

SHARING THE CHURCH'S STORY: Catholic Voices will be hosting an online conference exploring simple, powerful tips and workshops so that everyone can share the Church's story with charity, clarity, and confidence. Register for the conference on Saturday 17th April here: <https://smarcatholics.com/sharing-church-story/>

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS ON THE READINGS:

This second Sunday of Easter brings a culmination to our Paschal celebrations. It is now known as Divine Mercy Sunday - extraordinarily. I mentioned on Easter Sunday about how the disciples only began to believe in the resurrection when they met the risen Lord. We have that moment today in the Upper room. They know him by his words: *Peace be with you and the action of showing them the wounds in his hands, feet and side. It is by his wounds they truly know him as the same Jesus who suffered and died changed though he was and they had to learn to recognise or perceive him in a different way than before. Now it is only faith that truly sees as St John tells us in his letter we have heard today. He says: this is the victory over the world - our faith. How do we overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood. That he came with water and blood. This refers to various things such as Baptism and the Eucharist but first of all to his wounds.*

His wounds are the key. They feature throughout the appearances of Jesus today. He shows them first to his disciples, then to sceptical Thomas who will not believe unless he can touch the wounds. Jesus offers his wounds to be touched by Thomas. He could have scolded him even if with humour but no he says: *'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side.*

Because Thomas is right even if for the wrong reasons. His words speak the truth; he speaks from scepticism and doubt but he is right for we cannot truly believe unless we do touch the wounds of Christ. In other words, experience his mercy, his forgiveness: the very purpose of his life, death and resurrection was to make mercy present to all and it pours out of his wounds most especially his heart from which flows the Holy Spirit particularly in the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion as an everlasting river of mercy in which to bathe.

It is in confessing our sins and receiving his forgiveness that we come to know Jesus, to truly believe in him. For it is in that moment that we touch the very wounds of Christ, that with our hands we touch his beating heart. So it is that Thomas makes the greatest act of faith in the entire gospel when he says *My Lord and my God. For he has touched the wounds of Christ and truly knows him and believes that he has come with blood and water.*

We touched the wounds of Christ every time we examine our conscience, when we make an act of contrition each night, when we ask forgiveness of another and most fully when we bring all of that to the sacrament of his mercy, the sacrament of reconciliation, the sacrament of peace. And Christ himself says to us *peace be with you.*

For indeed the context of these appearances is the giving of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles. He breathed on them and said *Receive the Holy Spirit. Those who sins you forgive are forgiven.*

I said at the beginning: it is extraordinary that St. Pope John Paul II gave this title to today's feast day as it is in fact Easter Day. He thought long and hard about it as Pope Benedict has said. Pope Francis has continued the theme with his year of Mercy and in his letter [Gaudete et Exsultate](#) (para 151) he says: *We need to remember that "contemplation of the face of Jesus, died and risen, restores our humanity, even when it has been broken by the troubles of this life or marred by sin.... So let me ask you: Are there moments when you place yourself quietly in the Lord's presence, when you calmly spend time with him, when you bask in his gaze? Do you let his fire inflame your heart? Unless you let him warm you more and more with his love and tenderness, you will not catch fire. How will you then be able to set the hearts of others on fire by your words and witness? If, gazing on the face of Christ, you feel unable to let yourself be healed and transformed, then enter into the Lord's heart, into his wounds, for that is the abode of divine mercy. The title of this Feast has a relationship with St Faustina and Divine Mercy but it is most profoundly a summary of the Gospel and Christian faith and discipleship.*

God bless you and your families! Fr. Chris



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

11th April 2021
2nd Week of Eastertide
Psalter Week 2

Parish Priest: Fr. Chris O'Connor
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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

Times of Services

Fr Owen Died peacefully at 5.00am this morning

Sunday: 2nd of Easter - Divine Mercy

Sat. 6.00pm : Thomas Murphy RIP (Marshall)

9.00am: Mass: **Fr Owen RIP** (Goddard)

11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

Monday: Easter Feria

Private Mass: **Fr Owen RIP** (Anon)

Tuesday: Easter Feria

10.00am Mass: Sheila Plowright RIP (Philips)

Wednesday: Easter Feria

Private Mass: Douglas Fam, M. Tear, Cockrell E. & P.) Int B

Thursday: Easter Feria

10.00am Mass: Patricia White Int

Friday: Easter Feria

10.00am Mass: Sister Joan Ryan RIP (Sisters)

Saturday: Easter Feria

11.00am - Sacrament of Reconciliation - CONFESSION

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday - Helena Nowakowska RIP Anniv

Sunday: Third of Easter

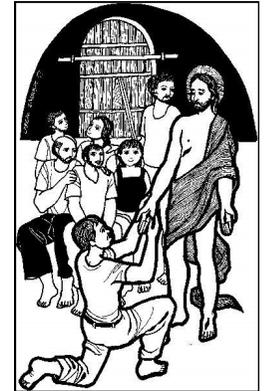
9.00am Mass : People of the Parish

11.00am Mass: In Thanks St Joseph, St Michael & Guardian Angels

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 in this newsletter.



*Eight days later,
Jesus came.*



Canon Owen O'Neill RIP. Fr Owen, as he liked to be called, died peacefully just before 5.00am on Easter Saturday morning. He had received all the sacraments and was supported by so many prayers over this time and indeed surrounded with much love and the wonderful care of Peaker Park in these recent weeks. Our prayers & condolences go to his beloved family: His sisters, Peggy, Una, Nellie & sister in law Breda and all his nieces and nephews who were unable to be with him at this time because of the pandemic. And also to his good friend Fr John Joe Maloney. Father was always grateful to God for the gift of his priesthood and we are grateful to God & to Fr Owen as a Parish and Diocese for his 55 years of faithful priesthood in service of the people of God.

