



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

14th June 2020
Week 11 of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 23
Corpus Christi

Parish Priest: Fr. Owen O'Neill
Tel: House: 01858 - 462359
Email: owen@olvic.com
Convent: Presentation Sisters 01858-462432
Catholic Club: 01858 463 601
Parish Website: www.olvic.com
Safeguarding Representatives: Christine Reed and Theresa Kendrick 07748591398 / 01858465637
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: Angela Wade: 0777 322 9041
Parish Gift Aid Organiser: Stephen McGlone 01858-465939
Parish Pastoral Council Members: see photos on notice board

PRE WARNING: As you must know, the lighting system in the Church has got to be changed, since the present fittings are now defunct and cannot be replaced. Also, as you know, a complete new design replacement has been devised by a Professional Lighting Consultant. The light fittings were ordered from China and were due to be with us by January. The plan was that the system would have been installed by Lent. But oh, oh, you know what has happened. Covid 19 has delayed all our plans and as yet the Light Fittings are not with us. They are on route, but where they are at this point in time, we really do not know, but suspect they are in Italy (work that one out for yourself!!!!). Anyway when they do arrive, the Electricians hope to make a fairly soon start. The work will take approx. 3 weeks, which will mean a closure of the Church during week days - closure, that is, if it has already been opened. Just our unfortunately luck that the work could not have been done during lockdown. Nothing we can do about it. The situation is currently out of our control.

OCTAGONAL HALL; DE TRAFFORD ROOM; KAVANAGH ROOM AND CHURCH CLOIS-TER : Please note that these areas are still completely and totally out of use, until we get approval to open them, When, and if, that permission is granted, it looks as if the procedure and conditions for opening, will be as they are now, for the opening of the Church. Please know that no Building can, or will be opened, until a Risk Assessment has been submitted, accepted and approved. I further understand that when the Church might be opened for private prayer, it is likely that there will be spot checks by the Local Authority, to make sure we are complying with all the regulations and conditions. The same is likely to apply to the opening up of the hall, and other rooms, when permission is given to do so. So a lot of work, and compliance preparation to be done over the coming weeks.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK:

On Tuesday, the Church honours St. Richard of Chichester. Richard was born in Droitch in 1198, subsequently became Bishop of Chichester. He died in 1253 and was canonised in 1262. A shrine in his memory was erected in Chichester which became a place of pilgrimage. However in 1536, during the reign of Henry V11, the shrine was plundered and destroyed at the command of Thomas Cromwell. In 2007, Richard was declared patron of Sussex and his feast day is known as Sussex Day.

Friday is the feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. The heart is of course, the seat of love. The Heart of Jesus is the source of complete love for all of us. This special feast day is a call and a reminder to all of us of the total outpouring of His love for each and everyone of us.

Saturday marks the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Again, the Church is reminding us of the unique place of Mary in the story of our redemption, and her place as Intercessor on behalf of all of us with her Divine Son Jesus. You remember what took place at the wedding feast at Cana at her request. AS she invoked her Son for a favour on that occasion, so she still can and does invoke Jesus when we ask her in prayer. Her Heart, like the Sacred Heart of Jesus, is an invitation of her love, care, concern for all of us.

Mass ints. for this week (in no particular order).The Parishioners; Jimmy Keane and Margaret Curtain R.I.P.; Bogush and Mirek R.I.P.; David Burbidge R.I.P.; In Thanksgiving (honouring St. Joseph and the Archangels); Personal int.

TO-DAY WE CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI – THE FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST.

Normally this feast should be celebrated on the 10th day after Pentecost, that is to say last Thursday, but for the convenience of those who have to be at work all day, and for a more meaningful celebration, the Bishops of England and Wales, have decreed that this feast day should be observed and celebrated on the nearest Sunday. Hence, that celebration is to-day. (Of course Covid 19 has thwarted all that). The Readings for this Feast day are very true and real.

The first Reading from the Old Testament, from the Book of Deuteronomy (ch.8. v2 -3 and 14 -16) invites us to remember that we are all God's people who need to be nourished by God's word to us.

The second Reading from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (ch. 1 Eleventh Week of O. v. 16 -17) remind us that in the Eucharist we all share the same bread, and so however many we are, we form one Body in Christ.

The Gospel Reading from St. John (ch.6 v. 51 – 58) remind us that as food and drink nourish the body, so Christ nourishes us with the food of eternal life, for this life and the eternal life. As human beings we cannot live on bread alone. We suffer from many kinds of hunger. In today's Gospel we see the various kinds of food, of "bread" that Jesus offers us, thus satisfying our many hungers. For us as Catholics, our belief in the Eucharist is at the very heart, the very core of our Christian Catholic faith. We believe that Jesus meant what he said and did at the Last Supper. Taking bread, he blessed it and broke it and gave it to his disciplines saying **"Take this all of you and eat it, for this is my Body which will be given up for you."**

Then taking the chalice which was filled with wine He said "Take this all of you and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me".

This was Jesus's final act of love, his last will and testament, to his followers for all time. Could he lead his followers astray by what he said? Could he mislead his followers for all time? It is our solemn belief and faith that Jesus meant exactly what he said, that the bread had become his Body, that the wine had become his Blood. In saying do this in memory of me, he empowered his church to do as he had done, which we believe takes place every time Mass is celebrated, through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, and the words of consecration that the Priest says over the elements of bread and wine on the altar. It is our faith that when we receive Holy Communion we are receiving the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ Himself, really and truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. What wonderful love! What an outstanding gift to his followers for all time.

