

The Church is open for Private prayer each day  
Please sign in on the list or use the Covid NHS App Q code displayed  
By Law Face masks must be worn .

#### **FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:**

Today's feast we could say fulfils the promise of Christmas in us. At Christmas Jesus took on our nature he shared our human nature in all things but sin we believe. By so uniting human nature to himself as the Word of God, the second person of the Holy Trinity, he joined all humanity to his divine nature through his own person. This is sometimes seen as a sort of exchange: by humbling himself he raised us all up. This is something truly wonderful in itself. Everything we are or do as human beings is capable of being touched by the divine. All our actions, words and indeed thoughts and feelings are ennobled.

But of course, our human nature is so often not noble indeed quite the opposite. Our words actions thoughts and feelings can be very shameful and ugly and indeed sinful cruel and evil. We all know deep down the ugly side of ourselves even if we don't admit to it as often as we should. Now of course Christ did not have this ugly side of human nature. He was without sin. So how does this work?

If we consider his baptism we might wonder, why was he baptised? John's baptism was a baptism of repentance and Jesus had nothing to repent of. He had no original sin or actual sins. However, he enters the waters. On one level he is giving us an example that we all need to repent and acknowledge our sins. He is teaching us. But there is more, he is not only teaching us but the sins that were symbolically washed away in the river Jordan, he truly takes on himself as the Lamb of God. Perhaps we could think of it in terms of going into a bath which many people have already used. He goes in and rises up with the sin of the world laying on him we could say. The bath is the opposite for Jesus. He makes holy or cleanses the waters of baptism by taking on the sins of the world. Because of this the symbolic actions of washing in Jewish religion (and others) over the ages become real and effective in the new waters of Baptism. The sacrament of Baptism, as in all Sacraments, now effects what it symbolises. All Sin is washed away in the sacrament so that for any person over the age of reason every sin is removed.

Thus, we can see that the promise of Christmas, the union of human and divine nature becomes possible because Jesus has removed the barrier of sin by being the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. In his Baptism Jesus fulfils the meaning of his incarnation: He chooses to be with us where we are, to be in solidarity with us sinners that we are, so that we can be close to him as the Son of God indeed sharing his divine life. This is the true depth of the divine exchange. His Baptism looks forward to his crucifixion and Resurrection as the fulfilment of Christmas.

So, his Baptism becomes a revelation of our Baptism. What is seen of Jesus becomes true for us. The Holy Spirit comes down on us and the Father says to each of us or greets us: 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.' In Our Baptism we are made anew by the Spirit of God so we become children of God brothers & sisters of Jesus even now truly and really even though we still have to battle sin. Such is the mercy of God.

However, we must truly receive the gift again and again though our faith which lets the Holy Spirit work in us and bear fruit. Sacraments are real always (ex opere operato) but their fruits depend on our faith. Let us meditate on the reality of our Baptism in our prayer this week, praying to make Christmas real in us. We can renew our Baptism through the Sacrament of Confession. Our Baptism is not something that happened once when we were babies but is an ever-present fountain of living water – the Holy Spirit – who is ever active.



## Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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Parish Website: www.olvic.com  
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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

9th January 2022  
1st Week of Ordinary Time  
Psalter Week 1

### Times of Services

#### Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord

6.00pm Mass: November Dead List

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am: Mass: Gerry White (Rita)

#### Monday : Feria

9.00am Mass: David & Sylvia Wilson RIP

#### Tuesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: November Dead List

#### Wednesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Michael Buckley RIP (Sisters)

#### Thursday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Joanne Freyne RIP (Danks)

#### Friday: Feria

7.00pm Mass: November Dead List

#### Saturday: Feria

6.00pm First Mass of 16th: Fr Owen O'Neill RIP

#### Sunday: 2nd of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am Mass: November Dead List



*While Jesus after his own  
baptism was at prayer,  
heaven opened.*

### CONFESSIONS

11am &  
5.15 -5.45pm  
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](http://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](http://www.olvic.com/news.htm)

### FR CHRIS WRITES

As we begin this New Year, we are once again in the grips of COVID – 19 with this New Wave. I can see from the numbers at Church at the moment, many people are not coming to Church at present which we understand. In church we are still maintain a good social distancing as well as the legal requirement of masks and despite winter we have the door and windows open to provide good ventilation. We will continue to use our online booking system though at the moment we are not full at any of the weekend Masses. Please God this record level of infections will disappear as quickly as it came.

We will soon begin First Communion classes for our children who are nearly all from St Joseph's. Please pray for them. A thank you to our Catechists.

