

CAFOD: Our CAFOD fast Day Collection has raised over £1000 in total which is brilliant. Remember, it's not too late to give to our Lent appeal. www.cafod.org.uk/lent



VACANCY: The Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Education Service is seeking to appoint a **Deputy Director of Education** who will provide a strategic lead in the areas of Catholic Life, Formation, Inspection, Religious Education and Collective Worship.

For further information / application pack or if you wish to arrange an informal conversation with the Director of Education, please contact Julie Sweeney: julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk **Closing date 30 March 2021**

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS ON THE READINGS:

"Sir, we would like to see Jesus." Our Gospel begins with this most beautiful prayer of some Greek Gentiles who have come to worship God in at Passover. So simple and powerful, it moves Jesus with both joy and foreboding as his soul is troubled. Joy in that his Father is drawing all people to himself but foreboding at the coming passion he must undergo. We are not told whether he speaks to the Greeks, but he points them to the place of encounter where they can best "see" him: on the cross when he is lifted up. There is where he is best known and seen as John says in the Passion: *they will look on the one they have pierced*. There is the heart of God revealed. Jesus reveals himself to all of us.

Christ wants everyone to find him, to see him, to learn to know his love and love him - that is why he became man in the first place and gave himself up to be crucified. The crucifixion exposes his heart for all to see - a heart blazing with so much love that it is willing to die for our sake, to suffer unspeakable pain and humiliation, the weight of sin itself in order to draw us to him. That is what is troubling him in the Gospel to the depth of his soul: the hour of glory with its terrible suffering as he takes on the sins of the world. He desires to do the Father's will by glorifying his name and to draw everyone to himself, but at the same time he recoils from it humanly speaking.

This is also described in our second reading in the letter to the Hebrews. *Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard*. This is a description of the Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane and I suspect other times as well. He prays to the father to take away the Cup of suffering to come but no matter what he feels, he will submit to the Father's will of absolute love. As the Author writes in an extraordinary phrase, he learns to obey through suffering. He always obeyed the Father, but he experiences that full obedience in his human nature; he experiences all the suffering that came with that as he foresaw the horrors to come. Thus, he learned obedience. We must never understate Our Lord's full humanity. And thus indeed is he the "perfect" Saviour and redeemer who understands all our fears and agonies in life and death and how we too recoil from certain things.

May those Greeks inspire us to desire, to "see" him. That is perhaps our prayer for the coming days to look with our heart and soul on Jesus, to allow him to draw us to him, to give him some time and space in our heart. A few minutes of prayer simply reading some of the Passion narrative. We could go to bed a bit earlier and read or dwell on him as we walk along. It need not be lengthy as the Holy father often says but we need to give him our attention. God is never outdone in generosity. We can have in our minds and heart the Good Friday Liturgy when the cross will be lifted up and we will look on him. We aim for that moment.



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

Parish Priest: Fr. Chris O'Connor
Tel: House: 01858 462359
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

21st March 2021
Fifth Week of Lent
Psalter Week 1

Times of Services

Sunday: 5th of Lent

Sat 6.00pm: Mass - Margaret Cotter RIP
9.00am: Mass: Kevin Stafford RIP (Furlong)
11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

Monday: Lenten Feria

Private Mass: Paul Singleton RIP

Tuesday: Lenten Feria

National day of Reflection & Prayer for the Pandemic

10.00am Mass: Fr Owen (Philips)

Wednesday: Lenten Feria

Private Mass: Flint family (Int C)

Thursday: THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

9.30am Mass: Alison Smith RIP

Friday: Lenten Feria

9.30am: STATIONS OF THE CROSS
10.00am: Public Mass: Sr Assumpta Mulroe RIP (Sisters)

Saturday: Lenten Feria

11.00am - Sacrament of Reconciliation - CONFESSION
6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 28th March: Sheila Plowright RIP (Pat & Angela)

Palm Sunday:

9.00am: Mass: People of the Parish
11.00am: Mass: Karen McVea Ints (Governors)

We say a big, big thank you to Mrs McVea as she leaves St Joseph's after 11 years and wish her well in her great Vocation & career as a Catholic Headteacher at Holy Cross

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

TO PRE BOOK TO COME TO MASS:

You can only make your booking on Thursday or Friday evenings between 5pm and 7pm. (Please note just Thursday and Friday Now)

BOOK NOW

TO BOOK TO COME TO THE 6PM MASS, please ring Angela Wade on 01858 462293.

TO BOOK TO COME TO THE 9AM MASS, please ring Jo Shellard on 01858 440983.

TO BOOK TO COME TO THE 11AM MASS, please ring Stephen McGlone on 01858 465939.



If a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

FR CHRIS WRITES

We are nearly there! Today we move toward Holy week as we celebrate 5th Sunday of Lent, when what is known as Passiontide begins. Our thoughts go to the Passion of our Lord approaching.

We have planned the times for Holy Week

Palm Sunday times as normal

Maundy Thursday 7.00pm

Good Friday: liturgy of the Passion 3.00pm

Stations of the Cross 7.00pm

Easter vigil: 7.30pm – First Mass of easter: Mother of all Masses

Easter Sunday: 9.00 & 11.00am

God Willing, we will be able to celebrate the Liturgies this year together even if with reduced numbers.

