

The Church is open for Private prayer each day  
Please sign in on the list or use the Covid NHS App Q code displayed  
By Law Face masks must be worn

#### FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

In our Scripture this weekend we see the word of God proclaimed by Ezra and Jesus to the assembly in the synagogue. The reading from Nehemiah shows us a moment of great emotion in Jerusalem. A solemn reading and Proclamation of the Law of the Covenant. The Hebrew people had been conquered and exiled in Babylon. Jerusalem was destroyed. Sixty years later they were allowed to return and they worked hard to rebuild Jerusalem. Now, in the middle of their toil, they pause to renew themselves spiritually by reading the ancient Law of their people, and pledging themselves to begin anew as God's people. It is a moment of thanksgiving, of hope and yet also of sorrow for the past. No wonder there are tears.

I do not know what would happen if I began reading the scriptures early in the morning and continued reading and expounding till noon. I suspect the church would empty very quickly and I would be left expounding to myself! I know indeed people seem to get restless as we near the hour mark and feel the need to rush out. Perhaps it is a sign of our culture compared to allegedly less educated ones. The people of Jerusalem were excited and full of tears as they heard the Word of God expounded such that they stood there all of them even children for hours. Because they knew how gifted they were to have this divine word, they realised how in the past they had ignored it and how disaster had befallen them. Now they recognised the gift how privileged they were: they now treasured the word that they had ignored and despised and this led to a great revival in their faith through an experience of the mercy of God

We should reflect we do not have just the old testament, the imperfect and partial revelation of God, we have the new as well: the fullness of the word of God from the new testament and Gospels especially which we hear proclaimed every Sunday to the assembly, that is us the new People of God gathered to celebrate: it is the word of God and we must listen to it; it is proclaimed with special power during the Liturgy. It is an immense privilege. It is vital that we listen to the Word and let it penetrate into our hearts to change them that we may more fully recognise the presence of God among us in our lives in his Word.

For in Christ the one foretold by Isaiah has come, on whom the Spirit rests. He proclaims the time of God's favour or mercy to all. This passage was well known as describing Israel's saviour. He then speaks words which must have caused a sensation in the Synagogue. *'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen. They were true then and as true today as it was 2000 years ago when our Lord uttered those words.'*

We are so privileged and blessed to have the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit helps us grasp the Scriptures; For the Holy Spirit is present to us through our Baptism and confirmation The HS first gives life to the Word of God, he inspires it and then gives Christians an understanding of the Word of God according to the dispositions of our hearts. The Holy Spirit puts us into a living relationship with Christ, the Word and Image of the Father, so that we can live out the meaning of what we hear, contemplate and do in the celebration.

Yes the word of God is present in the Scriptures: on that alone should we be like those Israelites who we are told answered Amen! Amen! then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. May we weep both joy and repentance as we listen to the Word of God! May we grow in love of it on this Word of God Sunday.



## Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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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

23rd January 2022  
3rd Week of Ordinary Time  
Psalter Week 3

### Times of Services

#### Sunday: 3rd of Ordinary Time

6.00pm Mass: First Mass of 23rd: People of the Parish  
9.00am Mass: Geoff & Sheila Plowright RIP anniv (Family)  
11.00am: Mass: Mary Keane, Gerald & Pamela Gilbert (Family)

#### Monday: St Francis de Sales

9.00am Mass: Norah Barongo RIP

#### Tuesday: The Conversion of Saint Paul

9.00am Mass: Tobias Gatens RIP (Taylor)

#### Wednesday: Sts Timothy & Titus

10.00am Mass: November Dead List

#### Thursday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Richard & Lydia Bennett RIP

#### Friday: St Thomas Aquinas

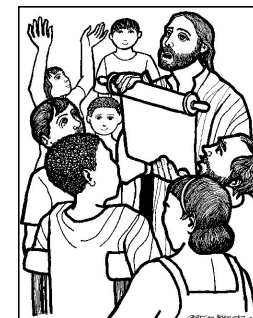
7.00pm Mass: Johnson Int

#### Saturday: Feria

6.00pm November Dead List

#### Sunday: 4th of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish  
11.00am Mass: Eddie Armstrong RIP (Pat)



*This text is being  
fulfilled today.*

**CONFESSIONS**  
11am &  
5.15 - 5.45pm  
Saturdays

### Next Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for the Sick & Retired Priests Fund

#### 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](http://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](http://www.olvic.com/news.htm)

### FR CHRIS WRITES:

This weekend we will remember and pray for the cause of Christian unity. We would normally have a united service but cannot due to COVID-19. The prayer of Our Lord at the Last Supper "that they may be one... that the world may believe" continues to be urgent and current. One of the responses to the Synod consultation was about this and features strongly both to recognise the work done in the past and to keep moving forward, there is much that Christians do together whether informally or formally. Many Christians work together for things such as Peace and justice in the world, local causes such as the Foodbank and many others. Formally within the structures of Churches Together. This is a great sign that we can cooperate despite lacking full visible Unity. Indeed, we continue to learn from each other in Christian Living and aspects of the faith. May this grow as the Lord wills.

