

**ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! - THE GREEN LIGHT.** This very second, I have received an email from the Vicar General of our Diocese, with responsibility for Leicestershire, stating that they have accepted and approved our submission to open our Church doors for private prayer only, during the permitted hours requested by us. Great news indeed. After all those weeks, parishioners will again be able to visit the Church at specified times for private prayer **ALLELUIA: ALLELUIA: ALLELUIA. PRAISE THE LORD.** Permitted times of opening - see below. Times will also be posted on the Church doors.

**AS FROM THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 21st., OUR CHURCH DOORS WILL BE OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER FROM 10a.m. – 12 NOON, THIS SUNDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY. PLEASE OBSERVE STRICTLY THE REQUIRED REGULATIONS, AND FOLLOW THE REQUEST OF THE TWO STEWARDS THAT MUST BE ON DUTY FOR ALL OPENING TIMES.**

## Staying COVID-19 Secure in 2020

We confirm we have complied with the government's guidance on managing the risk of COVID-19

### FIVE STEPS TO SAFER WORKING TOGETHER

- ✓ We have carried out a **COVID-19 risk assessment** and shared the results with the people who work here
- ✓ We have **cleaning, handwashing and hygiene procedures** in line with guidance
- ✓ We have taken all reasonable steps to **help people work from home**
- ✓ We have taken all reasonable steps to **maintain a 2m distance** in the workplace
- ✓ Where people cannot be 2m apart, we have done everything practical to **manage transmission risk**

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Who to contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Health and Safety Representative  
(or the Health and Safety Executive at [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk) or 0300 003 1647)



# Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

21st June 2020  
Week 12 of Ordinary Time  
Psalter Week 4

Parish Priest: Fr. Owen O'Neill  
Tel: House: 01858 - 462359  
Email: [owen@olvic.com](mailto:owen@olvic.com)  
Convent: Presentation Sisters 01858-462432  
Catholic Club: 01858 463 601  
Parish Website: [www.olvic.com](http://www.olvic.com)  
Safeguarding Representatives: Christine Reed and Theresa Kendrick 07748591398 / 01858465637  
Diocese of Nottingham: Company Number 7151646  
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: Stephen McGlone 01858-465939  
Parish Pastoral Council Members: see photos on notice board

It seems such a long time since I prepared a Newsletter in the ordinary way. For many weeks now, I have begun the front page with "a kind of letter on the state of affairs", followed by a few notices, with some kind of spiritual exhortation, encouragement, call it what you like, on the back page. I wonder when, and if we can get back to the "ordinary", or what the "ordinary" is going to be in the future. It is a question of "wait and see".

On Sunday last, I "bubbled up" with my Priest friend Fr. John Joe, now happily retired and living in Lutterworth, where all being well, I too hope to be in September. Anyway as a result of being able to "bubble up", he had prepared lunch, and very good it was too – a good substantial plain dinner, no niceties, no finesse, but very good nourishing food, followed by a rather delicious sweet with the ingredients and taste of Fr. J. J.'s secret recipe!!!!!! It was all very nice and in particular to be able to catch up after 10 weeks apart.

I have been pulling my hair out - the little that is left, with sheer frustration over this past week, through trying to get our church ready for opening for private prayer. You have no idea of the regulations and impositions being imposed on us. I am so very fortunate in having such reliable and knowledgeable P.P.C. members, Health and Safety advisers, and Parish Safeguarding Officers on the spot. What smaller parishes are going to do I really cannot imagine. Anyway, this very weekend, we will have submitted our Risk Assessment to the Diocese. Hopefully it will be accepted and approved in time for us to open for Private prayer only in the very near future. We have no idea yet as to when we can open for public worship or what conditions will be imposed on us. More on this when available to us.

Observing events world wide at the present time, whilst there are many issues and matters of justice, equality, dignity and respect for all God's creation, I wonder and ponder if somewhere along the way, we have lost our soul, our real focus on the Creator, our purpose of life here on earth, how we should, or rather must treat each other, and respect one another. Or is it just me beginning to reminisce, or to show signs of dementia in my growing more mature in age ??????

