

Also could People bring in their **Red Mission Boxes** for emptying. If anyone would like a box please let myself or Christine Shepherd now.



FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

As we begin ordinary time, we are blessed with this most wonderful gospel of the marriage feast at Cana which sadly we only hear once every three years. In fact, it is the third part of the epiphany of Christ which unites the revelation to the three Wise Men, the baptism of the Lord and finally the glory of Christ is revealed at Cana and the mystery of Christmas: our union with Christ is shown with further richness as that of bride and bridegroom. And importantly, today's miracle is the first sign that Jesus performed.

It is no coincidence that it takes place at a wedding which is where the Bible story itself began with Adam & Eve. The covenant of God with Israel as we have heard in the first reading was often described in terms of a marriage. This reading was used at the vigil mass of Christmas and describes a time when God would renew Israel and renew the Covenant relationship with her removing her infidelities and sins to the extent but God would rejoice over her *Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you. Wonderful word to meditate on and not mere metaphor! Jesus now reveals himself as that bridegroom. At Jewish weddings it was the bridegroom's responsibility to provide the wine. Indeed, we see that the Steward takes the new wine straight to the bridegroom assuming he had given it and wondering about the strange behaviour. However, this wine has come from God, from Jesus and in magnificent style from six stone water jars which could be 180 gallons of the finest vintage. He is the bridegroom par excellence. He gives the new wine of the new covenant which joins Man and God as bride and bridegroom in intimacy. There is a whole new level in the family Covenant relationship.*

The six stone water jars represent the old covenant as St John hints when he tells us they were used for ritual washing which was necessary for a relationship with God. The number 6 also hints at the imperfection of the old covenant which falls short of the perfect number which is 7. Water was also a symbol of the Law of the Old Testament which as Saint Paul says can only condemn. Jesus provides the new wine the wine that brings joy because it gives grace to keep the covenant Law. As Mary says they have no wine. Mankind needs the grace of God, we need the Holy Spirit which Jesus the bridegroom will provide. We cannot do it ourselves, only Jesus can do the miracle. In the vast quantities we see that there is no shortage of his grace so that we might live the Law of the New Covenant which is love. Our prayer should be we have no wine; I have no wine – I need your grace asking always the intercession of Mary to whom Jesus listens even to anticipating his hour on the cross.

We are invited to a great intimacy with God. Marriage has the greatest intimacy with its passion and self-sacrifice. God rejoices in us, takes delight in us, he weds us. This begins now and is fully consummated in heaven. But already is present through the nuptial bath of Baptism and the Nuptial feast of the Eucharist when we receive the body of Christ the bridegroom who says this is me given for you. Indeed, the words of Genesis are fulfilled in Christ: So a man leaves his father and mother and joins with his wife and the two become one flesh. As Isaiah indicates God will renew us in our intimacy with him. As in any marriage daily communication is vital. We cannot leave it to our weekly Mass. We must read the scriptures and pray each day which is our time of special intimacy when we listen to him and speak to him of what is in our heart. We need to set aside half an hour each day. If you are a beginner start with a lesser time and build up gradually adding it to your prayers that you already have a habit of. We will then be signs ourselves of the Joy of God for others letting his glory be seen.



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

16th January 2022
2nd Week of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 2

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

Times of Services

Sunday: 2nd of Ordinary Time

6.00pm Mass: Fr Owen O'Neill RIP
9.00am Mass: People of the Parish
11.00am: Mass: November Dead List

Monday: St Anthony

9.00am Mass: November Dead List

Tuesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Cosmo, Maria & Ferdinando Ditro RIP

Wednesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Mirek Nowakowski RIP 2nd Anniv

Thursday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Dennis Cottrell RIP (Blamires)

Friday: St Agnes

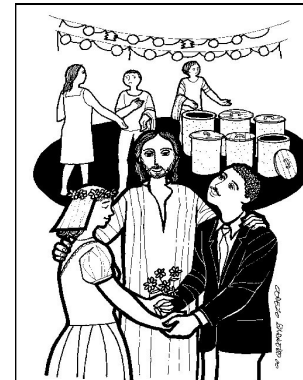
7.00pm Mass: Michael Clarke RIP (Jill)

Saturday: Feria

6.00pm First Mass of 23rd: People of the Parish

Sunday: 3rd of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: Geoff & Sheila Plowright RIP anniv (Family)
11.00am Mass: Mary Keane, Gerald & Pamela Gilbert (Family)



This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee

CONFESSIONS

11am &
5.15 - 5.45pm
Saturdays

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

Also it would be helpful to book for weekdays too, though not necessary at the moment as we are not full.

Booking is now online: www.Massbooking.uk You can sign up there and then book. If you do not have the internet you can ask someone else to book for you, a child or grandchild or ring or email Fr. Chris on 01858 462359 giving your name and phone number. Please see instructions on our website: www.olvic.com/news.htm

FR CHRIS WRITES. Sadly we have had to postpone our First Communion classes for a month because of the present COVID wave among families. Hopefully this will subside in the coming week or two. Please pray for our First Communion group.

