

### VICTORY PRIZE DRAW:

#### Winners For March

1st Prize £70 ticket No 134 J Mitchell  
2nd Prize £30 ticket No 88 K Webb  
3rd Prize £20 ticket No 234 M Douglas

CAFOD: Our CAFOD fast Day

Collection has raised £889

altogether which is brilliant

Remember, it's not too late to give to our Lent

appeal. [www.cafod.org.uk/lent](http://www.cafod.org.uk/lent)



# Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

14th March 2021  
Fourth Week of Lent  
Psalter Week 4

Parish Priest: Fr. Chris O'Connor  
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Convent: Presentation Sisters 01858-462432  
Parish Website: [www.olvic.com](http://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

The Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Education Service is seeking to appoint a Deputy Director of Education who will provide a strategic lead in the areas of Catholic Life, Formation, Inspection, Religious Education and Collective Worship. For further information / application pack or if you wish to arrange an informal conversation with the Director of Education, please contact Julie Sweeney: [julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk](mailto:julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk) Closing date 30 March 2021

### FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS ON THE READINGS:

John 3:16 is one of the very well-known Biblical verses along with God is love from his first letter: God so the loved the world. ....It is a summary indeed of all that Jesus came to do, all that he was and all that God the Father is who is the one who gives his Son as the prime mover in the work of salvation. Jesus was teaching Nicodemus who had come to him secretly and nervously at night to learn about him and would eventually come to Jesus side at the time of his burial in the light of the dawning of Easter. Jesus puts his words in the context of the Bronze serpent which Moses set up on a pole to cure those who have been bitten by the poisonous serpent in the desert – a consequence of their idolatry. Jesus compares this with his crucifixion to show the value of his being raised up on the cross; those who look on him with faith, “who believe in him” obtain Salvation. They come to the light out of the darkness. Those who remain in the darkness, choose to remain in the darkness and condemn or exclude themselves.

This is the movement of faith: from darkness into light, the light of Christ. It is not merely an act of belief (the demons believe in Christ) but letting the light of Christ shine on us and illuminate the darkness within us and around us. It shows up the evil in us which we like to remain hidden. It is an act of repentance and conversion. It is painful and costly. The word of God is life, but it is also *living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrew 4:12-13).*

We could say that the Good thief was the first to do this as he looked on the One who was lifted up beside him. He let the light of Christ illumine the darkness within him as he himself hung on the cross. I suspect that this pain was more difficult for him than the agony of dying but it was a life-giving pain that took him into the light and heaven itself. He was spiritually dead but in this paradoxically he found life.

When we look on Christ with this faith of conversion or contrition, we see both our sins and the horror of sin but in doing this we come to understand that God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life..... Both are a necessary part of Christian faith and experience. Both take place in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It takes courage probe our failings and to admit our worst thoughts, our bad actions and desires, even to ourselves. But when we expose the most private depths of our souls to the light of Christ, in his mercy we are wonderfully set free. The truth will set us free. We are left with his pardon and peace at the end as the prayer of Absolution says.

In Lent and the coming Holy Week, we must allow the light of Christ to shine on us and expose the darkness and look at the face of Christ, directly into his eyes and so looking at him be healed. Dare we? The decision is ours: when confronted by Jesus do we come to the light that our deeds may be known and thus healed, or do we shun the light? Perhaps we are a Nicodemus who comes nervously and guardedly with little understanding. Be not afraid: he came to acknowledge Christ through the Cross at Easter as he professed his faith at the tomb.

### Times of Services

#### Sunday: 4th of Lent - Laetare Sunday

Sat 6.00pm: Mass - Kitty O'Reilly RIP (Boyko)

9.00am: Mass: Sheila Plowright (Presentation Sisters)

11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

#### Monday: Lenten FERIA

Private Mass: Personal Ints (White)

#### Tuesday: Lenten FERIA

10.00am Mass: Bernie Spicknell RIP (EM's)

#### Wednesday: St Patrick, Patron of Ireland

Private Mass: Richard O'Halloran RIP (Sisters)

#### Thursday: Lenten FERIA

10.00am Mass: Tanya Burns - Good health

#### Friday: St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9.30am: STATIONS OF THE CROSS

10.00am: Public Mass: Jill Wagstaff RIP (Lowe)

#### Saturday: Lenten FERIA

11.00am - Sacrament of Reconciliation - CONFESSION

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 21st March: Margaret Cotter RIP

#### Sunday: 5th Sunday of Lent

9.00am: Mass: Kevin Stafford RIP (Furlong)

11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish



God sent his  
Son so that  
through him  
the world might  
be saved.

**PLEASE NOTE: YOU MUST PRE BOOK FOR OUR WEEKEND MASSES:** [BOOK NOW](#)

### 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.

**FR CHRIS WRITES:** We are moving towards Holy Week & Easter! That is a wonderful thought to lift us up with an emerging joy marked this Sunday with Laetare Sunday.

God Willing, we will be able to celebrate the Liturgies this year together even if with reduced numbers. Also the Liturgies will be much simpler due to time considerations. There will be no washing of the feet, Watching at the Altar of repose, kissing of the cross and the Easter vigil will be curtailed with no Easter Fire and of course there can be no singing by the congregation, but hopefully we will have some singing by cantors.. But we will appreciate these things even more. Sadly, (the Chrism Mass 31st March at 11.30 am): will be closed to the general public due to the restrictions on numbers permitted to gather for public worship during the time of the Covid-19 Pandemic, only members of the presbyterate have been invited to attend. The Mass will be live streamed and recorded and can be watched via the Cathedral website: [stbarnabascathedral.org.uk](http://stbarnabascathedral.org.uk)

We are preparing a **little Pack for Holy Week** for those who are housebound or shielding at the moment (as well as reaching out to our school families) so that people can join in at home spiritually. It will contain the leaflets for the Triduum and a Palm and one or two other things. If you are shielding or you know of someone who is shielding, email me (or phone) with a name and address so we can make them available. We may be looking for some help to make some deliveries!

