

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY

This Sunday is known as Home Mission Sunday. We pray for our country and that we may share our faith with others. I was wondering myself what does the word of God say today about some pointers to being disciples who share their faith. Today we have the 2nd announcement of the passion and this time the disciples as a whole come in for criticism for arguing about who is the greatest as they like Peter had failed to grasp the concept of Jesus as the Messiah: they thought of who was the greatest. From that Our Lord gives us a key description of a disciple as "last of all and servant of all".

We are told today that Jesus was very persistent in trying to teach his disciples about the cross as they made their way through Galilee to Jerusalem. How he was last and servant of all though his passion. He was not having much success with them! To be disciples and witnesses to Christ, the key is the death and resurrection of our Lord. It is there that everything is revealed. For us like the disciples it is very difficult to grasp. We may feel that we do not understand the cross. The Gospel implies that the disciples fail because they were afraid to ask. I wonder are we afraid to ask too? To ask Jesus to reveal his crucified heart to us. We are afraid perhaps of where it will lead us. And what Jesus will ask of us as Jesus said in John's Gospel of being led where we would rather not go. We must not be afraid. We must let Jesus lead us and remember he is a patient teacher. The key is of course prayerful dialogue with the Lord which finds its source and summit in the Mass and Blessed Sacrament. For the Sacrament of the Eucharist is the making present of Christ's suffering death and resurrection in the here and now. As we make a good Holy Communion, as we try and open our hearts to our Lord each time, his presence within us will teach us the mystery of the cross. And of course, intimately linked with the Mass is the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, day and night. He is there always ready for a conversation always ready to teach us. We have those three things: our daily prayer at home, our Mass and Holy Communion, and the time of adoration before Jesus in the blessed sacrament. And simply let us ask him to reveal his heart to in every way. And not be afraid.

And this is the antidote to any danger of seeking greatness or recognition. As we try to understand the suffering God, he will keep us humble as we will face our inadequacies and failures time and again. And so as witnesses of Christ we will not so much be preachers as co pilgrims who realise we are the least of all and indeed that all is grace. This is one of the things that Pope Francis means as a synodal Church.

The Holy Father was in Hungary last week and had some apt words: *The Eucharist is here to remind us who God is. It does not do so just in words, but in a concrete way, showing us God as bread broken, as love crucified and bestowed. We can add ritual elements, but the Lord is always there in the simplicity of Bread ready to be broken, distributed and eaten. He is there: to save us, Christ became a servant; to give us life, he accepted death. We do well to let ourselves be taken aback by those daunting words of Jesus. And also: Jesus unsettles us; he is not satisfied with declarations of faith, but asks us to purify our religiosity before his cross, before the Eucharist. We do well to spend time in adoration before the Eucharist in order to contemplate God's weakness. Let us make time for adoration, a way of praying too frequently forgotten. Let us make time for adoration. Let us allow Jesus the Living Bread to heal us of our self-absorption, open our hearts to self-giving, liberate us from our rigidity and self-concern, free us from the paralyzing slavery of defending our image, and inspire us to follow him wherever he would lead us, not where I want.*



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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Parish Pastoral Council Members: see photos on notice board
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19th September 2021
25th of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 1

Times of Services

Sunday: 25th of Ordinary Time

Sat. 6.00pm: November Dead List
9.00am: Mass: James Chien RIP (Sari)
11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

Monday: Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gon & Paul Chong and Companions

9.00am Mass: November Dead List

Tuesday: St Matthew. Apostle and Evangelist

10.00am Mass: Norah Hamilton RIP (Brown)

Wednesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Private Int (DW)

Thursday: Sts Pius of Pietrelcina

10.00am: Mass: Ted Sant RIP & family (Andrews)

Friday: Our Lady of Walsingham

7.00pm Mass: Ros Jones RIP (Crawford)

Saturday: Feria

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 26th - Sam Khackik RIP (Williams)

Sunday: 26th of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish
11.00am Mass: Delaney Family Ints

The Son of Man will be delivered. If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself servant of all.



CONFESSIONS
11am 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

This Sunday's Second Collection is for Home Mission Sunday. This collection provides the bishops of England and Wales with resources to support the spread of the gospel in our own country

FR CHRIS WRITES: We had a good meeting with the PPC as we began to pick up the reigns Post Covid. After Consultation I have decided we can increase the numbers for online booking to 60(from Monday) and hence total numbers in the Church such that we will sit closer to each other but for the moment maintain the alternative benches at 2m front to back with masks continuing as before.

We had a wonderful school Mass on Thursday. Our first one for at least 18 Months. *Deo gratias!*

PS: Fr John sends his regards from Ghana

Covid 19: We need to proceed carefully and slowly. This is the opinion of those whom I have consulted. With the Delta variant on the rise in our areas **Hands, Face, Space, Ventilate** is just as important as ever. So we will still have to wear **masks** in Church as before: this is to protect all concerned and is an act of Christian charity. Mostly There will still be the 2m **social distancing** in Church back to back., but we will be closer along the benches. We will still **sanitise** hands as we enter and leave Church. Stewards will operate at the weekend Masses with booking for Mass as we do now. However, **on weekdays** there will not be a steward. We ask people to sign in or use the NHS QR code. **It will be easier if people book in online on a weekday.** On a weekday we will alternate sitting: on the Sacred Heart side on Monday, Our Lady's on a Tuesday and Sacred heart on a Wednesday etc. If people could help sanitise the touch points after Mass that would be helpful i.e. the tops of the benches. I think we are now all accustomed to how to act in a safe way. We will review this every few weeks in the light of local conditions.

