

Fr. Owen, now so very happy and content in retirement, sends you all good wishes, prayers and blessings for Christmas, and peace and joy in abundance for 2021



[Christmas Message from the Churches in Market Harborough \(2020\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cyuy5yJcXtE) Ministers and leaders of the churches in Market Harborough bring you this special Christmas greeting and blessing for 2020. Please share with as many people as possible so they may know the Good news of Christmas and the love of God: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cyuy5yJcXtE>

FR CHRIS: THOUGHTS ON THE READINGS: David has achieved great things in his life. From being a simple shepherd boy, he has become a great king who has established a united Israel and defeated the nations around. He is naturally grateful to God who has blessed him in so many ways. He now dwells in a house of cedar whilst the Ark of the Covenant still dwells in a tent. And so, he turns his mind quite naturally to building God a fitting temple where he can be worshipped and thanked in a proper way. A good idea we would think. A sort of thing that we do as evidenced by our lovely Parish church which is fitting for God. A magnificent achievement by Fr Owen and the Parish that helps lift up our hearts and minds to God. The prophet Nathan agrees with David. Yet God says no in this case. (Solomon his son would build the temple.)

God wants to emphasise that the first thing of importance is not what we do for God but what God wants to do for us! For David it is to secure his dynasty for ever which would be fulfilled in his descendant Jesus Christ, the word made flesh. God's plans are greater than any of us can imagine. Much as we love God and want to do things for him, his favour and grace is always first and prior. We find that difficult to grasp. We like to be the doers, the achievers, to have ideas. Our ideas or plans are not necessarily bad, but they are not God's ones. We must be open to his will and trust it. Having received, prayed, and understood, we can then do.

The person who was totally open and trusting was Mary. She hears the same promise that first came to David now clearer in the announcing of the coming of the Son of God in the flesh as the universal King and Saviour. She has received God's favour all her life from the moment of her conception onwards and received it in faith and lived it. Now there is an even greater grace to come as she is to be the mother of God. This is quite overwhelming and she seeks to understand in this prayerful dialogue of faith with God. She wonders how this can be since she is a virgin. That is to say, a virgin now and in her life choice which again she has discerned in prayer. Humbly she asks how can this be and receives understanding in the answer that God himself would accomplish this mystery through his Holy Spirit. She does not understand fully but accepts God's answer trusting he will give light along the way. These are God's plans and she knows they are always better than any of our own however important and good they seem. God's Good is always better than ours. After prayerful discernment she gives her "fiat" her free consent of mind body and soul in a fulness that has never happened before or since. I am all yours. Can we not imitate her even just a little in our obedience to God? We should pray about our important decisions, talk them over with God and see that they are truly in accord with his plans for us. However difficult they might seem. however beyond us. Let us pray the Rosary these days before and after Christmas that we will welcome Christ as Mary did.



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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Parish Website: www.olvic.com

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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: Angela Wade: 0777 322 9041
Parish Gift Aid Organiser: Catherine Parry 01858 434959

20th December 2020
4th Week of Advent
Psalter Week 4
Year B

Times of Services

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent

Sat 6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 20th - People of the Parish
9.00am: Mass: Malcolm Wallace RIP Anniv (Wallace)
11.00am: Mass: Gordon & Sally Wyatt Birthday

Monday: St Peter Canisius

9.00am Mass: Patrick Byrne RIP (Goddard)

Tuesday: Advent FERIA

10.00am Mass: Dr Graham Johnston Good Health

Wednesday: Advent FERIA

Private Mass: Dr Andrew Mitchell RIP

Christmas Eve: Thursday

6.00pm: Joan Ritchie RIP (The Sisters)
10.00pm: Sr Eileen Keating Ints

Christmas Day: Friday: Nativity of the Lord

8.30am: People of the Parish
10.00am: Mass: Patrick McKenna (Mitchell)

Saturday: St Stephen

11.00am - Sacrament of Reconciliation - CONFESSION
6.00pm: Martin Prisoner RIP

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

TO PRE BOOK TO COME TO MASS OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

For the Christmas Masses and weekend 26/27 December

Please Ring only **MONDAY & TUESDAY** this week: evenings between 5pm and 7pm.
TO BOOK TO COME TO THE 6.00pm & 10.00pm, Christmas Eve & 6am MASS(SAT), please ring Angela Wade on 01858 462293.
TO BOOK TO COME TO THE 8.30am Christmas eve & 9am MASS (Sun), please ring Jo Shellard on 01858 440983.
TO BOOK TO COME TO THE 10.00am Christmas day & 11am MASS (Sun), please ring Stephen McGlone on 01858 465939.



