

**FR CHRIS' THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:** A great Sign appeared in the heavens; a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. These words concerning a great mystery of faith were written by the apostle St John the beloved disciple and who took Mary into his home. These words touch on the mystery of Mary and the mystery indeed of the church for the woman is both Mary and the Church. We were taught by the 2nd Vatican council: "the Mother of Jesus in the glory which she possesses in body and soul in heaven is the image and the beginning of the church as it is to be perfected in the world to come. **Likewise, she shines forth on earth, until the day of the Lord shall come**" (no. 68). The Book of Revelation presents a vision of the struggle between the woman and the dragon. The woman represents the church that is us as both glorious and triumphant but also still struggling, in travail. We are both with the Lord in his glory in heaven but in history we continue to live through the difficulties trials and challenges of the battle between good and evil between God and the devil who seeks to attack the children of God. This is a very real struggle for all Christian disciples. However, Mary does not leave us alone in this; she is mother of Christ and our mother and is always with us. She walks with us and is with us as like St John we take her into our home - into our life. Mary is of course in glory body and soul in heaven experiencing the resurrection already, but this does not mean she is distant or far from us. Rather as we know through history Mary accompanies us and sustains us in our fight against the powers of evil against indeed the temptation to sin through her intercession. We draw close to Mary through the prayer of the rosary which should form part of our everyday prayer. It sustains us in the battle against the evil through her motherly intercession and because she teaches us the mysteries of Christ's life death and resurrection and glory in heaven.

Saint Paul writing to the Corinthians presents the central truth of the Christian faith that Jesus is risen the first born from the dead. He is the first fruit of a great harvest to come. We are destined to share in his resurrection as we belong to him through faith. But as in that expression "in their proper order", Mary stands as the first in that order. For she who gave life to her Son and followed him in faith throughout her life with all her heart and soul in her entire being was taken body and soul after her death into heaven to experience immediately the fullness of salvation. This was indeed fitting and proper for one who was so close to Jesus. She stood by him experiencing the martyrdom of the cross and her body and soul. She fully lived the passion of her son was united in his death indeed consented to that death and so was given the gift of resurrection. Christ is the first fruit from the dead and Mary is the first of the redeemed. She is the first disciple. Thus she stands as the first Christian disciple our representative, our sister indeed we could say our eldest sister.

And so we can say she shines in the heaven as the great sign of hope for all of us. That sign of hope for us who are struggling between life and death, Good and evil in the Church and world. She is the sign of the victory of God's grace in each of us. The revelation of the Church no longer stained by sin. She reveals the true nature of the Church. Thus we can rejoice with Mary and that's great hymn of praise which she sings ever and again in heaven to the wonder of all the angels and Saints. It is the hymn that the church sings every evening: the Magnificat. As Pope Francis says: *it is the song of hope, it is the song of the People of God walking through history. It is the song many saints, men and women, some famous, and very many others unknown to us but known to God: mums, dads, catechists, missionaries, priests, sisters, young people, even children and grandparents: these have faced the struggle of life while carrying in their heart the hope of the little and the humble. And there is the key to Mary's greatness: her humility. Those who know they have nothing, that all comes from God. Those who are Poor, lowly, hungry, who fear God, have a space for God because they know they need God. The proud the rich the self-sufficient have no need of God. the humble had great power because they are humble. On this great feast day perhaps we may ask ourselves how is my humility. What space indeed what emptiness have I in my heart that God can fill?*



# 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  
Safeguarding: safeguarding@olvic.com

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

14th August 2022  
20th Week of Ordinary Time  
Psalter Week 4

## Times of Services

### Sunday: THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Sat. 6.00pm: People of the Parish  
9.00am Mass: Plowright Family RIP  
11.00am Mass: William Mochan RIP  
4.30pm Rosary

### Monday: Feria

9.00am Mass: Kurian Joseph RIP

### Tuesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Shaun Brook RIP (Hall)

### Wednesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Devlin & Biddle family

### Thursday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Tony Dolby RIP Birthday

### Friday: Feria

7.00pm Mass: Toby Patten RIP (Gilligan)

### Saturday: St Bernard

6.00pm Mass: Clive Blencowe RIP (Angela)

### Sunday: 21st of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: Gurmen Sari RIP (Agatha)  
11.00am Mass: People of the Parish



*The Almighty has done  
great things for me, he  
has exalted the lowly.*

### CONFESSIONS

11am &  
5.15 - 5.45pm  
Saturdays

**PLEASE NOTE:** Booking is no longer needed for Masses. However, please sanitise as you enter the church and we encourage people to wear masks but please respect those who do not. Please to not come to Mass if you have any symptoms of a viral infection

**FR CHRIS WRITES:** : We celebrate the wonderful feast of the Assumption this weekend in which we thank God for the Gift of Mary and draw hope from her full redemption body and soul as she has followed her Son into glory. She is a sign of hope for us that we will enjoy the fullness of redemption in body and soul at the resurrection of the dead and also, she exercises by will of her Son as special role as Intercessor for all of us. In the image we see the light of Christ shine through her maternal heart for her children. Let us all pray a family Rosary for Church and for peace and family life.  
Please pray for Michael Everitt who died . His funeral will be on Wed 24th August 2.00pm

The **OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PEACE, PILGRIMAGE** to Walsingham will resume this year on August Bank Holiday Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2022. The pilgrimage will be led by Fr Anthony Meredith I C (Institute of Charity otherwise known as the Rosminians) and gather at the Catholic shrine at 1.15pm. See poster.