Like me, I'm sure many of you will have welcomed some sport back on our T.V. channels. Strange, almost eerie, without live crowd participation or atmosphere. But at least good to see some movement in that direction at present. I suppose little steps towards a life style we will all have to adapt to, in one way or another.

As I am preparing this Newsletter, there has been a Government announcement on a turnabout re. School vouchers for children during the Summer holidays. This has been largely brought about by the profile, personality, presentation and the young life experience of the Manchester United young footballer Marcus Rashford. I have been really touched by this, not because I am a Manchester United fan, but by the influence of such a young man who had experienced that kind of life and need. How lovely to hear him speak of his mother and her great efforts to raise her family. A hero on the football pitch – yes. But now a bigger hero off the pitch because of what he has achieved, and hopefully will continue to achieve and highlight the poor in our society, and influence Governments and all of us to be aware of the needs of others. How nice to hear our Prime Minister say that he had spoken to Marcus Rashford and congratulated him on his campaign. And so say all of us. Well done young man. And now for more spiritual matters and turning to our Mass Readings for this 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Year A.

**Our 1<sup>st</sup> Reading from the Old Testament** is from the Prophet Jeremiah Ch. 20: v. 10 -13 which tells us that the knowledge and faith to believe that God was with him, helped Jeremiah to remain faithful to the difficult task as a prophet, in spite of opposition and fear.

**Our 2<sup>nd</sup>. Reading is from St. Paul's letter to the Romans** Ch. 5: v.12 – 15. where St. Paul draws a contrast between Adam and Christ, saying that sin came to the world through one man Adam, just as grace and redemption came to the world through one man Jesus Christ.

**Our Gospel Reading is from St. Matthew Ch.** 10: v.26 – 33. when Christ exhorts his disciples to openly and fearlessly proclaim and give witness to the Gospel and it's teaching, assuring them of God's special care and power in all their trials and challenges.

When Jesus sent his Apostles and Disciples out to teach and preach his Gospel message, he knew that they would be afraid, that they would be fearful of the abuse, the challenges and the physical attacks on their person. So, not just once, but **three times he tells them "not to be afraid"**. *It is normal; and natural to think that from time to time, we too are, and will be afraid to openly acknowledge our faith, our commitment to our Parish and our weekly Mass. Isn't comforting to know that many wonderful people, who have accomplished great things, also showed elements of fear in their witness and defence. To-day's first Reading from Jeremiah is a fine example. We know too that Martin Luther King had times and bouts of great fear. And so did Jesus Himself in the garden of Gethsemane and on the Cross at Calvary – "Father, why has thou abandoned me". Yes, its human and natural to show fear from time to time. But beneath that fear, hear Jesus whispering to you "Do not be afraid, know that I am with you...I am at your side". Do your best to humbly and prayerfully profess your faith, to defend your faith, and to live your faith. Remember that lovely hymn we sing from time to time "Walk with me O my Lord, through the darkest night and brightest day. Be at my side O Lord; hold my hand and guide me on my way.*

#### **A CELTIC PRAYER.**

*I rise to-day  
with God's strength to direct me  
with God's wisdom to guide me,  
God's eyes to look before me,  
God's ear to hear me'  
God's word to speak for me,  
God's hand to uphold me,  
God's pathway before me,  
God's shield to protect me,  
God's host to save me-  
from temptations,  
from one person or many  
that seek to destroy me. Amen*

**NOT FOR SALE :** A wealthy lady dreamed that she went to heaven. St Peter was on hand to escort her to the home that was prepared for her. They came to some lovely mansions, and she hoped that one of these was reserved for her, but they passed them by. Then they approached the most beautiful house that she had ever seen. "Oh" she cried, "is this mine?". "No" said Peter, "that one belongs to your gardener".

They walked through streets of smaller houses, till they came to a region of mere huts. At last St. Peter stopped before a particularly miserable hovel. "I could never live there" the woman cried. "I am accustomed to every comfort". "I am sorry," said Peter, "**but this was the best we could do with the material that you sent up**"!!!!

