

		Sat. 6.00 pm	Sunday, 9.00 am	11.00 a.m.
Readers	20/21 August	N. Williamson	P. Green	R. Lewin
	27/28 August	M. Atkins	T. Snell	B. Tyrrell

FR CHRIS' THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY: *A great Sign appeared in the heavens; a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on Jesus is continuing along the road to Jerusalem and some lucky man has the chance to ask him a question. I wonder what we would ask him, what would be a good question? This man is concerned about salvation how many will be saved or will only a few be saved? It is not a silly question. Indeed, there is a somewhat heated debate amongst some Catholic thinkers about this. Are there people in hell how many if any? Jesus does not answer the man's question and he would not answer our question about hell. Really, it's none of our business. CS Lewis in the Narnia books writes about this when Aslan the lion who in some way represents Christ will never tell one person about another person's story. Rather what should concern us our own choices and decisions and what we make of life. Jesus' answer is: "Strive to enter the narrow gate!" We should not worry about abstract questions like the exact number or percentage of people who will end up being saved which will not help us but rather our concern should be for our own salvation because indeed that road that path is not easy. It is narrow. It is the road that Christ takes the road of sacrificial love that takes us to Jerusalem. It is a faith made alive by Charity.*

The narrow gate is not something complicated but rather we must respond to the very simple call of Jesus throughout the gospel: repent and believe the good news, deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Jesus. It is a call which implies a choice yes or no: to live his teaching as in the Sermon of the Mount to take his words seriously. This is the narrow gate as it implies rejecting many things which are incompatible with the Gospel. Each choice involves the narrow door of personal responsibility every day. We cannot just slip in with the crowd passively and unnoticed as in the great gates of Jerusalem doing what everyone else does. We know what we should be doing, our conscience tells us. The easier way of going with the flow of the crowd will not save us. Still less should we presume. Jesus warns his listeners who might say that they ate and drank in his company and hears his teaching when the moment of judgement comes. They will find themselves cast out because they did nothing about it. They did not repent. These words speak to us Christians who in the Eucharist eat and drink with him. We hear his teachings in the scripture, we are familiar with him. But that is not enough we have to take his words seriously not only hear them but do them. And the shock is there will be many at the heavenly banquet who might surprise us totally when we find ourselves outside. The words of Jesus are strong and urgent as he said throughout his ministry: **now is the time**. Mere faith in Jesus and membership in His Church by Baptism cannot guarantee salvation. We must persevere in Charity.

The "narrow road" or "narrow gate" concerns our everyday living—our relationships with God and with one another as in the Sermon of the Mount. To enter the narrow gate involves being with the blessed ones (poor, peacemakers, persecuted, etc), being salt and light consistently, following Jesus' radical way about anger, lust, divorce, truth-telling, choosing mercy over revenge, loving enemies. It involves pursuing the Kingdom and God's justice instead of fame and fortune; and it involves not condemning others. It involves repentance, obedience, humility, righteousness, truth and discipleship. All this through grace. It is through the grace of Christ that we can live out God's Life in us — a grace that is fortified every time we participate in the Holy Eucharist, are reconciled with God in Confession, and meditate on His Word.

Venerable Bishop Fulton J. Sheen says that we will have three surprises in Heaven: 1) There will be many there whom we never expected; b) there will be many absent whom we expected to see; and c) we will be surprised to find that we ourselves have got in!



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

21st August 2022
21st Week of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 1

Parish Priest: Fr. Chris O'Connor
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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: 21st of Ordinary Time

Sat. 6.00pm: Clive Blencowe RIP (Angela)
9.00am Mass: Gurmen Sari RIP (Agatha)
11.00am Mass: People of the Parish

Monday: The Queenship of Mary

9.00am Mass: Personal Int

Tuesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Anne Hill RIP (Wallace)

Wednesday: ST BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE

10.00am Mass: Personal Int
2.00pm Funeral Michael Everitt RIP

Thursday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Anne Hill RIP (Masding) with our school staff

Friday: Feria

7.00pm Mass: Clive Blencowe RIP (Angela)

Saturday: St Monica

6.00pm Mass: Boswell Family

Sunday: 22nd of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: Mary Lai (Sari)
11.00am Mass: People of the Parish



*Men from east and west
will come to take their
places at the feast in the
Kingdom of God.*

CONFESSIONS
11am &
5.15 -5.45pm
Saturdays

Rosary at 4.30pm

This Sunday in front of Our Lady's statue outside the Church

PLEASE NOTE: Booking is no longer needed for Masses. However, please sanitise as you enter the church and we encourage people to wear masks but please respect those who do not. Please to not come to Mass if