The Church is open for Private prayer each day
Please sign in on the list or use the Covid NHS App Q code displayed



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE: Following the IICSA (Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse) Report, the diocese is in the process of updating all of its Safeguarding policies and procedures. This has a number of implications for ALL volunteers within the parish including those whose role does not require a DBS and who until now have not had to complete any paperwork. The DBS process itself is also being restructured. Changes include::

1. All volunteers are required to complete the form: "Written Agreement for volunteers" and will be contacted in due course. We understand that this includes Flower Arrangers, Cleaners, Welcomers, Counters and even those who help with the Bazaar.
2. All those who have a DBS and have joined the Update Service will now be required to complete a "Self-Declaration Form" DBS4 every 3 years (as the Diocese now has to have permission to access each individual's Update Service Record).
3. In some cases a DBS check may need to be redone as volunteers are no longer able to have a DBS which covers Adults and Children if they are only working with children or vice versa.

There are a number of changes which will affect a significant number of people. It may take some time before our Church life returns to a new normal and ministries resume. Please bear with us but if you have any questions please feel free to contact either of us. Theresa Kendrick and Christine Reed.

HARBOROUGH BIG GREEN WEEK: The Great Big Green Week is coming to Market Harborough! 18th - 26th September 2021. There are a great variety of events covering all sorts of activities talks and so on. With the big green Saturday in the Square 10.00am -5.00pm please see the website:
www.sustainableharboroughcommunity.co.uk



CAFOD Harvest Fast Day Friday 1st October Envelopes to be given out Next Sunday

MINDFULNESS: HALF AN HOUR of Meditation in St Dionysius' Church

Caring for Creation - Facing Climate Crisis 12.00 -12.30pm Monday to Friday 20th - 24th Sept. this is part of the BIG GREEN WEEK in Harborough. Prayer Music & Silence. Led by Canon Brian Davis

LEICESTERSHIRE ACTIVE CATHOLIC YOUTH (LACY) are sending out a warm invitation to all young people, their families and friends to an amazing "First Physical Event" since the beginning of COVID. "What Do You Know About Angels?" **SUNDAY 3RD OCTOBER.** Lots of interesting activities, sharing Faith, Fun and Food! Fr. Simon Gillespie will be leading us in thoughts, ideas and the Celebration of an uplifting Mass especially for young people. Come and share the time with the LACY Team at St. Thomas More, Catholic Parish Rooms and Field, Knighton, Leicester, LE2 3HN. **2.00 P.M. – 5.00 P.M.** See poster on LACY facebook page, your own parish media and newsletter. For further information or booking onto the day contact paulinepayne@hotmail.com or claudiacoxon@googlemail.com. We're looking forward to sharing this day with YOU!

LIFE CHARITY SHOP: We need your donations for our shop - Good quality clothing Bric-a-Brac, Shoes, Handbags, Accessories. Please donate your unwanted items to us. There is a plastic box in the Narthex where your donated items can be put and they will be taken to the shop in Leicester. If you would like to visit the Life Charity Shop the address is 100 Granby Street, Leicester LE1 1DJ. **Also please remember in your prayers Nuala Scarisbrick who died on 31st August one the founders of LIFE with her husband Jack**



ST JOSEPH'S OPEN MORNING FOR NEW ADMISSIONS 2022: We would love to welcome members of our community and any new families who would like to find out more about St Joseph's Catholic Academy to join us in school on Friday the 24th of September from 9am - 11am. You will be able to see how engaged the children are with their learning and look at the wonderful work they produce, have a tour around our beautiful school and discover how our Catholic ethos permeates everything we do. We hope that you can join us and look forward to seeing you. Bernadette Dabbs, Headteacher.

THE ASSISTED DYING BILL 2021: WHAT CAN YOU DO?

This October, an 'Assisted Dying' Bill will be debated in the House of Lords. If successful it will allow a terminally ill adult with less than 6 months to live, assistance to commit suicide. The Catholic Church teaches that this represents a crime against human life, we cannot directly choose to take the life of another, even if they request it. The Bishops therefore urge you to **PRAY** this Bill is defeated, **WRITE** to Peers and MPs expressing concern about this proposed legislation and **SHARE** our resources and those of our allies, in the weeks ahead with family and friends, especially via social media. Guidance on how to write to politicians can be found here: parliament.uk/get-involved/contact-an-mp-or-lord/ Resources, which will be updated in the weeks ahead, can be found here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/life-issues/>

Just a gentle reminder that the **THIRD WORLD GROUP** is still selling clothes and other items through Ebay to try and maintain donations to our six charities. Please could you possibly make us your first choice Charity Shop at the moment by leaving any unwanted clothing, shoes, books etc in our box in the cloister or arrangements could be made to collect from your home - with strictest safety measures in place. Please contact Chris 01536 711560, or Judith or Margaret at church. Many thanks to everyone for continuing to help all those in our world who are so very needy.