

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

It is quite a sad scene that ends Chapter 6 of St John's Gospel. Jesus has multiplied the bread and fishes and given a great revelation of himself as the true bread of life, his flesh for the life of the world, and that he would give his body and blood as food for eternal life so that he could live in us and we in him. The people cannot accept this extraordinary gift of himself whereby he offers eternal life. However, it is not only the people but his very disciples and followers who murmur and find the teaching intolerable. So much so that many leave him. He does not try and explain but simply lets them go and asks the others whether they want to go too.

I am sure we all have faced moments of difficulty or crisis in our Christian life when we have to make a choice and if we have not, we will certainly face them. These moments can have a variety of causes. If we take the Gospels seriously, they are full of difficult and hard sayings of Jesus. We are used to the teaching on the Eucharist as we have been brought up with it. But what about taking up our cross as necessary to be a disciple, offering the other cheek, loving our enemy, the teaching on marriage, forgiveness and Judgement. There is the amazing teaching of St Paul today which many find unacceptable. I know of people who have left because of Church teaching on such things as Ecology, the social order. Many left the Church over Vatican II and other Councils of the Church in history.

If we take our faith seriously we should not be surprised we face difficulties. There are reasons for this. Our Christian faith is a revelation of God and invites us to a share in his Divine life which surpasses us infinitely. We are invited to share in something that will stretch us in ways we can never imagine. That is the adventure of faith. We are really going to "where no man has gone before" (Star Trek). God's logic is not going to fit into our earthly finite way of thinking. He will always burst through. We can choose to go with him or not. Some of Jesus disciples could not.

As well as this we have our own fallen nature and sinfulness which affects our intellect and darkens our powers understanding and openness of mind with fear and selfishness. We are limited in love and fail to grasp the logic of God which is love. So often we measure the teachings of Christ or Church teachings according to the measure which is our sinful selves.

Then there is the fact of the scandal of the Church and our fellow Christians. One of the most difficult has been the whole Clergy abuse scandals of recent years and how they were handled by Bishops and even Popes. I found they rocked me to my depths. And also how often have we as priests put people off by our manner on a bad day or forgetting someone. I know of people who have left the Christian faith because of such things.

What do we say to this? How do we navigate this Christian journey of a thousand difficulties? And our Lord will never water down his teaching. He thinks too much of us.

I am sure that Saint Peter had the same difficulties that those who went away had. The words of Jesus must have resounded in the same way to him: this is a hard teaching how can we accept it. He did not understand, but he did not turn away. *'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'*

It is there in his words: To whom shall we go? It is the person of Jesus who has broken into his life and changed everything. There is no one and nothing else. He cannot go back to his old life. He has been captivated by Jesus, belongs to him and lives for him. There is so much he does not grasp and as we know he will fail time and again but he believes and knows in Jesus are the words of eternal life and thus he is open to the semper maius the always greater of God, whom he does not comprehend, but he loves Jesus and thus experiences the power of grace that the words of Jesus are spirit and life even though he does not understand them. The Love of the Lord and his love for the Lord are greater than any difficulty. May we take that same journey in and through our prayer which is nothing more than bathing in the love of Our Lord and in the certainty of this love we can come through any difficulty in this adventure of faith. Prayer is the key always. Keep Close to Jesus!



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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Parish Pastoral Council Members: see photos on notice board

Diocese of Nottingham: Company Number 7151646 Charity Number: 1134449

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22nd August 2021
21st of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 1

Times of Services

Sunday: 21st of Ordinary Time

Sat. 6.00pm: Private Int

9.00am: Mass: Deidre & Kevin Quinn 50th wedding Anniv

11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

Monday: Feria

9.00am Mass: Jimmy Kelly RIP (Sisters)

Tuesday: St Bartholomew, Apostle

9.00am Mass: Judith & Ian Snaith (Golden Wedding Anniv)

Wednesday: Feria

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

Thursday: Feria

10.00am: Mass: Chris Bennett - Health(Blamires)

Friday: St Monica

7.00pm Mass: Health Family Homeless(Andrews)20

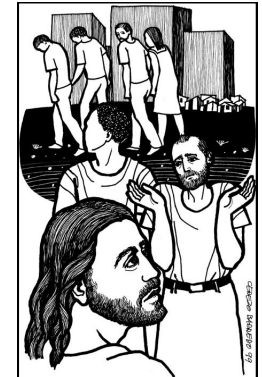
Saturday: St Augustine

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 29th- Sister Mary O'Halloran - Golden Jubilee

Sunday: 22nd of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: November Dead List

11.00am Mass: People of the Parish



*Who shall we go to?
You have the message
of eternal life.*

CONFESSIONS

11.00am
Saturday

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

FR CHRIS WRITES:

Dear All,

The weather seems to indicate a coming to the end of the summer, though next week looks better. However, our school term starts on Wednesday this week. We welcome our school staff for Mass on Tuesday on their Inset day. Please pray for all our school community that this year will go smoothly in respect of COVID 19 and indeed it will be a year of grace for all. We pray for Mrs Dabbs who begins full time as our head Teacher.

