

## FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

Today we listen to the wonderful greetings of Saint Elizabeth to her cousin Mary. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb and the third blessing: *blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.* We join with Elizabeth in praising Mary because in her we see the wonders of God's grace at work in a unique way, yes, but as a sign for us all.

Blessed are you amongst women! She is indeed blessed in so many ways and we greet her happily as our spiritual mother because she is the Mother of God and as Jesus's brothers and sisters, she is our mother too. Blessed because of what or better who she carries in her womb: the very son Of God. She is the true and living Ark of the Covenant carrying in her no mere tablets of stone but God himself amongst men & women. As she did for Elizabeth & John the Baptist, we ask Mary to bring her Son to us too. Indeed, to hurry and bring him to us this Christmas, that we may truly greet him and rejoice as did those two great figures of the Old Testament. That we may say with all our heart mind and soul: *blessed is the fruit of your womb.* For that is what gives her the greatest joy that we may know her son, that we may rejoice in him: she desires to share her joy in him with us. Is not that most wonderful? What a mother we have in Mary! May she visit to us in these last days of Advent so that we too can say: *Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?*

But Mary is blessed again by Elizabeth because of her faith. Here we have the other key to Mary's blessedness: She had been greeted by the angel. *Hail full of grace* is the greeting and the title she received, and she was indeed full of grace, the most highly favoured lady, but here we hear the other element that must go with grace: if grace is to fulfil its purpose faith is needed to respond to the gift of God and Mary responded with the entire openness of herself to the gift. Indeed, faith is perfectly realised in Mary: *"The obedience of faith" (Rom. 16:26; cf. Rom. 1:5; 2 Cor. 10:5-6) must be given to God who reveals, an obedience by which a man or woman entrusts his or her whole self freely to God. "This is most true of Mary* She says let it be done to me according to your word in response to the Angel. She gives indeed her decisive response on a human level for God to accomplish his purpose. There is a complete harmony with the words of the Son, who, according to the Letter to the Hebrews, says to the Father as he comes into the world: "Sacrifices and offering you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me.... Lo, I have come to do your will, O God" (Heb. 10:5-7). She gives her yes through grace - the same yes of obedience that Christ gives and through Christ we too can give that same yes. And here we have it. *Here I am Lord I come to do your will: this is what is asked of us in response to God's grace. To open ourselves to God with all our heart mind and soul all our being - without reserve like Mary. We indeed praise Mary for her faith which began our salvation: her faith which continued to grow all during her life her faith in which she so totally abandoned herself to the Word of God that she embraced the very mystery of her Son's death on the cross in complete trust. So today we greet Mary, of all women the most blessed. We greet with her the fruit of her womb, Jesus - that we may be filled with the same joy and we ask her motherly intercession for our faith: that we may respond to the great graces God gives us as we pray in the Mass & each day in the angelus: Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts .....*



# Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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Parish Pastoral Council Members: see photos on notice board

19th December 2021  
4th Week of Advent  
& Christmastide  
Psalter Week 4

## Times of Services

### Sunday: 4th of Advent

6.00pm Mass: Michael Gatens RIP (Taylor)  
9.00am Mass: Dana Rinaldi (Blamires)  
11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish  
3.00pm: Parish Carol Service

### Monday: Advent Feria

9.00am Mass: November Dead List

### Tuesday: Advent Feria

10.00am Mass: November Dead List

### Wednesday: Advent Feria

2.30pm: Funeral Mass William Spicknell

### Thursday: Advent Feria

10.00am Mass: Charles Thomas Anniv (Jopling)

### Friday: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

6.00pm: Sabatino Veneziale RIP anniv  
9.30pm: Carols

10.00pm: Christmas Night Mass: For all our Stewards

### Saturday: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - CHRISTMAS DAY

8.30am: People of the Parish

10.30am: Tita Quinn RIP

### Sunday: 1st Week of Christmastide - The Holy Family

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish  
11.00am Mass: James Prendergast (Curran Family)



### Christmas Flowers:

There will be a collection this weekend for Flowers.