**CAFOD** is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: [cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal](https://cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal) and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

**YOUR ACTION REQUIRED:** From the Parish Consultation, one of the themes that emerged was the need for good Communication. We realised we need to update the Parish List to build the community through good communication. We have now sent out a letter or email to all who are on the Parish List. **If you do not receive either a letter or email, you are not on the Parish List.** Please pick up a Parish registration form from the Narthex so we have your details or you can email Fr. Chris: [parishpriest@olvic.com](mailto:parishpriest@olvic.com) Please check with any Catholic neighbours or friends to see if they have received the letter or want to be on our Parish List. This would be a good outreach over Christmas!

**PARISH WELCOMING:** It's a couple of months since we resumed Welcoming at some of the weekend Masses, but currently we only have 3 people on the rota for Sunday 11am Mass, and 5 people for the Saturday evening Mass. We're appealing to any welcomers who maybe didn't see our original email requests or who may now have changed their minds, to consider helping out, and also to anyone else who feels that they would like to volunteer to take part in welcoming their fellow parishioners to Mass. Please do consider helping out if you are able to, and feel free to contact either of us if you would just like to chat about it. Many thanks, Beatrice ([01858 465492](tel:01858465492)) and Theresa ([07748 591398](tel:07748591398)) or email [tootskendrick@sky.com](mailto:tootskendrick@sky.com)

**READERS WANTED:** It is time, once again, to compile a new Readers' Rota for the coming year. Anyone who would like to read at one of the weekend masses, please contact Margaret Atkins as soon as possible, stating which mass you normally attend, and giving your email address and preferred telephone number. Email [margaretatkins52@gmail.com](mailto:margaretatkins52@gmail.com) or call **01858 446369**.

The first meeting for **parents** will take place on **Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 7.30pm** in the Octagonal Hall when we will introduce the course and give out the plan. The first session for **children** will take place on **Friday 14th January 2022 from 3.30-4.30pm** in the same place and then the 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> January. Depending on the numbers & COVID there will be two first communion days: 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022 & 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2022



**Harborough Action for Justice and Peace** will try and hold the annual Peace Vigil in the Square at 17.00 on January 14th. If things change to the point where that is no longer possible, we will encourage folk to have half an hour of prayer in their own homes, with some sort of light - as we did in January this year!

### VICTORY PRIZE DRAW: Results of the January 2022 Draw

1st Prize £70 G Powell ticket number 184

2nd Prize £30 M Packer ticket number 142

3rd Prize £20 GR Bell ticket number 24

Annual ticket holders are reminded that they need to renew. Cheques to be made out to THE VICTORY PRIZE DRAW and forwarded to Keith Shiers, 23 Fairfax Road Market Harborough LE16 9JT

**Volunteering in Schools:** There is a Churches Together in initiative to gather volunteers to help in Schools. This is a town wide initiative to mobilise volunteers in all our primary schools. The flyer invites volunteers to complete a simple online form - <https://forms.gle/HTDkPwYxneHq8Rvk9> - and identify which school they want to volunteer with. These will be distributed to the relevant schools at the end of January. See the flyers in Narthex

Also could People bring in their **Red Mission Boxes** for emptying. If anyone would like a box please let myself or Christine Shepherd now.



The Diocesan Caritas [Newsletter](#) is available online. There are various events such as: Church Action for Tax Justice invites you to an online presentation and workshop on why tax, and tax justice, matters for people of faith. Mon, January 17, 2022 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM GMT. To book see [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/taxjustice](https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/taxjustice)



**'From Daily Grind to Daily Glory' Encountering God in your daily work** – For four Wednesdays, starting on 12<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm, the Diocese will be running an online course looking at how we can encounter Jesus in our daily work and how it can help us to grow in holiness too. We spend more hours in a week at work than doing most other activities (including going to church) so let's make an experience of daily glory rather than a daily grind. For more information visit: [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/onlineevents](https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/onlineevents)

**Altar Servers:** Just to keep everyone up-to-date, we are still being restricted to one Server at the Saturday Vigil and the two Sunday Services or two from the same household/bubble. The rota system is working well so a big thank you to all the servers for their help and support. However as we enter the holiday season I need to ask our servers and/or parents to let me know as early as possible if you have any dates you are away or not available. Any advance warning will be helpful.

As I said a few weeks ago, please do get in touch on 07981 205861 if you would like adding to the rota. Again absolutely no pressure to come back if you or your parents are not comfortable, we completely understand and welcome you back when you are ready. Thanks to everyone and Stay Safe. Dave Percival