**St Mary's Church at Husband Bosworth:** As you know there has been no Mass at the Church since lockdown a year ago owing to the Small space and all the COVID restrictions. As we are now looking to return to more "normal times" we have to consider the role of St Mary's within the Parish and Diocese. The 8.30am Sunday Mass there has been under discussion at a Diocesan & Deanery level for some time as Fr Owen informed me, but was curtailed by the COVID outbreak. The issue is of course that we have many less priests than we did and will have fewer in the immediate future. Already there is at least one large Parish awaiting a Parish Priest and several priests overdue to retire who have stayed on due to the Pandemic. This will mean other Parishes sharing a priest. There are many doing this already. When the Diocese appointed me here it was with the view that I will be able to assist in the Leicester Deanery and ensure that each Parish Community may have a Sunday Mass. So, the bishop has made it clear that the Diocese cannot make a commitment to continue to provide a regular weekend Mass at St Mary's. It will of course remain possible to celebrate Mass and other Sacraments on other occasions. Naturally, I have had several conversations with members of the Maxwell family at Bosworth Hall and we have agreed that it has become unrealistic to be able to maintain a weekly mass service at St. Mary's with great regrets with its history of keeping the faith alive in that area and going back before the Church was built in 1873. I thank them for their understanding. We cannot know exactly how and when this will develop as this depends on number of clergy that remain in good health and how and when we return to normal Parish Life across the Diocese. But I and the diocese think this needs to be said now as restrictions on worship may be eased over the coming months. I regret that we have not been able to hold a face to face meeting about this. God Bless, Fr. Chris



**POSSIBLE DATES FOR REOPENING Baptisms & Weddings** from 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 with up to 30 people  
**1st Holy Communion** will be celebrated in late June

**FR. OWEN** is comfortable at Peaker park. Please remember him in your prayers for which is very grateful.



**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:** We will soon be in April again. We hope to deliver the new envelopes through your post box soon. We think that is the safest way to do it in the present circumstances: If you have a problem with that please let us know. You can leave them to sanitise for a bit!! If you are new and would like some envelopes please let me know.



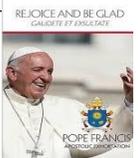
Many thanks to all who continue to give to the Church. I have forms for making a Standing Order and of course gift Aid forms if you are a tax payer and make a donation to the Church email Fr Chris [parishpriest@olvic.com](mailto:parishpriest@olvic.com) and I can send you one by email. We can claim an extra 25% on top of anything you give if you are tax payer.

**BISHOP PATRICK'S LENTEN TALKS** - You are invited to join Bishop Patrick and people from across the diocese this Lent in reflecting on our relationship with God. To be a disciple of Jesus means to know and love him, but to also know we are known and loved by him too. Bishop Patrick will give two talks on Zoom exploring God's Love for us and how we can respond to it.



**2<sup>nd</sup> Talk: Knowing the Love of God** (understanding our identity as God's sons and daughters) - **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March, at 7pm.** Each talk will include input from Bishop Patrick, a time for questions and answers, and small group discussion. You can register for one or both talks on the diocesan website: [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk)

**LENTEN SESSIONS ON DISCIPLESHIP AND HOLINESS:** Our sessions on holiness and discipleship ([Gaudete et Exsultate](http://Gaudete-et-Exsultate)) continue on Wednesday **4<sup>th</sup> Session on the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March** . Just underline those passages that stand out. The Document can be downloaded from <http://w2.vatican.va> under Pope Francis and Apostolic exhortations or [click here](http://click.here). Google will find it . . Zoom link for the 4<sup>th</sup> session: is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88044256976?pwd=eE1FR3Q1b2twMzNPRWh6emkyYWVhZz09> Password Olvic.



**SAVE THE DATE: LACY (Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth)** will be celebrating a **Young People's Liturgy** on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 4.00 p.m.** via Zoom. Our theme will be "Mary and Joseph saying YES to God". A warm invitation is extended to all young people, their families and friends to join us as we look upon the miracle of The Annunciation and the gift of St. Joseph, Foster Father of Jesus, looking at the salvation that Jesus, in the Holy Family of Mary and Joseph, brought to the world. An opportunity to help us look more deeply into the Lenten journey with Jesus. Link in information: **ID 833 8950 5705 and Passcode: 322285.** For further information contact [paulinepayne@hotmail.com](mailto:paulinepayne@hotmail.com). Please note that all young people under the age of 18 sharing the occasion should have an adult present with them. We look forward to seeing you!

**St Joseph's Catholic Academy, Market Harborough Teaching Assistant from April 2021 for a fixed term contract until 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021.** We are seeking to appoint an excellent TA to join our happy and successful school. We are looking to appoint staff to cover 17.5 hours per week (12pm - 3:30pm Monday to Friday) in our Foundation stage classroom to support pupils in class or outside of the class. Closing Date is Midnight Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March. Interviews will be held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March. Visits to the school are welcome and you can arrange to visit by telephoning the school office on 01858 465359. Application packs can be obtained from [www.stjosephs.leics.sch.uk](http://www.stjosephs.leics.sch.uk)