Continued.....

We are a Eucharistic people, and this faith and yearning is expressed by so many as this time, being unable to receive Holy Communion as they used to. Sadly the Reformation and time following, brought many divisions of belief, and so it is up to the present. Our faith and hope is of course, that the prayer of Jesus himself in Scripture will become a living reality for the entire Church, the entire body of Christ, that one day **“there will be one fold with one Shepherd”**. *Not being able to receive Holy Communion in our sister Churches is of course, a great sorrow and sadness. Likewise there is no opportunity in our Church for those who are not Catholic, to receive Holy Communion in our Church. That strict discipline is based entirely on our belief on what the Eucharist really is, and our faith in the Real Presence of Christ Himself. Despite our different beliefs, there is, thankfully, a great deal of united belief. We cherish that shared belief. We celebrate it wherever we can. Thank God we are truly united in love, respect and in fellowship with each other. Please God we will continue, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to strengthen the faith and love we share, and to continue our prayer for greater unity in all things and in all ways. And remember unity does not necessarily mean conformity.*

Whilst we have come a long way in sharing love, understanding, appreciation, respect and sincere fellowship, there is still a journey to travel. I honestly believe and rejoice in the leadership and guidance of our Holy Father Pope Francis, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

WHEN: WHERE: HOW: WHAT NEXT? NOW READ ON!

As many of you will know, the Government has granted permission for places of worship to be opened for private prayer as from Monday June 15th. However it is not a question of just opening our Church doors. There are many very strict conditions and requirements attached before any door can be opened.

Every Catholic Church in England and Wales has received an 8 page document from the Diocesan Bishop outlining the conditions and requirements, which every Church must adhere to and implement, before any door can be opened. **These conditions are imposed on us for everybody's safety and must be strictly observed.**

On Tuesday morning of this past week, Fr. Owen and 3 members of the Parish Pastoral Council, met to discuss the Bishops letter and how we might implement it in our own parish. To start with, we proposed, when ready to open, that we should do so for 2 hours from 10a.m to 12 noon on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Two stewards/ushers must be present during all opening times and their instructions must be strictly followed.

All hymn books, Mass books, magazines, Mass cards and anything that people might ordinarily handle or use, must be taken out of use.

Entrance to the Church will be via the side door on Fairfield Road and exit will be via the main front doors on Coventry Road. You must sanitise your hands on entry and exit.

As you enter the Church, the steward/usher will direct you to a seat in a pew on the Sacred Heart Altar side. The other half of the Church, namely Our Lady's statue side, will be taped off with no entry to that side, until and when, public worship can begin.

You will be led to your seat via the side aisle immediately inside the inner Church door.

The aisle will be marked off with “footsteps” 2 metres apart.

Your seat in Church will be 2 metres from anybody else on all sides of you. *Continued.*

You must observe the 2 metres social distancing at all times. People from the same household may sit together.

The place for you to sit will be clearly marked in the pew.

When you are ready to leave, you will leave the pew at the centre aisle end and walk down the centre aisle to the front doors for exit. If there is anybody in the pew obstructing your exit, please contact the steward on duty.

Please note that there will be no access to the toilet.

As entrance will be via the side door from Fairfield Road, all who park in the car park will have to walk around from there. There will be no entry through the Hall doors or the Cloister.

After each 2 hour session, the Church area that was occupied will have to be thoroughly cleaned, together with all door handles, door knobs etc. etc. etc. a complete sanitisation.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED: *Obviously we need volunteers to cover the allotted 2 hour times for private prayer. Volunteers **cannot** be from any groups who are clinically very vulnerable, or living in a household with somebody who is clinically vulnerable. Volunteers will be required to wear face masks. For worshippers face masks will be optional. Judith Snaith has volunteered to coordinate the Volunteers and explain what is required from them.*

I hope many of our Parishioners, who can, will volunteer their time and presence.

Please contact Judith on email: judithsnaith@hotmail.co.uk

Please remember that these conditions are for the safety and wellbeing of all of us. I know you will all do your best.

Last, but by no means least, a **Risk Assessment** must be carried out, and must be acceptable and approved by the Diocese. Until that Risk Assessment is approved, we cannot and will not be able to open our doors.

MAGGIE'S FACE MASKS : Although Maggie and her small group of volunteers had thought they had finished their Face Mask making, by popular demand, they have had to restart their commitment again. This time round their Face Masks will be even stronger and safer being 3 ply (3 layers). The Masks will be on sale outside the Catholic Club on Coventry Road on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10.30 a.m. to 3.30p.m. All proceeds to a specified charity. If ordering over the phone, please ring Mary Danks on 01858 463922

JUBILEE DRAW: 1st Prize £70 Ticket No 222 GJ Cottrell. 2nd Prize £30 Ticket No 122 V Ball 3rd Prize £20 Ticket No 138 M O'Malley.

UPDATE ON WORK ON BACK OF CHURCH AND IN CHOIR AREA: By the time you read this, hopefully the work at the back of the Church will have been completed. The work consisted of filling in spaces between the roof and the wall plates over the choir area. This work has now been done, and as this Newsletter is being prepared, the gable wall over the choir loft and the back wall of the Church itself is being painted. This work is due to be completed by Friday evening. The Scaffolding will probably be there until the beginning of next week.