will be blessed with many, many more years of joy, blessings and love - warmest congratulations to you both.



GOOD NEWS DOESN'T MAKE HEADLINES ALWAYS: How often we hear of the breakdown or the break up of a marriage. Bad news spreads so quickly in any and every community. Bad news can and does bring misery, sadness, sorrow and hurt. So let us rejoice and celebrate good news, happy news, welcome news, no matter how trivial or important it might be.



VICTORY PRIZE DRAW WINNERS:

July - £70 Ticket No.15 - MJ Hall,
£30 Ticket No 108 - K Shiers;
£20 Ticket No 77 - P Hamer.

August £70 Ticket No 40 - A Burgess;
£30 Ticket No 88 - K Webb;
£20 Ticket No 199 - A Wade



OUR SUNDAY MASS READINGS:

The *First Reading* is from the Old Testament - First Kings 19: 9, 11 - 13.

There he went into a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of Yahweh came to him saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'

The *Second Reading* from the New Testament, Romans 9:1-5

This is the truth and I am speaking in Christ, without pretence, as my conscience testifies for me in the Holy Spirit.

The *Gospel Reading* is from St Matthew 14:22-33. Jesus said, 'Come.' Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT VENTURED BACK TO MASS AS YET!

You maybe interested to know that there are some changes:

1. As already printed, you must pre-book for weekend Mass. This is necessary to maintain the social distancing in Church. When you book you will be told which door to come through, also exiting through that same door.
2. Sunday Masses will be much shorter than previous. No music or Singing is permitted.
3. Priests are encouraged to give shortened homilies.
4. Strict guidelines must be followed in approaching for Holy Communion.
5. The Church doors will be left open during the celebration to allow a
6. healthy airflow through the Church.
7. A shorted and quicker celebration means a shorter time together in the building.

IN SHORT: COME BACK TO YOUR SUNDAY MASS WHEN YOU FEEL YOU ARE READY AND COMFORTABLE WITH THAT RESPONSIBILITY. THE CHOICE IS YOURS. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO WELCOME YOU BACK TO YOUR "SPIRITUAL HOME" AND ENSURE YOUR SAFETY.

WONDERING HOW TO FILL THIS NEWSLETTER! As I wrote in last weeks Newsletter, we don't usually have a newsletter in August. But this August is of course exceptional because of Covid-19. So an idea has come to me to help fill these pages. Those of you who get the Harborough Mail will be familiar with the Churches Column in it since the start of Lockdown way back in March. In turn, the ministers of "Churches Together in Harborough" have written an article, either on Church life in general, or a particular interest or speciality in their own Church or their own involvement in the Church and faith journey. It was my turn for this weeks newspaper article. So apologies to all who have already seen this in this week's Harborough Mail.