**STEP INTO THE GAP** is a fully funded year of volunteering with CAFOD in a UK placement with immersive and interactive experiences, developing leadership skills while learning about global justice and inspiring others to use their faith in action. CAFOD's **Step into the Gap** program offers young people a chance the volunteer with CAFOD for a year, in our diocese, and based at The Briars. There is still a vacancy for this opportunity in 2022-23, and applications are open.cf Further information from Will Cruddace – 07710 094455. To find out more go to: [youngleader-ship@cafod.org.uk](mailto:youngleader-ship@cafod.org.uk); [www.cafod.org.uk/gapyear](http://www.cafod.org.uk/gapyear)

**RETRouvILLE: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages** Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 13 - 16 October or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 24 - 26 February 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**MARCH FOR LIFE:** This year marks the sad milestone of 10 million abortions in the UK since the 1967 Abortion Act. It is more important than ever that all people of goodwill, and especially Catholics, give public witness to the inalienable dignity of human life. We can do so at the annual March for Life held on Saturday 3rd September. Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate Mass at 11.00am in Saint George's Cathedral, Southwark, LifeFest22 is a pro-life, family friendly festival held from 10.30am until 1.30pm at the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street SW1P 3DW. The March itself starts at the Emmanuel Centre at 2.00pm, proceeding to Parliament Square, where there will be testimony and speeches, with the day concluding at 4.30pm. Our witness is vital; please do encourage parishioners to attend this event, or to join in prayer on that day. More information can be found at: <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk>



**Victory Prize Draw Winners August:** 1st Prize £70 J Rowland ticket number 73; 2nd Prize £30 S McGlone ticket number 177; 3rd Prize £20 J Nowakoski ticket number 126

**IRELAND PILGRIMAGES REUNION:** Thursday 8th September in Lutterworth. 10.30am Parish mass followed by coffee. Catch up and buffet lunch. parking at the church which is right next to father John Joe's house at 28 Bitteswell road, Lutterworth, LE174EY. please tell any former pilgrims who you think might be able to come. Some people may need a lift if you can offer one. She poster in the porch.

**PARISH CHANGES:** The Bishop has also created **several New parishes** which are formed from the joining together of other Parishes: **Parish of Most Blessed Sacrament and Saint Peter**, West Leicester, taking in the former parishes of Most Blessed Sacrament, Gooding Avenue; and Saint Peter, Hinckley Road; with effect from 8th September 2022. Fr John Cahill will be parish priest. **Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Charles Borromeo, Ashby-de-la-Zouch**, taking in the former parishes of Our Lady of Lourdes, Ashby-de-la-Zouch; and Saint Charles Borromeo, Measham. Fr Andrew Harding will be PP. **Parish of Saint Mary and Saint Augustine Webster**, North Lincolnshire, taking in Saint Augustine Webster, Barton-upon-Humber; and Saint Mary, Brigg; with effect from 8th September 2022. Father Michael Gilligan will be parish priest of this new parish, Also sadly a few Churches are being closed: **Church of Saint Bernadette, Bolsover** and **Church of Saint George, Rainworth**, Please pray for them.

**KEY HOLDERS:** We need to establish a list of key holders to Parish Property. I do not have one. Could those who hold keys to the Church Hall or Presbytery let me know what keys they hold. Many thanks

**CATHOLIC VOICES and WORD ON FIRE** are hosting a conference called **Sharing the Church's Story**. Join Catholics who are passionate about the renewal of the Church in the UK, and a host of dynamic speakers including Bishop Robert Barron. This conference is for all: volunteers, parents, catechists, clergy, and religious. The Conference is being held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September, 10.00am – 6.00pm, at Friends House, Euston Road, London; more details at: [www.sharingthechurchsstory.com](http://www.sharingthechurchsstory.com)

**ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY - New admissions 2023:** We are delighted to be holding an Open Morning on Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> of September to welcome parents / guardians and children who are looking for school places for August 2023. Please come along to see our wonderful school.  
Refreshments 9 - 9:30am, Welcome from Mrs. Dabbs, Headteacher 9:30, Tours of school 9:45 - 11am  
No bookings are necessary; please contact Mrs Liddle at the school office if you have any questions or would like to arrange an alternative time. 01858 465359  
[office@stjosephs.leics.sch.uk](mailto:office@stjosephs.leics.sch.uk)

		Sat. 6.00 pm	Sunday, 9.00 am	11.00 a.m.
Readers	13/14 August	M. Mihovilovic	M. Crook	C. Sellechia
	20/21 August	N. Williamson	P. Green	R. Lewin