### 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](http://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](http://www.olvic.com/news.htm)

### Times of Services

#### **Sunday: 1st of Christmastide - The Holy Family**

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish  
11.00am: Mass: James Prendergast (Curran Family)

#### **Monday: St John, Apostle & Evangelist**

10.00am Mass: November Dead List

#### **Tuesday: The Holy Innocents**

10.00am Mass: November Dead List

#### **Wednesday: St Thomas of Canterbury**

10.00am: Int Johnson Fund

#### **Thursday: 6th Day within the Octave of Christmas**

10.00am Mass: Mary Marston RIP Anniv (Davis)

#### **Friday: 7th Day within the Octave of Christmas**

10.00am: November Dead List

#### **Saturday: MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

11.00am: People of the Parish

6.00pm: Allen Winter RIP (5th Anniv.)

#### **Sunday: 2nd Sunday after Christmas**

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am Mass: Father Colin Watling RIP

26th December 2021  
1st Week of Christmastide  
Psalter Week 1

*Jesus was found by his parents  
among the doctors.*



**CONFESSIONS**  
11.30am and 5.15 -  
5.45pm Saturday

**FR CHRIS WRITES:** As is traditional this Newsletter covers the 2 weeks of the Christmas Period. Please note the booking times for this period. As you will see there are various times for you to come to Mass over this Christmas period.. I remind people that Christmas is celebrated over 8 days finishing with Mary the Mother of God on January 1st. We call it the Octave, so aim to come on one of those days if not at Christmas in light of COVID. . Why not make an effort for the lovely Dawn Mass of 8.30am? A great way to start Christmas Day with the Kids up early anyway!

May I take this opportunity of wishing you and all your families a very Happy Christmas and blessings for the New Year May I thank everyone who helps in the Parish in the various areas of our Parish Life: Church, Hall, House, our School, and our outreach and at this time all our Stewards. There are so many involved in our Parish Life here! And may I say, personally, thank you for the help and prayers you give me. Fr. Chris PP.

Sadly we lost some parishioners recently. **Bill Spicknell**. His funeral Mass will take place on **Wednesday 22nd December at 2.30pm**. Also Edward Armstrong husband of Pat. His funeral will be at Great Glen Crematorium on **Friday, 7th January at 2.30 p.m.**

#### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION This week**

Tuesday 21st - 10.30am - 11.00am & 7.00pm.

Thursday 23rd: 10.30am - 11.00am & 7.00pm.

**COLLECTION AT ALL OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES** will be your Christmas gift to Fr Chris. Envelopes available as you come into Church. Thank you in anticipation

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



**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](http://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](mailto: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. This would be a good outreach over Christmas!

**PARISH WELCOMING:** It's a couple of months since we resumed Welcoming at some of the weekend 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](mailto:tootskendrick@sky.com)

**READERS WANTED:** It is time, once again, to compile a new Readers' Rota for the coming year. Anyone who would like to read at one of the weekend masses, please contact Margaret Atkins as soon as possible, stating which mass you normally attend, and giving your email address and preferred telephone number. Email [margaretatkins52@gmail.com](mailto:margaretatkins52@gmail.com) or call **01858 446369**.

**CHRISTMAS MASSES:** Our Christmas Masses will be booked through the online booking system: [www.Massbooking.uk](http://www.Massbooking.uk) They will appear a week before. For those of you who are new to it when you register with the System, the confirmation email link often goes to the spam Junk folder of your email. Also **please book just one place for up to three of you** in a family or a family bench for 4 or more. See instructions under our parish.

In respect of COVID: All to wear Masks and I would advise any concerned about COVID **to avoid the 6.00pm vigil Mass** as it will be very full and we may not be able to maintain our normal social distancing..

**Christmas eve:** 6.00pm & 10.00pm. (Preceded by carols 9.30pm)

**Christmas day:** 8.30am: & 10.30am:

On Sunday the Masses will be the normal 9.00am & 11.00am. **(No Sat 6.00pm)**



The **FIRST MEETING FOR PARENTS** will take place on **Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 7.30pm** in the Octagonal Hall when we will introduce the course and give out the plan. The first session **for children** will take place **on Friday 14th January 2022 from 3.30-4.30pm** in the same place and then the 21st & 28th January. Depending on the numbers & COVID there will be two first communion days: 18th June 2022 & 2nd July 2022

**DATES FOR DIARY** Diocesan Talks/Courses on ZOOM "Encountering God in your daily work" 4 x Wednesdays, starting on 12th January at 7pm Register on [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/onlineevents](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/onlineevents)