May he rest in the Peace of the risen Lord!



REV. OWEN O'NEILL

ONLINE BOOKING FOR MASS:

Latest News: If you are a couple living in the same house or bubble you only need to book one seat!

As we gradually come out of Lockdown, after long reflection I have decided to move to online booking for Mass. I have been asked to do this by many of the younger families who find this much more convenient and it is easy for those who have internet access. Also you can see at a glance if a Mass is full. This will be happening more and more as numbers increase with the vaccine roll out but social distancing remains. We have our own diocesan website for all the Churches to book Mass.: <https://massbooking.uk/>

How do I do it?

· You just sign up with your details and create a password (write it down! **& NB confirmation email could go to spam folder**)

· Click on the Churches tab & select our Church which is under Leicester & you will see a booking button next to the particular Mass. They appear about a week ahead.) Now you can book your seat or seats or choose to book for someone else.

· **For Couples or 3 people in a bubble**, I suggest you book **one Seat** as you can sit together giving all your names.

· Some seats are allocated as family benches which are particularly for those who are 4 or more in a family or part of a "social bubble". (there are 2 family benches at present)

· **For 4 people in a bubble** if there are no family benches left I suggest you book **2 places**

· **If you cannot come please cancel the booking.** You can go to **my details** on the web page when you have signed in. Someone else can use your place. **Booking closes 4 hours before the Mass.**

How do I book if I am not online or find it difficult?

You can ask a family member or friend to do it for you. I would ask people to help those they know who do not have internet access. You can book for others with their details. That would help me. Otherwise you can email me (parishpriest@olvic.com) or ring me at the Church (01858 462359). It will only take me a couple of seconds to book you in.

What about weekday Masses?

Booking is not strictly necessary at the moment as they are not full. However it is helpful to the Stewards who will only have to tick your name.

There is a very good help section on the website

APRIL WINNERS OF VICTORY PRIZE DRAW:

1st Prize £70 ticket No 94 R Sambrook; 2nd Prize £30 ticket No 112 J Loakes; 3rd Prize £20 ticket No 107 J Masding.
Many thanks.

APF Red Boxes:

Could you please bring in your Boxes for emptying.



ALTAR SERVERS: We're on our way back!

If you were fortunate enough to get a place at Mass over Easter you will have noticed Fr. Chris has an assistant on the Sanctuary. Until restrictions are eased, we are allowed one Server or two from the same family or bubble at Mass. We have to wear a mask & Gloved and keep our 2m social distance. I am putting together a rota for existing Servers who are comfortable to come back and assist so am having a phone around, trouble is I don't have all the numbers (parents number for the younger Servers) so if I haven't called you please do get in touch on 07981 205861 and I'll add you to the rota. Absolutely no pressure to come back if you or your parents are not comfortable, we will be happy to see you as and when the world opens up a bit more. Thanks to everyone and Stay Safe. Dave Percival.



Please remember those who have died: **Maureen Hailwood, James Van Der Liet, whose funeral is on 23rd April & Dennis White. This week Gorman Sari died with all the sacraments.** Our Condolences to their families. May they rest in peace.

COMPLETE THE SURVEY: HOW HAS COVID-19 AFFECTED YOU AND YOUR FAITH?

Bishop Patrick would like to hear from you! The Diocese of Nottingham has launched a short survey in order to deepen its understanding of Covid-19's impact on all Catholics across the diocese. Bishop Patrick is eager to know more about peoples' experiences of the pandemic, with a view to ensuring that the faithful are well supported and understood in the years ahead. Please visit <https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/whats-on/news/share-your-story-how-has-covid-19-affected-you-and-your-faith> and fill out the short questionnaire. Please encourage other parishioners to do so. **The deadline for submissions is July 4th 2021.**



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: Today we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday which has a particular poignancy for us all in the face of his terrible scourge of the Corona virus. Certainly we must ask for mercy from God. That he will bring an end to this affliction. A most powerful prayer is the [Chaplet of Divine mercy](#). It Calls on our Heavenly Father to have mercy on us and the whole world in view of Christ's atoning suffering and death. *For the sake of his sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and the whole world is the refrain.* Many people pray the Chaplet at 3 O'clock the time of our Lord's Death. This would be a most powerful thing to do: As Our Lord said to St Faustina: "At three o'clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners..... In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion..." (Diary, 1320).

We can pray for an end to this pandemic. We can pray for the sick, particularly those **who are without their family and dying alone. We can pray for sinners who are dying and need to repent. This is a great act of mercy. We can pray for all the health care workers that Our Lord will be with them and protect them. So we can all pray together and as families together. An ongoing Novena. cf www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/pray-the-chaplet**



A FATHER'S HEART - A PODCAST FOR CATHOLIC DADS: The Diocese of Nottingham has launched a new Podcast to celebrate the Year of St Joseph. A Father's Heart takes its name from *Patris Corde* (Pope Francis' letter that launched this special year). This letter is split into 7 sections, each highlighting a different characteristic of St Joseph's fatherhood. Each month the podcast will pick a section for 2 dads, from around the diocese, to reflect on and discuss. Find out how to listen (and subscribe) by going to: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/podcasts