A RUMMAGE SALE will take place in the octagonal hall on **Saturday 3rd of September 9.00am – 12 noon**. Good as New items, bric-a-brac, tea and coffee, cakes, raffle. All welcome. please bring items for Sale by Friday prior two sale



EVENTS FOR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE DIOCESE: Following the great successes of the men's and women's Lenten retreats, and the desire for distinct events focused on fraternity and sorority support in faith, the Diocese of Nottingham has organised events this October for men and women. On **Saturday 8th October** our men's ministry team has organised a walking pilgrimage to the Shrine of Saint Joseph in the Peak District for Men (total 5 mile walk) followed by a pub lunch. On **Saturday 29th October** our women's ministry team will host a talk and discussion at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Bulwell (Nottingham) on the role of Women Leadership in the Church, followed by Afternoon Tea. For more information and to book a place visit www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events, call 0115 953 9841, or email adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk

The **OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PEACE, PILGRIMAGE** to Walsingham will resume this year on August Bank Holiday Monday, 29th August 2022. The pilgrimage will be led by Fr Anthony Meredith I C (Institute of Charity otherwise known as the Rosminians) and gather at the Catholic shrine at 1.15pm. See poster.

STEP INTO THE GAP is a fully funded year of volunteering with CAFOD in a UK placement with immersive and interactive experiences, developing leadership skills while learning about global justice and inspiring others to use their faith in action. CAFOD's **Step into the Gap** program offers young people a chance the volunteer with CAFOD for a year, in our diocese, and based at The Briars. There is still a vacancy for this opportunity in 2022-23, and applications are open. Further information from Will Cruddace – 07710 094455. To find out more go to: youngleader-ship@cafod.org.uk; www.cafod.org.uk/gapyear

RETRouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 13 - 16 October or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 24 - 26 February 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk



IRELAND PILGRIMAGES REUNION: Thursday 8th September in Lutterworth. 10.30am Parish mass followed by coffee. Catch up and buffet lunch. parking at the church which is right next to father John Joe's house at 28 Bitteswell road, Lutterworth, LE17 4EY. please tell any former pilgrims who you think might be able to come. Some people may need a lift if you can offer one. See poster in the porch.

MARCH FOR LIFE: This year marks the sad milestone of 10 million abortions in the UK since the 1967 Abortion Act. It is more important than ever that all people of goodwill, and especially Catholics, give public witness to the inalienable dignity of human life. We can do so at the annual March for Life held on Saturday 3rd September. Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate Mass at 11.00am in Saint George's Cathedral, Southwark, LifeFest22 is a pro-life, family friendly festival held from 10.30am until 1.30pm at the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street SW1P 3DW. The March itself starts at the Emmanuel Centre at 2.00pm, proceeding to Parliament Square, where there will be testimony and speeches, with the day concluding at 4.30pm. Our witness is vital; please do encourage parishioners to attend this event, or to join in prayer on that day. More information can be found at: <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk>

KEY HOLDERTS: We need to establish a list of key holders to Parish Property. I do not have one. Could those who hold keys to the Church Hall or Presbytery let me know what keys they hold. Many thanks

CATHOLIC VOICES and WORD ON FIRE are hosting a conference called **Sharing the Church's Story**. Join Catholics who are passionate about the renewal of the Church in the UK, and a host of dynamic speakers including Bishop Robert Barron. This conference is for all: volunteers, parents, catechists, clergy, and religious. The Conference is being held on Saturday 17th September, 10.00am – 6.00pm, at Friends House, Euston Road, London; more details at: www.sharingthechurchsstory.com

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY - New admissions 2023: We are delighted to be holding an Open Morning on Friday the 16th of September to welcome parents / guardians and children who are looking for school places for August 2023. Please come along to see our wonderful school.

Refreshments 9 - 9:30am, Welcome from Mrs. Dabbs, Headteacher 9:30, Tours of school 9:45 - 11am

No bookings are necessary; please contact Mrs Liddle at the school office if you have any questions or would like to arrange an alternative time. 01858 465359

office@stjosephs.leics.sch.uk

ST BERNADETTE RELIC TOUR 2022: In September and October this year the relics of St Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage to England, Scotland, and Wales for the very first time. This very special once in a lifetime event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes, in a church or cathedral near them. The Relics will be in our diocese on: • Thursday 6th October, in Saint Bernadette's church, Scunthorpe; 8.00am – 5.00pm. • Thursday 6th October – Friday 7th October, in Saint Barnabas Cathedral; 6.30pm (Thursday) – 10.30am (Friday). A preview of the Relics Tour can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFRMlvD9Ail>, and booking to visit the relics can be made via the link here: <https://stbernadette.org.uk> Do consider coming to this unique spiritual event, giving thanks to God for the miracles of Lourdes, and praying for healing in so many ways in our own lives and in our world.

