

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

It has been quite a year with the pandemic I think over 126,000 people have died over this time in our country alone and over 3 million worldwide. The reality of death has been brought into sharp focus and thus again the preciousness of human life of each person. Many have suffered a loss and to make matters worse, they have not been able to be with their loved one at that time because of the pandemic. As a priest I have felt that several times when somebody has died without me knowing or being aware or being able to be there for the family. The moments of dying are very special, God filled and graced filled. They are the finale of a human life which has had the dignity of being in the image and likeness of God from the beginning of life at conception.

Each human life comes from God creative will and love and is a gift. I think we all sense that. Even nonbelievers are aware that a human being is "something more". We are more than mere atoms or biological process is or psychological mechanisms or indeed animals. That "something more" comes from God. We call it the soul which makes us in the image of God, receivers of life from him alone. We cannot be masters of life and death because we have not given ourselves life. God did and indeed continues each moment to sustain us in existence. That truth and dignity must be upheld from conception to natural death.

The evil one hates and is jealous of the dignity of human beings and seeks to destroy human life whenever he can by deceiving many about this truth with lies. We see that in our societies in a preminent threat with the prevalence of abortion and pressure for Euthanasia already present through such things as the Liverpool Care pathway and the mounting pressure to legalise Assisted Suicide. The American Bishops use the image of the seamless garment to describe the dignity of human life. It has to be protected in all stages for human dignity to be protected at all. If one aspect is threatened all human dignity is undermined and the human being tends to be treated as an object rather than a person. What John Paul II called the culture of death. It leads to a use and throwaway logic when the elderly sick, handicapped & dying are seen as a burden and one liberalisation leads to another. This has been seen in Holland where children are now killed. If we do not hold onto the "something more" of the human being we lose everything. As a young teenager I heard a talk at school I think by a Jesuit Fr Powell who passionately described the death camps for the disabled in Germany before the Nazi's took power.

There is a real threat to life in our country in the form of Assisted suicide. Bishop John Sherrington (a former priest of our Diocese) is the lead bishop on Life. He has said: *we are now faced with the very real threat of the legalisation of 'assisted suicide' in our country. It is not a question of 'if' this challenge will come, it is now a question of 'when?' There is now a Private Members Bill in the House of Lords on so-called 'Assisted Dying' and it is only a matter of time before the issue is back in the House of Commons.*

We have to fight these threats to life. Sometimes, we think there is no point. It is inevitable they succeed. We grow tired or disheartened. This is not Christian. In obedience to God and out of love for our fellow men and women, we must speak about what is right and wrong, give witness in our support and care to all in difficult situations such as single parents or those with elderly and sick relatives or handicapped children. Many do that wonderfully in the pro life movement. Not to mention so many who do it as nurses in hospital or care home workers. We counter the culture of death with a civilisation of love. Assisted suicide, as Pope Francis reminds us, is a "false compassion" and its remedy is one of true compassion, a patient *suffering with the vulnerable, sick and dying*. A "true compassion," he says, is "the just response to the immense value of the sick person." This is a compassion which finds expression in treating the dying person with love, with dignity and by making use of appropriate palliative care. Life is a gift to be valued until its last breath and countless people have witnessed to this holistic vision of dying and then indeed accepting death as coming from God in its due time.

Finally may encourage you to remind friends and relatives to ask the dying person if they want to see a priest to give them the help of Christ in the sacraments. Many forget this .



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

Parish Priest: Fr. Chris O'Connor
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Email: parishpriest@olvic.com
Convent: Presentation Sisters 01858-462432
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: Catherine Parry 01858 434959

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

20th June 2021
12th of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 4

Times of Services

Sunday: 12th of Ordinary Time

Sat. 6.00pm: Private Int (O'Malley)

9.00am: Mass: Gerry White Ints

11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

Monday: St Aloysius Gonzaga

Private Mass: Jim Geehan RIP

Tuesday: Sts John Fisher & Thomas More, Martyrs

10.00am Mass: Norman Phillips (Birthday)

Wednesday: Feria

Private Mass: November Dead List

Thursday: THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

2.30pm: Funeral of Marjorie Bennett

Friday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Fr Owen O'Neill RIP (Hall)

Saturday: Feria

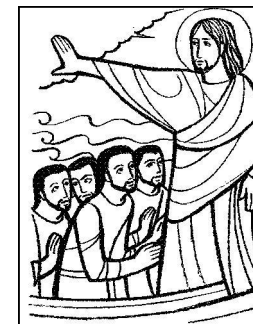
10.00am: First Holy Communion

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 27th June - Fr Owen O'Neill RIP (O'Malley)

Sunday: 13th of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am Mass: Mary Cunliffe RIP (James)



*Who can this be?
Even the wind and
sea obey him.*

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

2nd Collection for the day for life this weekend

FR CHRIS WRITES: Alas we continue with restrictions for the next month. However, I am sure it will be for the best although there will be many who will suffer in their livelihoods. Our First Communion celebration will go ahead on Saturday thank God although with limited numbers. However, the most important thing is that our Children receive Our Lord for the first time.

Also, Bishop Patrick is coming to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Monday 5th July for our young people. Again the numbers will be limited. Please pray for them all that they may all receive a true out pouring of the Holy Spirit.