**SO FAR - SO GOOD :** With the help of a few of our P.P.C members, together with our Parish Health and Safety Officer and our Parish Safeguarding Officer, we completed and submitted our Safeguarding Policy for the opening of the Church for Private Prayer. This application has to be submitted to the Diocese. Thankfully our written application has been accepted. I have had to send in photos of the Church entrance and exit doors, together with how and where we have marked off the inside of the Church with 2 metre distance points, direction foot-steps, seats and whereabouts in the seats people can sit, how the 2 stewards on duty for every opening session have been trained, have they been fitted with the proper equipment for personal protection, and for the protection of all who enter the Church to pray etc. etc. etc. As I prepare this Newsletter on Thursday morning, I am still waiting to hear if our photos have been accepted and approved, and if and when, we will get the green light to open for private prayer only. By the way, a very special thank you to those who have volunteered to act as stewards.

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK** (in no particular order). *The Parishioners; Walter Fialkowski R.I.P.; Norman Phillips R.I.P. - birthday memento; God's comfort for May McCabe; God's blessings on Sr. Eileen; Pat Curran R.I.P.; Personal int.*

#### **MARKET HARBOROUGH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH: JOB OPPORTUNITY - LETTINGS ADMINISTRATOR.**

**The church seeks to appoint a highly motivated person to support users of the premises. Maintain and develop efficient processes and encourage new business. A successful candidate will be able to demonstrate good IT and interpersonal skills - and will be committed to the wellbeing and purposes of this Christian Church.**

**Place of work:** Congregational Church, Bowden Road, Market Harborough, LE16 7AF.

**Working Hours:** 10 hours per week - with some work from home.

**Rate of Pay:** £10 an hour.

#### **Outline of Responsibility:**

- To deliver efficient processes including: scheduling use of building, issuing invoices and maintaining records;
- To secure new business;
- To induct new users and support existing users;
- To answer enquiries efficiently and helpfully;
- To identify and act on opportunities for development and improvement of our service.

**Applications:** Application information is available from: Mrs Margaret Nash, Secretary, Market Harborough Congregational Church. magala1@outlook.com / 01858 288206.

The deadline for completes applications is midnight on **Monday 6th July 2020.**

**MAGGIE'S FACE MASKS :** Although Maggie and her small group of volunteers had thought they had finished their Face Mask making, by popular demand, they have had to restart their commitment again. This time round their Face Masks will be even stronger and safer being 3 ply (3 layers). The Masks will be on sale outside the Catholic Club on Coventry Road on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10.30 a.m. to 3.30p.m. All proceeds to a specified charity. To order ring Mary Danks on 01858 463922 or Maggie on 07866147556

**A SLIGHT DAMPER ON PROCEEDINGS, BUT MUST BE DONE :** News has reached us that the light fittings for the new lighting system in the Church, should all be with the Electricians who have got the contract, by Friday 26<sup>th</sup>. June. The Electricians hope to start work on replacing the old lighting system as quickly as is possible for them, after that date. This in practice will mean that the Church doors will be closed on weekdays for 3 weeks after the work has begun, but the Church will be open for our specified hours at the week ends. So it is now a further question of "**wait and see – watch this space**". *You will be kept fully informed as events unfold and take place.*

**OCTAGONAL HALL: KAVANAGH ROOM: DE TRAFFORD ROOM:** You are all familiar with these titles. They are of course our ancillary rooms which form part of our Parish Community Centre. The Catholic Club is a separate building and is a members Club, so apart from the actual building, the Club itself is independent of the Parish with it's own constitution and with it's own committee, but with the expectation that it would always be run and directed with a Catholic ethos, and in and within, Catholic standards and expectations. So the Club will decide for itself, when allowed to do so, to open, subject to Government regulations. Our ancillary rooms can only be opened for continued use, when we are allowed to do so by the Diocese, and when the Diocese is given Government approval to do so. Some occupants seem to think that we can open whenever we like. Not so. We are, like everybody else, bound by Government regulations and Diocesan permissions.