

Continued.....In all England and Wales Prison Fellowship provides a crucial link by sending over 4000 presents to the innocent children of imprisoned parents.
Thank you so much for your commitment to **Angel Tree** and for helping to make it a success, it really does make a difference.

Please continue to remember HMP Gartree and the wider work of Prison Fellowship in your prayers.

Yours in Christ service, Maureen Douglas, Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Co-ordinator.

FR CHRIS: THOUGHTS ON THE READINGS:

Today we complete our Christmas celebrations with the feast of Our Lord's Baptism, his "Epiphany" by the river Jordan in which he manifests or reveals himself as our true God and true Saviour. More now is revealed about Jesus who was made manifest in Bethlehem to the Shepherds and the Wise Men as God of Jew and Gentile. We might wonder why he was baptised by John. Indeed, John was shocked by that very thing. It seems the wrong way round. John's Baptism was a Baptism of repentance for sins committed. Jesus was sinless he had no need of repentance. He goes down into the river precisely to take on our sins, for as John had said he is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He takes them away by taking them on himself. He does so right at the beginning of 3 years of Public Ministry. We must read all that he says and does in this light. The road to the cross is already mapped out. He goes down into the water. Water can be dangerous and deadly and, in this aspect, represents his descent to death and particularly the death of sin which he will take on for us as the Lamb of God.

He does this so that the waters of death will now become life giving waters in Baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit which pours forth from the heart of Jesus when he is pierced by a lance on the cross. Our first reading and Psalm both from Isaiah are filled with a prophetic joy for this. *Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. We notice both these texts feature in the joy of the Easter Vigil. By entering the waters of death, he makes them holy.*

And so, it is that we have the great epiphany of Jesus as he rises out of the Waters as the beloved son of the Father on whom the Holy Spirit descends. This revelation is an unveiling of Christ's being. It is not that he receives the Spirit he lacks (still less that he becomes divine at this moment) but his being is made manifest as son of God, one God with the Father and Holy Spirit.

It is also an epiphany of who we are as Christians by our Baptism. We are beloved children of the Father, made so by the Holy Spirit who has descended on us in Baptism. We share in the divine life and love which the father and Son share, poured forth on the Cross.

St John tells us our faith is our victory over the world. The world in the sense of all that comes from evil and sin. Faith in Christ leads to a divine rebirth in Baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to conquer our sin the Devil and death itself. We do this through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is our joy.

So, as we look at Christ as he ascends from the River Jordan, we see all our possibilities as Christians rise up from the waters of death. As we look at him with eyes of our heart in faith, we are filled hope both for ourselves and our world. In him the victory is already present, and we share in it already as Baptised Christians through the power of the Holy Spirit. So we too, are invited indeed called to mission and witness in our lives as Christ was.



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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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

10th January 2021
Week 1 of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 1
Year B

Times of Services

Sunday: THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Sat 6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 10th January - Brian Davies RIP

9.00am: Mass: Gordon Clark RIP (Cyprian)

11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

Monday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Douglas & Eileen Reed (Chappell)

Tuesday: Feria

Private Mass: Private Int (Dominic)

Wednesday: Feria

Private Mass: November Dead List

Thursday: Feria

Private Mass: November Dead List

Friday: Feria

10.00am: Mass: Fr Owen 80th Birthday (Curran Family)

Saturday: Feria

11.00am - Sacrament of Reconciliation - CONFESSION

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 10th January: Janet, Gillian & Michael RIP (Baugh)

Sunday: 2nd of Ordinary Time

9.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am: Mass: Sister Scholastica Scanlon RIP



*You are my Son,
the Beloved; my
favour rests on you.*

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.

The Annual White Flower appeal will take place this weekend 9/10 January

PRAYERS FOR FATHER OWEN: On Thursday night, I received an email from Bishop Patrick that Fr Owen has been taken into hospital suffering from liver cancer. We are told that he is seriously ill. The Bishop has asked all the Diocese to pray for him. We will of Course. Providentially I offered Mass for Him yesterday. We will publish any further news on the website.



FR CHRIS WRITES:

Sadly, the Coronavirus continues to circulate and we again have a national lockdown with our schools closed. However, the good news is that this time our Churches are permitted to remain open for Mass, thanks to the ministry of our Stewards.

I remind people that the Sunday Mass obligation is suspended and that people who consider themselves vulnerable though age or medical condition should remain at home.

We must continue to be as safe as we can whilst attending church. I ask people to cooperate with our Stewards in all their directions and particularly we should not mix with anyone outside our "bubble". We can be tempted to have a quick catch up! We should also thoroughly wash our hands before we come to Mass and sanitize them on entry and exit.

Due to the restrictions, we have fewer Stewards and so have to make some changes from now on:

- 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.at the last minute.
- Please sit where you are shown by the stewards for safety reasons. You can no linger 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 soon be offering an online option for booking. Further details will follow. Please God things will begin to normalise in the spring. 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

RECENT DEATHS IN THE THE PARISH: Sadly we have lost members of our Parish family recently. Please pray for Mary Marston whose funeral will take place on Thursday 21st January 12noon & Sabatino Veneziale whose funeral will take place on Wednesday 20th January 11.00am. And also please pray for Arthur Johnson who died this last week and Marie Mannion who was resident in our Parish.

BEING A DISCIPLE' WEB SERIES - January is a time when we try and work at being a better person, why not explore how we can be a grow as a disciple of Jesus? On the 4 Thursdays of January we will explore a different aspect of what it means to be a Catholic disciple with Brendan Thompson the CEO of Catholic Voices in a web series on Zoom. Catholic Voices are an international organisation that shares the Good News in the global media. This will be a great foundation for parishes, chaplaincies and individuals to explore how we can support each other in growing as Catholic disciples. Register for the series here: [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMcuygqjwpGdNBRC5NIQ46Eu1bleEg246A](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJMcuygqjwpGdNBRC5NIQ46Eu1bleEg246A)

For information on how to access things on zoom visit: https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/information/diocesan-commissions/01_commission-adult-formation/using-zoom

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL:

The Annual White Flower appeal will take place **this weekend 9/10 January 2021** for SPUC (The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children). SPUC is currently campaigning to stop home abortion which gives women abortion pills to take at home without medical supervision. This is one of the most dangerous threats to unborn women and their mothers in decades. Please be as generous as you can to help us defeat this latest attack on unborn babies and their mothers. We will have a retiring collection and also donations can be made on line at www.spuc.org.uk/donate



RESULTS OF THE VICTORY PRIZE DRAW:

1st Prize £70 T Davis ticket No 261

2nd Prize £30 S McGlone ticket No 181

3rd Prize £20 A Whelan ticket No 53

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



PRISON FELLOWSHIP ANGEL TREE:

We are so grateful to Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church for being involved in **Angel Tree**. Your generous donations have helped us to reach our target and we were able to send Christmas presents to children of prisoners at HMP Gartree.

The gifts were sent to children from 1-16 years, all the presents included a hand written message from the parent to the child. The **Angel Tree** project has been warmly received by prisoners and their families the chaplaincy and prison staff, they are thankful for the kindness shown from Christians in local churches through the practical application of **Angel Tree**. →