

GRAPEVINE 15 new edition: Grapevine is the Diocesan Newsletter for Adult formation, Justice & Peace and Caritas in our diocese. **This week** there are various bits of news and events. Please ctrl + click on the image above or [this link](#):

FR CHRIS: THOUGHTS ON THE READINGS:

The scene is at the Jordan. John the Baptist is baptising in preparation for the Coming Messiah. He calls people to prepare by repenting. There is great religious fervour amongst the people. They are excited and hope! Is this the moment they have been waiting for all these centuries? Especially the last ones when there had not been a prophet to guide them even though so often did not listen! The religious leaders wonder what is going on. They come enquiring. I do not know if it from malice or just concern and interest. They have had false Messiahs before.

John clears that up for them: he is not the Messiah. He is not the light as we hear in the first part of the Gospel which is taken from the Prologue. (Note always look at the verses as often the readings at Mass jump verses.) He says he is not the Christ or even the precursor at least as they understand it: Elijah or the prophet expected to pave the way. But he points to the light, he is preparing the way for the light.

No religious leader be they Pope, Bishop or priest indeed nor any Christian can take the place of Christ. We must always point to him and him alone. He is the light. Nor should we base our faith on such people. Certainly, they can help our faith, but they are human and can fail and let us down. Our recent History is replete with that. Be they priests or charismatic lay leaders. I think we have a sense of that as Catholics. We see the priest in persona Christi, not for his failings, Christ works through him to bring grace and holiness. But holiness helps! Pray for priests! May we all point to Christ who is our joy.

And that is the theme today on Gaudete Sunday. John rejoices that he can point to the light of the world present amongst them at last. He rejoices that he must decrease and Christ increase. We sometimes think of John as severe because he calls to repentance in no uncertain terms, but he knows repentance is the precursor to joy! Confession this Advent!

St Paul gives some advice for Joy for always rejoicing indeed: to pray constantly. To pray constantly comes from having our regular times of prayer each day. This imbues our whole day with prayer. He tells us to give thanks. To give thanks reminds us that we are blessed which gives joy. We must listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit whatever they are. Often they challenge us out of our laziness or selfishness to great sacrifice. We must not suppress this impulse. I think counsellors etc often talk about suppression as a bad thing. Well, certainly we should not suppress the Holy Spirit who is the joy of God.

Indeed, it is the Holy Spirit who fills the servant with Joy in the first reading as he lets the Spirit fill him and move him to his mission to the poor, the broken hearted, the captives. He rejoices in doing the will of God and because God has clothed him with the garments of salvation. We too rejoice that we have been clothed in Christ through our Baptism and received the Holy Spirit.

The one filled with joy above all is Mary as we pray the Magnificat as our Psalm. She is the one whose soul is most receptive to the Holy Spirit and obedient to him and so most filled with joy. We spend these last days of advent with Mary. As we meditate on her prayer let us make it our own. For God desires to do marvels for us.



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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Parish Pastoral Council Members: see photos on notice board

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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

13th December 2020
3rd Week of Advent
Psalter Week 3
Year B

Times of Services

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass: Robert & Jen - Good Health

Sunday: 9.00am Mass: Feast day of St Lucy(Sisters)

Sunday: 11.00am Mass: People of the Parish

Monday: St John of the Cross

10.00am Mass: In Honour of St Joseph, Archangel Michael,
Guardian Angel

Tuesday: Advent FERIA

Private Mass: Sister Regina Gleeson RIP (The sisters)

Wednesday: Advent FERIA

Funeral Mass of Barbara Read 2.00pm

Thursday: Advent FERIA

9.00am Max Muckle RIP

Friday: Advent FERIA

10.00am: Mass: Ann Phillips RIP (Sisters)

Saturday: Advent FERIA

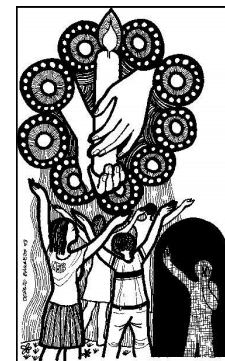
11.00am & 5.30pm—5.50pm, - Sacrament of Reconciliation - CONFESSION

Sat 6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 20th - People of the Parish

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent

9.00am: Mass: Malcolm Wallace RIP Anniv (Wallace)

11.00am: Mass: Gordon & Sally Wyatt Birthday



*There stands among
you - unknown to
you - the one who
is coming.*



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.

Next week we have the delayed 2nd Collection for the Apostleship of the sea—that vital ministry

BOOK NOW

FR CHRIS WRITES:

We are moving closer to the last days of advent which begins on 17th December when we look directly to the Feast of Christmas especially with Mary. The whole Church prays the great O antiphons which express our desire for God.

