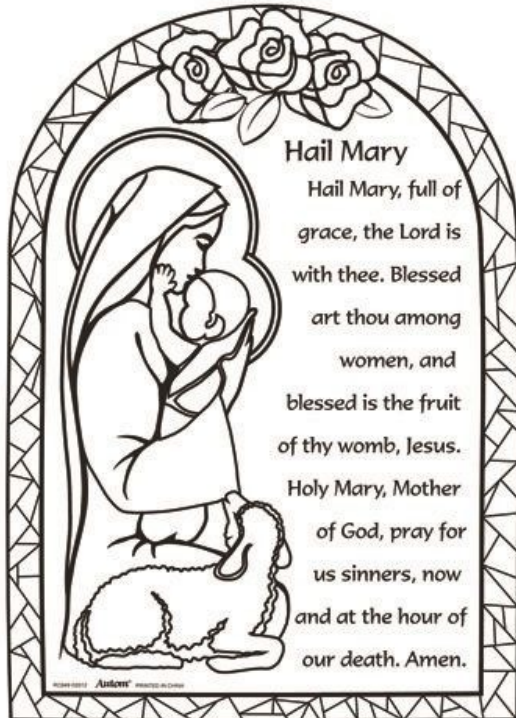


THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION: *The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is traditionally and normally celebrated on August 15th. But because the 15th falls on a Saturday this year, the Bishops of England and Wales have decided to observe the celebration on Sunday for a number of reasons, but especially so (before Lockdown) to give many more people the opportunity to actually take part in the celebration, thus giving it a greater emphasis and importance liturgically, and also marking this article and belief of our faith, with all the joy, reverence and solemnity that it deserves.*

Pope Benedict XVI wrote that "precisely because Mary is with God and in God, she is so very close to each one of us. While she lived on this earth, she could only be close to a few people. Being in God, who is actually in all of us, Mary shares in this closeness of God." She "knows our hearts, can hear our prayers, can help us, and, being the mother of the Son, participates in the power of the Son and in his goodness. We can always entrust the whole of our lives to this Mother."

Assumed into heaven, Mary reveals our own destiny:

"That transfiguration of our material bodies to which we look forward one day has been accomplished - we know for certain - in her." (Msgr. Knox)



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

16th August 2020
Week 20 of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 4

Parish Priest: Fr. Owen O'Neill
Tel: House: 01858 - 462359
Email: olvicparish22@btopenworld.com
Convent: Presentation Sisters 01858-462432
Catholic Club: 01858 463 601
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: Stephen McGlone 01858-465939
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

Times of Services

Sunday: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday: 6.00pm - The Parishioners

N.B. 9.00am Mass - Personal Intention

N.B. 11.00am Mass - Wellbeing of Princy Romy

Monday: Feria

Private Mass - Walter Fialkowski R.I.P.

Tuesday: Feria

Private Mass - Tony Dalby R.I.P. (birthday memento)

Wednesday: Feria

Private Mass: In Thanksgiving for the Golden Jubilee of Sr Collette Iles

Thursday: St Bernard

Private Mass - God's Blessings for Good Friends and Family

Friday: St Pius X

Private Mass - Wellbeing of Elizabeth Rippon

Saturday: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Private Mass: Personal Intention

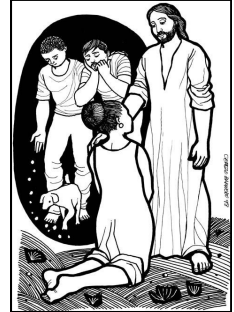
11.00am - Sacrament of Reconciliation - CONFESSION

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday August 23rd - Marian Kwacz (13th Anniv.)

Sunday: 21st of Ordinary Time

N.B. 9.00am: Mass - The Parishioners

N.B. 11.00am: Mass - Peter Cockrell R.I.P. (F.M.)



*Women,
you have
great faith.*

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MUST PRE BOOK FOR OUR WEEKEND MASSES:

TO PRE BOOK TO COME TO MASS:

You can only make your booking on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings between 5pm and 7pm.

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.

BOOK NOW

LAST WEEK'S OBSERVATION: As I referred to in last week's newsletter, it is virtually impossible to fill the newsletter currently with Parish News, because there simply isn't any. Everything is so quiet, calm and peaceful. So many families would appear to be having a little break in this beautiful spell of weather. Obviously Covid has changes the plans, hopes and dreams of many. The "new normal" will take some adapting to for all of us. When our schools open before long, I suppose there will be some semblance of "former normality" for family life, but of course adjustments and changes are inevitable. Anyway enough "rabbiting on" from me on nothing!