*You are to conceive
and bear a son.*



BOOK NOW

Next week w/c 27th December 2020

Sunday: Holy Family

9.00am: Mass: Wilfred & Annie Wgstaff RIP (Joan)

11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

Monday: The Holy Innocents

10.00am: November Dead List

Tuesday: St Thomas a Beckett

Private Mass: November Dead List

Wednesday: St Eugene

Private Mass: November Dead List

Thursday: St Sylvester

9.00am: November Dead List

Friday: Mary, Mother of God

10.00am: Mass: Wilson - Langley Families RI

Saturday: Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

11.00am - Sacrament of Reconciliation - CONFESSION

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 3rd January 2021: Allen winter

Sunday: 2nd Sunday after the Nativity

9.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am: Mass: Jan Bogush & Mirek NowakowskiRIP



*The Child
grew, filled
with wisdom.*

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. Weekday Masses do not have to be pre booked. 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

The 6.00pm Christmas Eve is nearly full with spaces in the Narthex and De Trafford room.

There is space in the Church for the 10.00pm, 8.30am & 10.00am over Christmas. **Why not**

make an effort for the lovely Dawn Mass of 8.30am? A great way to start Christmas

Day! 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 and those who take bookings for our Masses There are so many involved in our Parish Life here! And may I say, personally, thank you for your welcome to me at this strange time & for the help and prayers you give me. Fr. Chris PP.

Confessions is a difficult one at the moment! But I will be available as always on Saturday at 11.00am and also from 5.30pm – 5.50pm on sat evening. Also I will be available before or after Monday & Tuesday Masses on the run up to Christmas.

PS Those of you with internet please print off a copy of the Newsletter for Parishioners who do not have the internet. Paper copies are available at church

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.

ST JOSEPH SCHOOL: After I think nearly 11 years at St Joseph's our headteacher Mrs McVea is moving to a new Catholic School in Leicester later in the year. She has served the school so well and made it one of best Catholic Primary schools in Leicestershire. We thank her and pray for her as she takes a new step in her vocation as a Catholic teacher. Please pray for the School as we seek a worthy replacement. A Happy Christmas to our school!

SEA SUNDAY: Today is **Sea Sunday** (postponed from July), when the church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Without them we would not have most of the items we buy in the shops. Today's second collection is for the apostleship of the sea, the Catholic churches official maritime welfare agency. It supports Seafarers both practically and spiritually. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue it's important work. [Sea Sunday - Stella Maris](https://www.stellamaris.org.uk/what-we-do/sea-sunday) <https://www.stellamaris.org.uk/what-we-do/sea-sunday> To donate, please visit the website or text SEA to 70460 to donate £5pounds This great work depends on your generosity - thank you.



THE CHRISTMAS GOSPELS: Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, has prepared a series of reflections on the 'Christmas gospels', the gospel passages read from 17th December until 6th January. Video of the talks can be accessed by going to www.whatgoodnews.org

VICTORY PRIZE DRAW WINNERS FOR DECEMBER:

1st Prize £100 ticket No 52 A Williamson

2nd Prize £50 ticket No 16 B Stewart

3rd Prize £30 ticket No 274 M Ockenden

Annual ticket holders are reminded that they need to renew in January 2021



UPDATE ON COVID-19 AND VACCINATION: In September 2020 the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales issued a statement COVID-19 and Vaccination (24 September 2020). In the light of the recent breakthrough in vaccine development they have now issued a follow up statement (3rd December 2020) which can be found on the CBCEW website along with the original September statement As I understand it they are morally acceptable in this situation even though one or two have a remote link to aborted children. Link: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/update-on-covid-19-and-vaccination/>

TO OUR CATHOLIC UNIVERSE AND CATHOLIC TIMES READERS IN THE PARISH - at the moment you are unable to collect your paper at Mass, but you can get it delivered direct to your home every week, POST FREE. Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you. SPECIAL OFFER 3 MONTHS :-£22.00 or 12 Months:- £80.00