Also the Liturgies will be much simpler due to time considerations. There will be no washing of the feet,

Watching at the Altar of repose, kissing of the cross and the Easter vigil will be curtailed with no Easter Fire and of course there can be no singing by the congregation, but hopefully we will have some singing by cantors.. But we will appreciate these things even more.

Sadly, (the Chrim Mass 31st March at 11.30 am): will be closed to the general public due to the restrictions on numbers permitted to gather for public worship during the time of the Covid-19 Pandemic, only members of the presbyterate have been invited to attend. The Mass will be live streamed and recorded and can be watched via the Cathedral website: stbarnabascathedral.org.uk

PS Clocks go forward next Sun Morning

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Make National Day of Reflection on Pandemic a Day of Prayer

The National Day of Reflection for COVID-19 Tuesday 23rd March 2021 We welcome the designation of Tuesday 23rd March as a National Day of Reflection

to mark the anniversary of the first national lockdown with a minute's silence at midday and doorstep vigils of light at 8pm. **We ask you all to make this not only a Day of Reflection but also a Day of Prayer.** In reflection we ponder on all that has taken place; in prayer we bring this to our Heavenly Father. For all who live by faith in God, reflection and prayer always go hand in hand. Prayer completes reflection. Reflection informs prayer. Prayer opens our life to its true horizon. Without prayer we live in a foreshortened world and are more easily swamped by its clamour and tragedy. Throughout this difficult year, so many have been inspired by prayer, so much effort sustained in prayer, in every place. **So let us make the 23rd March truly a day of prayer. There will be Mass at 10.00am.**

The Bishops say: *March 2020 (21st I think) was the first time our churches had to be closed. It is our hope that on this day, every one of our churches will be open. We invite everyone to enter a church on this day, to reflect and pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. So, our church will remain open during the Day so I ask you to pop in a pray before the Blessed Sacrament.. I shall be around and I ask you to sanitize as you come in and leave and to leave a piece of paper where you have sat so I can clean it or bring your own wipe to do it !! See Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales (cbcew.org.uk) for full statement.*



POSSIBLE DATES FOR REOPENING:

Baptisms & Weddings from 17th May 2021 with up to 30 people
1st Holy Communion will be celebrated in late June

FR. OWEN is comfortable at Peaker park. Please remember him in your prayers for which is very grateful.



APF Red Boxes: Could you please bring in your boxes for emptying:



ST MARY'S CHURCH AT HUSBANDS BOSWORTH: As you know there has been no Mass at the Church since lockdown a year ago owing to the Small space and all the COVID restrictions. As we are now looking to return to more "normal times" we have to consider the role of St Mary's within the Parish and Diocese. The 8.30am Sunday Mass there has been under discussion at a Diocesan & Deanery level for some time as Fr Owen informed me, but was curtailed by the COVID outbreak. The issue is of course that we have many less priests than we did and will have fewer in the immediate future. Already there is at least one large Parish awaiting a Parish Priest and several priests overdue to retire who have stayed on due to the Pandemic. This will mean other Parishes sharing a priest. There are many doing this already. When the Diocese appointed me here it was with the view that I will be able to assist in the Leicester Deanery and ensure that each Parish Community may have a Sunday Mass. So, the bishop has made it clear that the Diocese cannot make a commitment to continue to provide a regular weekend Mass at St Mary's. It will of course remain possible to celebrate Mass and other Sacraments on other occasions. Naturally, I have had several conversations with members of the Maxwell family at Bosworth Hall and we have agreed that it has become unrealistic to be able to maintain a weekly mass service at St. Mary's with great regrets with its history of keeping the faith alive going back before the Church was built. I thank them for their understanding.

We cannot know exactly how and when this will develop as this depends on number of clergy that remain in good health and how and when we return to normal Parish Life across the Diocese. But I and the diocese think this needs to be said now as restrictions on worship may be eased over the coming months. I regret that we have not been able to hold a face to face meeting about this.



Offertory Envelopes: I think you should have had your envelopes by now. Many thanks to our counters for dropping them off. Many thanks to all who continue to give to the Church. I have forms for making a Standing Order and of course gift Aid forms in the Church if you are a tax payer and make a donation to the Church email Fr Chris parishpriest@olvic.com and I can send you one by email. We can claim an extra 25% on top of anything you give if you are tax payer..



SAVE THE DATE: LACY (Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth) will be celebrating a **Young People's Liturgy** on **Sunday 21st March at 4.00 p.m.** via Zoom. Our theme will be "Mary and Joseph saying YES to God". A warm invitation is extended to all young people, their families and friends to join us as we look upon the miracle of The Annunciation and the gift of St. Joseph, Foster Father of Jesus, looking at the salvation that Jesus, in the Holy Family of Mary and Joseph, brought to the world. An opportunity to help us look more deeply into the Lenten journey with Jesus. Link in information: **ID 833 8950 5705 and Passcode: 322285.** For further information contact paulpayne@hotmail.com. Please note that all young people under the age of 18 sharing the occasion should have an adult present with them. We look forward to seeing you!

LENTEN SESSIONS ON DISCIPLESHIP AND HOLINESS: One of our ongoing themes as a diocese is that of deepening our **Discipleship** of Christ. Indeed missionary discipleship. **5th & last Session on the 5th Chapter on Wednesday 24th March**. Zoom link for the 5th session: is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86173050390?pwd=SWJkems5cDBoc3VqZnRHc2hmQ0lCZz09> Password Olvic. I can email it to anyone who requests which is the easiest & safest way of doing it.