The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity begins on Tuesday and runs till Tuesday 25th January. Sadly we cannot have our usual meetings in persons and United service. However there are prayer meetings on Zoom as you can see in this Newsletter. Some in the evening some at Midday. Please continue to pray for the Unity Christ willed for all Christians that the world may believe, It would be good to have a presence of Catholics at these meetings.

- * The Parish Council is meeting this week on Wednesday at 7.00pm
- * Once again Hand made **Reusable Face masks for Sale:** in Church £2.50 towards Church funds.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: 17-21 January 2022

Each year at this time we try to meet together for prayer. Because of current restrictions and concerns we shall do so remotely via Zoom in 2022. However, that need not limit our fellowship and our prayerful support of one another in our mission and ministry across the area.

The meetings normally last 30-40 minutes. They will focus on local prayer needs together with wider issues. The format will be decided by each leader.

This year, we have one log-in for all five meetings, thanks to Revd Andy Murphy who will act as host for each one. This is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6519729380?pwd=M0JBRFFoWk45L0lNGZvWWNtekxrUT09> Meeting ID: 651 972 9380 Passcode: MHMC; Telephone passcode: 472588

Monday 17th, 7.00 pm Leader: Mrs Janet Smith (Harborough Baptist Church and Chair, Churches Together in Harborough)

Tuesday 18th, 12.00 noon Leader: Revd Alison Iliffe (Team Vicar, Transfiguration parish of St Nicholas Gt Bowden, and St Hugh's Northampton Road)

Wednesday 19th, 12.00 noon Leader: Revd Andy Murphy (Minister, Harborough Methodist Church and vice-chair, Churches Together in Harborough)

Thursday 20th, 12.00 noon Leader: Mr Tim Jeffery (Chief Executive Officer, Torch Trust)

Friday 21st, 12.00 noon Leader: Revd Hils Corcoran (Team Vicar, St Peter & St Paul Great Bowden)

CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

YOUR ACTION REQUIRED: From the Parish Consultation, one of the themes that emerged was the need for good Communication. We realised we need to update the Parish List to build the community through good communication. We have now sent out a letter or email to all who are on the Parish List. **If you do not receive either a letter or email, you are not on the Parish List.** Please pick up a Parish registration form from the Narthex so we have your details or you can email Fr. Chris: parishpriest@olvic.com Please check with any Catholic neighbours or friends to see if they have received the letter or want to be on our Parish List.

PARISH WELCOMING: It's a couple of months since we resumed Welcoming at some of the week-end Masses, but currently we only have 3 people on the rota for Sunday 11am Mass, and 5 people for the Saturday evening Mass. We're appealing to any welcomers who maybe didn't see our original email requests or who may now have changed their minds, to consider helping out, and also to anyone else who feels that they would like to volunteer to take part in welcoming their fellow parishioners to Mass. Please do consider helping out if you are able to, and feel free to contact either of us if you would just like to chat about it. Many thanks, Beatrice ([01858 465492](tel:01858465492)) and Theresa ([07748 591398](tel:07748591398)) or email tootskendrick@sky.com

CALLING CATHOLIC TEACHERS If you are a **Catholic teacher currently working outside of Catholic education** and would like to find out more about the joys of working in a Catholic school within the Diocese of Nottingham, a virtual information session will take place on Tuesday 8 February from 7.00pm – 8.30pm. Please see the poster on the parish notice board. For further information 7 Booking contact: Julie Sweeney at the Diocesan Education Service (julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk)

SECONDARY SCHOOL VACANCIES: : St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi-Academy Trust have vacancies for a Headteacher (English Martyrs', Leicester) and a Deputy Headteacher (St Martin's, Stoke Golding). Closing date for applications is 26 January 2022. For further details of these and other vacancies within this trust please visit www.aquinas-cmat.org/vacancies

VICTORY PRIZE DRAW: Results of the January 2022 Draw

1st Prize £70 G Powell ticket number 184

2nd Prize £30 M Packer ticket number 142

3rd Prize £20 GR Bell ticket number 24

Annual ticket holders are reminded that they need to renew. Cheques to be made out to THE VICTORY PRIZE DRAW and forwarded to Keith Shiers, 23 Fairfax Road Market Harborough LE16 9JT

VOLUNTEERING IN SCHOOLS: There is a Churches Together initiative to gather volunteers to help in Schools. This is a town wide initiative to mobilise volunteers in all our primary schools. The flyer invites volunteers to complete a simple online form - <https://forms.gle/HTDkPwYxneHq8Rvk9> - and identify which school they want to volunteer with. These will be distributed to the relevant schools at the end of January. See the flyers in Narthex

'From Daily Grind to Daily Glory' Encountering God in your daily work – For four Wednesdays, starting on 12th January at 7pm, the Diocese will be running an online course looking at how we can encounter Jesus in our daily work and how it can help us to grow in holiness too. We spend more hours in a week at work than doing most other activities (including going to church) so let's make an experience of daily glory rather than a daily grind. For more information visit: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/onlineevents

The Church is open for Private prayer each day
Please sign in on the list or use the Covid NHS App Q code displayed
By Law Face masks must be worn .