

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY

A strange recruitment campaign of Jesus to say anyone who wants to follow him must renounce him or herself and take up his cross. That's quite something and is quite different from the marketing or advertising that say having this or that or doing this or that will bring you happiness just like that! Just part with your money and all will be okay! So easy! But it is not so, and Our Lord knew that and shared this truth with his disciples even though it is a "hard saying". Today Jesus is at a turning point of his life and a key moment for his disciples. Jesus has been teaching and healing. There has been much amazement at his goodness and his authority. Wonder at his works: he does all things well. The Crowds have followed as well as his disciples who have seen it all and Jesus very up close. So it is that Peter has come to recognise that yes, Jesus is the promised one, the Anointed one of God. The answer to the hopes of Israel. And so he was but Peter did not understand what this meant. He did not come to redeem as if by magic a click of his fingers making all things easy smooth and right. No, the road to salvation is real and wonderful and given but it passes by way of suffering and the cross.

When Jesus speaks of the Cross Peter does not hear the bit about rising on the third day. He only hears the bad news the suffering and he rebels as we all might do and say with indignation. "This must not happen to me". And it is not easy. The repugnance that Jesus's followers must have felt at the mention of the cross is difficult for us to imagine as for us the cross is a holy symbol. It was the worst thing possible, to be avoided at all costs. Yet Jesus will repeat this prophecy twice more as his key teaching about being the Messiah. Only in the cross do his words and deeds make any sense. Thus he does not allow them to say that he is the Messiah. That will only be proclaimed after the cross.

This is Jesus's recruitment campaign. We can only be saved by losing our life for him and for the Gospel. Our crosses come in various forms. Perhaps foremost is from within, from our own sins and habits of sin. This is daily cross. That involves prayer, penance and self-denial and gains its momentum from the Sacraments particularly the so called daily or regular sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Confession. The daily habit of prayer is vital as it becomes part of who we are, and regular acts of self-denial gain us our inner freedom. Or in a more positive vein an act of sacrifice for another. We are simply striving to think in God's way not man's which is so often self-centred. This cross becomes a cross of freedom and therefore true life. For already we participate in the power of the Resurrection through our Baptism.

Then of course, there are the crosses that come from outside for being a disciple of Jesus and living out our faith. We will clash with the world's way of thinking the human way as Jesus puts it. People will be surprised and upset with how we see things. I mentioned at Mass last weekend about euthanasia and abortion and to that we can add marriage and the family. People are already losing jobs and positions over that. But there are many other areas such as the idea of forgiveness, rehabilitation of prisoners and so on. Indeed the general theme of mercy finds its opponents. There is the martyrdom of Conscience.

For us Christians in the last period of history we have had a fairly easy time as a group in this part of the world. But that is very far from the norm for Christians. Persecution of one sort or another is far more common as Our Lord warned us. We can think about the last century and the fact there are more Christian martyrs than ever before. The growth of the dictatorship of relativism will bring greater persecution. We should not be surprised by this as our Lord warned us.

We have a great privilege as Christians: to share in his mission by sharing in his death and resurrection. Today he invites us to follow him on the way of the cross. But it is not something we have to achieve by ourselves. Jesus has given us already through faith and sacraments a share in the power of his resurrection. He desires to save us all but he will not do it without us!



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

Parish Priest: Fr. Chris O'Connor
Tel: House: 01858 462359
Email: parishpriest@olvic.com
Convent: Presentation Sisters 01858-462432
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: 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

12th September 2021
24th of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 4

Times of Services

Sunday: 24th of Ordinary Time

Sat. 6.00pm: O'Neill Family (C.O'N)

9.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am: Mass: Mary Cunningham RIP

Monday: St John Chrysostom

9.00am Mass: Danny Doherty RIP (Walsh)

Tuesday: THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

10.00am Mass: Deidre & Kevin Quinn (Sisters)

Wednesday: Our Lady of Sorrows

10.00am Mass: November Dead List

Thursday: Sts Cornelius & Cyprian

10.00am: Mass: Peter Hawley RIP (Blamires)(School Mass)

Friday: Feria

7.00pm Mass: Effie Jones RIP (Concannon)

Saturday: Feria

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 19th - November Dead List

Sunday: 25th of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: James Chien RIP(Sari)

11.00am Mass: People of the Parish



*You are the Christ.
The Son of Man is
destined to suffer
grievously*

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: This week we welcome St Joseph's school to Mass on Thursday morning (10.00am) to mark the beginning of term and it will be the first time we have had a whole school mass. This will be a great blessing. Please pray that school life can continue in a normal way. It has also been wonderful to welcome back parishioners who have been keeping safe all this time. We will be discussing the Parish's continued response to this stage of the Pandemic and any further easing of restrictions in church at our PPC meeting on Monday evening. You will notice that we have removed the tape, but we will still sit on alternative rows for the moment.