On Friday Year 5 from school will be joining us for the 10.00am Mass.

The proposed women's day of prayer has been postponed sadly.

The Church is open for Private prayer each day

Enter through Fairfield Rd Sanitize your hands on Entry & Exit

Please sign in on the list or use the Covid NHS App Q code displayed

'DAY FOR LIFE (19/20 June 2021): In 2020 we were unable to hold the annual 'Day for Life' collection because of the pandemic, and so the funds are very much depleted. This fund is used to support 'Pro-Life' organisations who raise awareness

and who engage in parliamentary work and pastoral outreach. The Nottingham Pro-life group have benefitted from a grant to support their work. But, in addition, we are also now faced, as you know, with the very real threat of the legalisation of 'assisted suicide' in our country. There is already a Private Members Bill in the House of Lords. Financial resources will be needed to resist this. This year's theme for 'Day for Life' focusses on assisted suicide. There is a second collection this weekend week.



VICTORY PRIZE DRAW:

Results of the Prize Draw for June:

1st Prize £70 D Morgan ticket No.38

2nd Prize £30 M Packer ticket No.46

3rd Prize £20 E Kendall ticket No.194

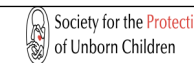
ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC ACADEMY, Market Harborough We are seeking to appoint an excellent Office Administration Assistant to join our happy and successful school from August 2021. We are looking to appoint a member of staff to cover 17.5 hours per week (9:00 – 12:30pm Monday to Friday). This is a permanent position. Closing Date for applications is Midnight Sunday 26th of June. Interviews will be held during the week of the 5th July. Visits to the school are welcome and you can arrange to visit by telephoning the school office on 01858 465359. See [St. Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Coventry Road, Market Harborough \(stjosephs.leics.sch.uk\)](http://St.Joseph's.Catholic.Voluntary.Academy.Coventry.Road.Market.Harborough.stjosephs.leics.sch.uk)



MARKET HARBOROUGH STREET PASTORS: are back on the streets again meeting "real" people and after a very difficult year, once again being able to bring the life and works of Christ to the people of our town. *The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few! Could this be your calling too? There is a pressing and urgent need for more people (like you), to come and help. We need prayer warriors, board members and most of all.....boots on the street. Why not check out our Facebook page and view the new video Or if you are feeling God's calling to come and help, we would be delighted to hear from you www.marketharborough.streetpastors.org.uk . Stephen Morse Administrator 07504 221 696 . marketharborough@streetpastors.org.uk*



SPUC MIDLANDS REGIONAL CONFERENCE SATURDAY 3RD JULY 2021, 10.30am-3.30pm THE BECKET SCHOOL, NOTTINGHAM NG2 7QY Tickets: adult - £5 student/unwaged - £3 family (2 adults and children) - £10. *Payment for places and refreshments will be taken on the day (no card payments, so please pay by cash or cheque). Refreshments and lunch available (for a donation). To reserve a place/s at the conference, please register online at <https://forms.gle/uBovKgo2YLXX5uoX6> (If you are unable to use the link, email: johnvedwards56@gmail.com or Tel 07757815625) Please see poster for further info. Fr Chris can give you a copy.*



ARE YOU CALLED? The Vocations Team are holding their next Zoom café on Monday 12th July at 7 pm. This month's guest speaker is Maggie Mairura from CAFOD who will be talking about how she lives her call today. If you would like to know more about Vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life and would like to meet the team please email Diane at vocationsadmin@dioceseofnottingham.uk for the Zoom link. A warm welcome awaits you. Cf <https://nottinghamvocations.co.uk/>

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the Soul of **Marjorie Bennett** who died last week. Her funeral will be on Thursday 24th June at 2.30pm. There should be room for parishioners to come. Also for **Margaret Wells** who died last Saturday whose funeral will be on 30th June at 10.00am. May they rest in peace.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE: Friday 2nd July @ 4pm Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church Now postponed again sadly.

THE GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK: On Wednesday 23rd June, the Vigil of St John the Baptist, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. On this month's Day of Prayer and Fasting for Life, we are especially asking you to fast and pray for the end of DIY abortions at home. Please join in and invite others to join as well. <https://www.facebook.com/events/121521016724148>

GRAPEVINE NEW EDITION: Grapevine is the Diocesan Newsletter for Adult formation, Justice & Peace and Caritas in our diocese. **This week** there are various bits of news and events. Please ctrl + click on the image above or [this link](#):



NEWS FROM THE BISHOP'S CONFERENCE can be found at [Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales \(cbcew.org.uk\)](http://Catholic.Bishops.Conference.of.England.and.Wales.cbcew.org.uk) on all sort of areas.



COMPLETE THE SURVEY: HOW HAS COVID-19 AFFECTED YOU AND YOUR FAITH? Bishop Patrick would like to hear from you! The Diocese of Nottingham has launched a short survey in order to deepen its understanding of Covid-19's impact on all Catholics across the diocese. Bishop Patrick is eager to know more about peoples' experiences of the pandemic, with a view to ensuring that the faithful are well supported and understood in the years ahead. Please visit <https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/whats-on/news/share-your-story-how-has-covid-19-affected-you-and-your-faith> and fill out the short questionnaire. Please encourage other parishioners to do so. **The deadline for submissions is July 4th 2021.**