THANKS AND APPRECIATION: As I have referred to in a previous Newsletter, through the kindness and generosity of one of our parishioners, I am privileged to receive my own personal weekly copy of a Catholic publication called "The Tablet". Two of last week's published articles drew my special attention.



The first was written by Catherine Pepinster, a former editor of The Tablet and well known writer on the Catholic Church and a "Thought for the Day" contributor on Radio 4. The theme of her Tablet article this past week was "*The Virus and the Church's Financial Crisis*." She refers to the great financial loss to many priests who will have missed out on the Easter offerings this year because of the Lockdown. But more importantly, she speaks of the great financial loss of income to the Church during the Lockdown, and even now, the ongoing loss through the very limited numbers being able to attend Church services because of the regulations imposed for everybody's safety. She refers to a number of Diocese and their current financial situation and how Dioceses are trying to cope, having to eat into their investments that were set aside for "the rainy day". Among the Dioceses she refers to are Leeds, Portsmouth, Southampton, Salford, Birmingham, Southwark and Westminster. She does refer to the recommendation by the Bishops of England and Wales, that where possible, parishioners should be encouraged to set up Direct payments, thus ensuring an ongoing weekly, monthly or quarterly payments and support for their local parish. Finally, she writes that the Lockdown has been more than a passing crisis for the Church in England and Wales. It has been a wake up call that is challenging the way parishes and diocese are funded and managed.

The second article that attracted special attention is titled "The Roots of a Saint" by Gerzim Alphon, who is a lecturer in Sociology at the University of Birmingham. The saint referred to is Mother Teresa of Calcutta. The article deals or refers to a new publication by Bloomsbury Academic, which explores the ethnicity and background of Gonxhe Agnes Bojaxiu, born in Skopje, now the capital of North Macedonia. Gonxhe was later to become Mother Teresa of Calcutta and on September 4th 2016 was canonised by the Church to become St Teresa of Calcutta.

She said herself that "By blood and origin, I am all Albanian. My Citizenship is Indian. I am a Catholic Nun. As to my calling, I belong to the whole world. As to my heart, I belong entirely to the heart of Jesus."



Although her ethnicity and calling are crystal clear, there was a private side to a story that she very seldom referred to or spoke about, that being her father, who died a painful death from poisoning in 1919, probably from a political assassination carried out by Slav nationalists keen to eliminate "incorrigible" Albanian patriots opposed to the Annexation of Albanian terrorists by the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. The claim that the Yugoslavs were implicated in Nikolle's murder were first made public by Mother Teresa's brother, Lazar, in 1979.

Despite his insistence that she speak out about this, and discrimination against Albanians across the Yugoslav federation, Mother Teresa maintained her silence till her death on the 5th September 1997. Though she knew that Enver Hoxna's government in Albania had mistreated her mother and sister partly because of her growing fame, she remained equally reticent about the brutal persecution of Christians - including Catholic priests and faithful - in Albanian throughout the period of Communist rule.

The Details surrounding the death of Mother Teresa's father will probably always remain murky. But her life long silence about her father's death was also partly a determination to block a deeply painful memory. By her own admission, her father "remained" with her forever. I believe she never recovered from this inconsolable loss. Even if she had been sure that Serbian Nationalists were behind her father's murder, Mother Teresa would still not have condemned the killers. Forgiveness was fundamental to her. And her silence was also dictated by her loyalty to the Vatican. Knowing how important she had increasingly become to the Church following her foundation of the Missionaries of Charity in 1950, and her growing international profile, especially in the wake of the Nobel Peace Prize, Mother Teresa was aware that any loose remark from her on the Balkan politics could have repercussions for the Vatican's sensitive relations with Yugoslavia and the Serbs in particular. But I have learnt that Mother Teresa chose to ignore the subject of her father's death for another reason. Shortly after he was murdered, nine-year-old Gonxhe lost her maternal uncle, Mark, and six members of his family, who lived close by the family home in Skopje. They all died in the Spanish flu pandemic which raged between 1918 and 1920. The only person to survive from her uncle's family was six-year-old Filomena, who was adopted by Mother Teresa's mother, Roza. Filomena became Gonxhe's closest friend. They shared the same bedroom in the family home until 1928 when Gonxhe left Skopje to travel to Dublin to join the Sisters of Loreto, at Loreto Abbey in Rathfarnham. After six weeks she embarked on a long voyage to India to fulfil her dream of becoming a missionary (to be cont.d)