"For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission. "October 2023"

As I wrote last week the synod journey starts this October with listening in the local churches. Some more background: **All-Many-One** The synod process is one of "journeying together" towards Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life who calls his people into a unity of purpose and mutual listening between people and pastors. This journeying arrives at the Synod of Bishops gathering itself, which is presided over by the Bishop of Rome, who is called to speak as "pastor and teacher of all Christians" as the supreme witness to the fides totius Ecclesiae. The bishops are linked to the Bishop of Rome through the bond of episcopal communion and at the same time, are subject to him as head of the College of Bishops. The process therefore can be considered as an exercise of listening all-many-one; that is, the voice of the people of God in the particular church (all), must be heard, listened to and discerned by their bishops as the authentic pastors (many), who then gather with the Successor of Peter (one) who acts as a point of unity for the Universal Church. The ultimate discernment is for the Pope who will offer a Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation based on what is presented to him throughout the process of mutual listening, in which the fruits of this discernment are published in a manner that reflects the life of the Church as always

There will now be **Public daily Mass** available. The Mass times will vary on weekdays depending on my duties and funerals and so on. **Always check the Newsletter!!** Please follow the instructions as below. We shall keep weekends Masses as they are with the same booking system, though we can seat people closer together if necessary. We are also thinking about the Thursday Coffee again!!

Covid 19: As you all know the Government removed regulations on Monday 19th July and from 16th August the contact Isolation rules change for the double- vaccinated. However, the Virus is still about and the rate of infection remains high. So we need to proceed carefully and slowly. This is the opinion of those whom I have consulted. With the Delta variant on the rise in our areas **Hands, Face, Space, Ventilate is just as important as ever.**

So we will still have to wear **masks** in Church as before: this is to protect all concerned and is an act of Christian charity

Mostly There will still be the 2m **social distancing** in Church., even if we can relax the spacing when necessary.

We will still **sanitise** hands as we enter and leave Church.

People can now kneel as before at Mass

Stewards will operate at the weekend Masses with booking for Mass as we do now. However, **on weekdays** there will not be a steward. We ask people to sign in or use the NHS QR code. **It will be easier if people book in online on a weekday.** On a weekday we will alternate sitting: on the Sacred Heart side on Monday, Our Lady's on a Tuesday and Sacred heart on a Wednesday etc. If people could help sanitise the touch points after Mass that would be helpful i.e. the tops of the benches. I think we are now all accustomed to how to act in a safe way. We will review this every few weeks in the light of local conditions.

Next Sunday's Second Collection is for Home Mission Sunday.

This collection provides the bishops of England and Wales with resources to support Home Mission, the spread of the gospel in our own country.



The Church is open for Private prayer each day
Enter through Fairfield Rd
Sanitize your hands on Entry & Exit
Please sign in on the list or use the Covid NHS App Q code displayed



THE ASSISTED DYING BILL 2021: WHAT CAN YOU DO?

This October, an 'Assisted Dying' Bill will be debated in the House of Lords. If successful it will allow a terminally ill adult with less than 6 months to live, assistance to commit suicide. The Catholic Church teaches that this represents a crime against human life, we cannot directly choose to take the life of another, even if they request it. The Bishops therefore urge you to **PRAY** this Bill is defeated, **WRITE** to Peers and MPs expressing concern about this proposed legislation and **SHARE** our resources and those of our allies, in the weeks ahead with family and friends, especially via social media. Guidance on how to write to politicians can be found here: parliament.uk/get-involved/contact-an-mp-or-lord/ Resources, which will be updated in the weeks ahead, can be found here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/life-issues/>

A PRAYER FOR AFGHANISTAN: The Holy Father has asked particularly for prayer and fasting:

He said in an interview this week as well as at the Angelus: *I believe that as a pastor I must call Christians to a special prayer at this time. It is true that we live in a world of wars, (think of Yemen, for example). But this is something very special, it has another meaning. And I am going to try to ask for what the Church always asks for in times of great difficulty and crisis: more prayer and fasting. Prayer, penance, and fasting, which is what is asked for in moments of crisis.*

LIFE CHARITY SHOP: We need your donations for our shop - Good quality clothing Bric-a-Brac, Shoes, Handbags, Accessories. Please donate your unwanted items to us. There is a plastic box in the Narthex where your donated items can be put and they will be taken to the shop in Leicester. If you would like to visit the Life Charity Shop the address is 100 Granby Street, Leicester LE1 1DJ
Many thanks from the Life Group in Market Harborough



ST JOSEPH'S OPEN MORNING FOR NEW ADMISSIONS 2022: We would love to welcome members of our community and any new families who would like to find out more about St Joseph's Catholic Academy to join us in school on Friday the 24th of September from 9am - 11am.

You will be able to see how engaged the children are with their learning and look at the wonderful work they produce, have a tour around our beautiful school and discover how our Catholic ethos permeates everything we do. We hope that you can join us and look forward to seeing you. Bernadette Dabbs, Headteacher.

VICTORY PRIZE DRAW:
SEPTEMBER RESULTS:

1st Prize £70 J Lowe ticket No 287
2nd Prize £30 A Williamson ticket No 52
3rd Prize £20 JW Edwards ticket No 49

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY are seeking to appoint an inspirational and enthusiastic person to join their staffing team as a Sports Coach. See the website or contact the school for more information:

www.stjosephs.leics.sch.uk

Just a gentle reminder that **the THIRD WORLD GROUP** is still selling clothes and other items through Ebay to try and maintain donations to our six charities. Please could you possibly make us your first choice Charity Shop at the moment by leaving any unwanted clothing, shoes, books etc in our box in the cloister or arrangements could be made to collect from your home - with strictest safety measures in place. Please contact Chris 01536 711560, or Judith or Margaret at church. Many thanks to everyone for continuing to help all those in our world who are so very needy.