We will have some music at our Christmas Masses thanks to our organists and one or two soloists.

Confessions is a difficult one at the moment! But I will be available as always on Saturday at 11.00am and also from 5.30pm – 5.50pm on sat evening. Also I will be available before the weekday Masses on the run up to Christmas.

God Bless you all and especially all who are isolating and unable to come to Church.

Please pray for the repose of the Soul of Barbara Read who died this week. Our condolences to all the family. Her funeral will be on Wednesday 16th December at 2.00pm

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.

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Christmas Eve:

6.00pm & 10.00pm: to book ring Angela Wade on Thursday & Friday (5.00pm – 7.00pm)

Christmas Day

8.30am: to book ring Jo Shellard on Thursday & Friday (5.00pm – 7.00pm)

10.00am: to book ring Stephen McGlone on Thursday & Friday (5.00pm – 7.00pm)

I remind people that Christmas is celebrated over 8 days finishing with Mary the Mother of God on January 1st. We call it the Octave, so aim to come on one of those days.

VICTORY PRIZE DRAW WINNERS FOR DECEMBER:

1st Prize £100 ticket No 52 A Williamson

2nd Prize £50 ticket No 16 B Stewart

3rd Prize £30 ticket No 274 M Ockenden

Annual ticket holders are reminded that they need to renew in January 2021



UPDATE ON COVID-19 AND VACCINATION: In September 2020 the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales issued a statement COVID-19 and Vaccination (24 September 2020). In the light of the recent breakthrough in vaccine development they have now issued a follow up statement (3rd December 2020) which can be found on the CBCEW website along with the original September statement. As I understand it they are morally acceptable in this situation even though one or two have a remote link to aborted children. Link: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/update-on-covid-19-and-vaccination/>

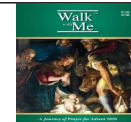
NCDYS(youth Service) : You're invited... Join us at 8PM on Wednesdays through Advent as we explore the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. WEEKLY INPUT, PRAYER, COMMUNITY AND ACTIVITIES... PLUS A CHRISTMAS EVE SPECIAL! [Subscribe for free at YouTube and turn on notifications](#) (www.youtube.com/ndcyslive)

ADVENT RESOURCES:

Walk with me Booklets are available at church. They have a meditation for each day based on the readings for Mass each day including the Christmas period. They are a great resource to help us pray in this *special season*. Also there is a *advent and Christmas calendar* for children with a little though for each day.

Praying with Our Lady through Advent – We invite you to pray one extra Hail Mary each day in Advent, asking for Our Lady's prayers to help all of us as a diocese, open our hearts and minds to welcome Jesus afresh this Christmas. She was the first person to welcome Him into her life and her intercession can help us to draw closer to Him and feel His presence with us anew this Christmas. Every other day you will be able to watch people from our diocese pray the Hail Mary in different languages on the diocesan social media sites, search for Diocese of Nottingham or Bishop Patrick McKinney on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

Living Advent Podcast – Living Advent is a weekly podcast series throughout Advent exploring the virtues of Hope, Love, Joy & Peace with people from across the diocese and how we can live them out. We speak to a young husband and father, a musician, a retired social worker and a police officer. You can find it on your usual podcast service by searching 'Living Advent Podcast' or visit www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/podcasts for links on how to stream or download it.



DIOCESAN CAROL SERVICE – Carol services are a wonderful family tradition of our Advent and Christmas celebrations, and often are a great opportunity to invite those who are not regular Churchgoers to connect with our parish or chaplaincy community. This can be quite challenging to do this year so we are offering a virtual diocesan carol service. We will celebrate a short online carol service on **Friday 18th December at 6pm** on Bishop Patrick's YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/BishopPatrickMcKinney>) with readings, music, prayers and reflections. Please join us as a family and invite others to join us too. After the service grab a mince pie, something warm to drink and join us on zoom for our family Christmas Quiz (6.45pm-7.15pm). The link and access code will be given out during the service.



MARY'S MEALS: So much can be asked of us at this time of year. It may be hard to always say yes. Mary said yes to being the Mother of Jesus and as a young, unmarried girl this must have been a terrifying moment for her. Yet her "yes" brought Jesus into the world and changed lives forever. Throughout this year of many challenges, thanks to our generous supporters, Mary's Meals has continued to say yes to feeding desperately hungry children with a daily meal in a place of education. Now we are delighted to share with you a new opportunity to say yes and provide 43,000 hungry children in Bong County, Liberia, with a life-changing meal at school. From 2nd November until 31st January 2021, donations made to our Double The Love campaign will be matched by the UK government, up to £2 million. Please consider setting a place at our [Big Family Christmas dinner table](#) or buying a Christmas gift card on our website. More information on how to support us can be found at www.marysmeals.org.uk/doubletheLove Thank you