This Sunday is also word of God Sunday. This Sunday builds on the texts and prayers of the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time and is conscious that it comes during the celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. While we are not yet united around the table of the Eucharist, we do share on many Sundays of the year the same scriptural readings in our different Christian assemblies with the Common Lectionary.

**Synod Consultation:** After consultation I sent a short summary from the Parish to the Deanery which will be then sent to the Deanery. I am hoping to have a fuller summary ready for the Parish next weekend after the Parish Council looks at it..



- \* The Parish Council is meeting this week on Wednesday at 7.00pm
- \* Once again Hand made **Reusable Face masks for Sale:** in Church £2.50 towards Church funds.

**CAFOD** is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: [cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal](https://www.cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal) and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

**YOUR ACTION REQUIRED:** From the Parish Consultation, one of the themes that emerged was the need for good Communication. We realised we need to update the Parish List to build the community through good communication. We have now sent out a letter or email to all who are on the Parish List. **If you do not receive either a letter or email, you are not on the Parish List.** Please pick up a Parish registration form from the Narthex so we have your details or you can email Fr. Chris: [parishpriest@olvic.com](mailto:parishpriest@olvic.com) Please check with any Catholic neighbours or friends to see if they have received the letter or want to be on our Parish List.

**PARISH WELCOMING:** It's a couple of months since we resumed Welcoming at some of the weekend Masses, but currently we only have 3 people on the rota for Sunday 11am Mass, and 5 people for the Saturday evening Mass. We're appealing to any welcomers who maybe didn't see our original email requests or who may now have changed their minds, to consider helping out, and also to anyone else who feels that they would like to volunteer to take part in welcoming their fellow parishioners to Mass. Please do consider helping out if you are able to, and feel free to contact either of us if you would just like to chat about it. Many thanks, Beatrice ([01858 465492](tel:01858465492)) and Theresa ([07748 591398](tel:07748591398)) or email [tootskendrick@sky.com](mailto:tootskendrick@sky.com)

**CALLING CATHOLIC TEACHERS** If you are a **Catholic teacher currently working outside of Catholic education** and would like to find out more about the joys of working in a Catholic school within the Diocese of Nottingham, a virtual information session will take place on Tuesday 8 February from 7.00pm – 8.30pm. Please see the poster on the parish notice board. For further information 7 Booking contact: Julie Sweeney at the Diocesan Education Service ([julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk](mailto:julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk))

**SECONDARY SCHOOL VACANCIES:** St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi-Academy Trust have vacancies for a Headteacher (English Martyrs', Leicester) and a Deputy Headteacher (St Martin's, Stoke Golding). Closing date for applications is 26 January 2022. For further details of these and other vacancies within this trust please visit [www.aquinas-cmat.org/vacancies](http://www.aquinas-cmat.org/vacancies)

**VOLUNTEERING IN SCHOOLS:** There is a Churches Together in initiative to gather volunteers to help in Schools. This is a town wide initiative to mobilise volunteers in all our primary schools. The flyer invites volunteers to complete a simple online form - <https://forms.gle/HTDkPwYxneHq8Rvk9> - and identify which school they want to volunteer with. These will be distributed to the relevant schools at the end of January. See the flyers in Narthex

Also could People bring in their **Red Mission Boxes** for emptying. If anyone would like a box please let myself or Christine Shepherd now.



**POETRY, RAP & COMEDY WORKSHOP WITH HARRY & CHRIS:** 16<sup>th</sup> February 3-5pm at St Hugh Church, Market Harborough. An exciting and creative workshop in half term aimed at 10 to 18 year olds, with the renowned Comedy-Rap-Jazz duo Harry and Chris. This will be an interactive workshop, which will help young people to explore poetry through comedy and rap. The workshop is free, but spaces are limited, so booking and completion of parental / carer consent form is essential. Booking form available: <https://www.harborough-anglican.org.uk/new-events/2022/2/16/comedy-workshop> Comedy Festival Website: <https://comedy-festival.co.uk/event/poetry-rap-and-comedy-workshop-with-harry-and-chris/>

**'From Daily Grind to Daily Glory' Encountering God in your daily work** – For four Wednesdays, starting on 12<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm, the Diocese will be running an online course looking at how we can encounter Jesus in our daily work and how it can help us to grow in holiness too. We spend more hours in a week at work than doing most other activities (including going to church) so let's make an experience of daily glory rather than a daily grind. For more information visit: [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/onlineevents](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/onlineevents)

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Just to keep everyone up-to-date, we are still being restricted to one Server at the Saturday Vigil and the two Sunday Services or two from the same household/bubble. The rota system is working well so a big thank you to all the servers for their help and support. However as we enter the holiday season I need to ask our servers and/or parents to let me know as early as possible if you have any dates you are away or not available. Any advance warning will be helpful. As I said a few weeks ago, please do get in touch on 07981 205861 if you would like adding to the rota. Again absolutely no pressure to come back if you or your parents are not comfortable, we completely understand and welcome you back when you are ready. Thanks to everyone and Stay Safe. Dave Percival