One of the things we have started again is that our Eucharistic Ministers are taking take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound with all the proper precautions. If you know of anyone who is sick or housebound, please let me know. People sometimes get missed especially after this time of lock down.

There will now be Public daily Mass available. The Mass times will vary on weekdays depending on my duties and funerals and so on. **Always check the Newsletter!!** Please follow the instructions as below. We shall keep weekends Masses as they are with the same booking system, though we can seat people closer together if necessary. We are also thinking about the Thursday Coffee again!!

As we are now coming out of lockdown we do **need a Parish Health & Safety representative** if someone could volunteer who has some relevant background.

Covid 19: As you all know the Government removed regulations on Monday 19th July and from 16th August the contact Isolation rules change for the double- vaccinated. However, the Virus is still about and the rate of infection remains high. So we need to proceed carefully and slowly. This is the opinion of those whom I have consulted. With the Delta variant on the rise in our areas **Hands, Face, Space, Ventilates** is just as *important as ever*.

So we will still have to wear **masks** in Church as before: this is to protect all concerned and is an act of Christian charity

Mostly There will still be the 2m **social distancing** in Church., even if we can relax the spacing when necessary.

We will still **sanitise** hands as we enter and leave Church.

People can now kneel as before at Mass

Stewards will operate at the weekend Masses with booking for Mass as we do now. However, **on weekdays** there will not be a steward. We ask people to sign in or use the NHS QR code. **It will be easier if people book in online on a weekday.** On a weekday we will alternate sitting: on the Sacred Heart side on Monday, Our Lady's on a Tuesday and Sacred heart on a Wednesday etc. If people could help sanitise the touch points after Mass that would be helpful i.e. the tops of the benches. I think we are now all accustomed to how to act in a safe way. We will review this every few weeks in the light of local conditions.

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

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Fr John Cairns** who died on 16th August, in the family home in Derry. He had, as you may know, battled with cancer for several years. The Funeral will take place on Thursday. He was a gentle and kind man. May he rest now in God's merciful love.

CAFOD is responding to significant crises across the world this week. We are working with local Church organizations in Haiti to deliver emergency aid to people affected by the catastrophic earthquake and tropical storm. In the tragic situation in Afghanistan, we are working to ensure the safety of our local partners and their communities. We are supporting local aid workers to deliver urgent food and water supplies to hundreds of thousands of people facing extreme hunger in Tigray in Ethiopia, South Sudan and north-east Nigeria. You can read more about how we can all express solidarity with our sisters and brothers affected by these emergencies on the CAFOD website: <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news>. Your compassion, generosity and prayers have helped us to stand together and enable us to continue to support communities in these difficult times. Thank you.

"March for Life UK" – Saturday 4th September "March for Life UK" is taking place on Saturday 4th September 2021 in London. This is an actual, in-person event that will inspire, educate and motivate our nation to value all life from the moment of conception. **The Morning:** [#LifeFest21](https://twitter.com/LifeFest21) 10.00 - 13.00 in the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham St, London, SW1P 3D - Pro-Life organisations from around the UK showcasing their work, inspiring speakers, moving testimonies, live music, pro-life merchandise, pro-life tots, kids and teens' activities, selfie stands and much more! **The March:** 13.30 - 16.00. For more information please follow the link to the "March for Life UK" website: <https://marchforlife.org>

GIDEA PARK STUDY DAY - The Cry of Creation Exploring the Encyclical *Laudato Si* - Saturday 4th September 2021 11.00 to 12.30. *As the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26), to be held in Glasgow in November, draws nearer, and at a time of unprecedented danger for the world, the 2015 encyclical of Pope Francis, Laudato si, on care for our 'common home', could not be more relevant. Fr Ashley Beck will explore its contents and explain its crucial relevance. Fr Ashley Beck is a priest of the Archdiocese of Southwark, based in the parish of Beckenham in South East London. He is Dean of Studies of the Diaconate formation programme which covers most of southern England, and Associate Professor at St Mary's University, Twickenham. He has degrees from Oxford University in Classics and Theology, and a PhD by publication from Surrey University in the methodology of Catholic Social Teaching. For access to this free live stream event go to www.whatgoodnews.org and follow the instructions. No registration needed. Talks will be available subsequently on www.whatgoodnews.org To join the www.whatgoodnews.org mailing list please email gideapark@dioceseofbrentwood.org*

From the Ad Clerum: Rooting Out Racism There was a very interesting and thought-provoking article in the Tablet (17th July 2021) entitled "It is not enough to say 'I am not a racist'." It is not permissible to photocopy the article for you, but the testimonies and reflections of parishioners from the parish of Our Lady of Fatima, White City, are taken from a booklet produced by the parish. There is a link to the booklet on the parish website: www.ourladyoffatima.org.uk

YouCan – Retreat for Catholic Families at Alton Castle – 24th-25th September - The Young Catholic Adult Network, YOUCAN, is a grouping of young Catholic adults aged between 18 to 35 living in the UK, together with organisations that work with them. It aims to bring all young Catholics together. For more information on YouCan or to book on the retreat at Alton Castle in September please follow the link to their website: <https://youngcatholicadultnetwork.uk>