

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

On this eighth day of Easter joy, we celebrate again Easter Sunday in the form of Divine Mercy Sunday. We have the wonderful account of St John of Jesus appearance on the 1st and 8th day. On each occasion Jesus greets his disciples with words of peace and shows them the wounds of his hands and side. The five wounds which identify him and he speaks words of peace. He then gives his Church the Divine power of forgiveness which belongs to God alone. It is miraculously given to the Church in the Priesthood particularly in the wider context of the whole Church which is sent to the world by the Risen Lord as he was himself sent. In the words of Absolution, we are sent to proclaim and make present "Pardon and Peace".

It is perhaps scandalous to so many that the church should have such a gift because of the sinfulness of its members and not least priests and bishops. Yet this is the first gift of the Risen Lord to us so that we may both receive it and give it. This is message we are sent to proclaim. In John's gospel Pentecost appears above all as the forgiveness of sins for which the Holy Spirit is received indeed, breathed out by Christ from the cross and today in the upper room. The World needs peace in all places whether in the wars it undergoes now or in our communities, workplaces and families and in our own hearts most especially we need the peace of forgiveness.

So, to start with we need to receive it like Thomas. He could not believe that there could be any future after the cruel death of Our Lord on the cross and lost faith and doubted. He would not listen to his fellow disciples who had seen Our Lord let alone the woman who had met him by the tomb or the two on the road to Emmaus. Perhaps Thomas could not believe that such evil as had happened in the Crucifixion of Jesus could have any redemption. Our Lord comes to him and offers his wounds to be touched. Thomas receives the forgiveness of Jesus and makes the greatest act of faith in our Lord as God. To be messengers of Divine mercy we must first encounter the wounded healer, Jesus. For us the ordinary way given by God is the Sacrament of reconciliation. If we have not been for some time, Eastertide is the time for it. What we call Easter duties. This is because it the time when Our Lord pours forth his mercy from his pierced heart. We all need it! We are invited to touch the wounded heart of Our Lord and God! As the Holy father said on Easter day in his Urbi et Orbi message: *His wounds are indeed ours, for two reasons. They are ours because we inflicted them upon him by our sins, by our hardness of heart, by our fratricidal hatred. They are also ours because he bore them for our sake; he did not cancel them from his glorified body; he chose to keep them forever. They are the indelible seal of his love for us, a perennial act of intercession, so that the heavenly Father, in seeing them, will have mercy upon us and upon the whole world. The wounds on the body of the risen Jesus are the sign of the battle he fought and won for us, won with the weapons of love, so that we might have peace and remain in peace.*

We must also share this Easter News with all. There is no one who cannot find forgiveness in the wounds of Our Lord for this he bears them, so that we might touch them. Many are paralysed by the weight of unrepented sin. It weighs them down and often they do not realise what it is. I know of a good Doctor of the mind who said to a patient what you need is not my help but a priest! (I have had occasion to do the opposite). It is something we need to be alert to in those around us. We must encourage people to trust in the mercy of God which changes our whole way of life. From pardon come peace. True peace is found in him, in discovering his sacrificial love for us. This Sunday is Divine mercy Sunday. It celebrates this freely given forgiveness. It is vital for all men and women and the future of the world. Pope Francis, a couple of years ago, quoted words of Our Lord to St Faustina in her diary: "Humanity will not find peace until it turns to the source of my mercy." Christ is our peace and healing. We need to touch his heart. We are specifically sent by Christ to proclaim this.



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
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@olv.com
Parish Gift Aid Organiser: giftaid@olvic.com
Parish Pastoral Council Members: see photos on notice board

24th April 2022
Second Week of Eastertide
Psalter Week 2

Times of Services

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy

Sat. 6.00pm: People of the Parish
9.00am Mass: Angela Butlin R.I.P. (School Governors)
11.00am Mass: Bogush Nowakowski R.I.P. Anni.
4.30pm: Rosary outside Church

Monday: St Mark, Evangelist

9.00am Mass: November Dead List

Tuesday: St George, Patron of England

10.00am Mass: Miles Wilmat R.I.P. (Sr Helen)

Wednesday: Easter Feria

10.00am Mass: Intentions of Margaret Atkins (Winifred)

Thursday: Easter Feria

3.00pm: Funeral Mark Grieves RIP

Friday: St Catherine of Sienna

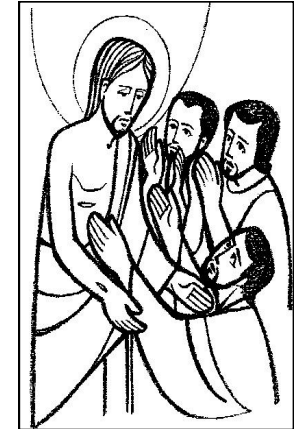
7.00pm Mass: November Dead List

Saturday: Easter Feria

6.00pm Mass: Boswell Collins family (Katie)

Sunday: 3rd of Eastertide

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish
11.00am Mass: Vera Murphy R.I.P. (Crawford)



*Eight days later,
Jesus came.*

CONFESSIONS
11am &
5.15 - 5.45pm
Saturdays

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 you have any symptoms of a viral infection

**May I wish you all a very happy Easter once more as we celebrate on Sunday the last day of the Easter Octave - Divine Mercy Sunday I have you all in my prayers as I celebrate Mass each day. Thank you to all those who have sent messages, cards, emails and good wishes for Easter. Thank you to all for the very generous Easter Offering. It is very much appreciated. Christ has risen Alleluia!
Fr Chris**

Today we celebrate **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY** which has a particular poignancy for us all in the face of war in the Ukraine and other parts of the world which Pope Francis call a piecemeal world war and the continuing scourge of the Corona virus. Certainly, we must ask for mercy from God. That he will bring an end to this affliction. A most powerful prayer is the [Chaplet of Divine mercy](#). It Calls on our Heavenly Father to have mercy on us and the whole world in view of Christ's atoning suffering and death. *For the sake of his sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and the whole world is the refrain. Pope Francis used these words in his easter Address.*



Many people pray the Chaplet at 3 O'clock the time of our Lord's Death. This would be a most powerful thing to do: As Our Lord said to St Faustina: "At three o'clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners..... In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion..." (Diary, 1320). We can pray for an end to war and this pandemic. We can pray for the sick, particularly those who are without their family and dying alone. We can pray for sinners who are dying and need to repent. This is a great act of mercy. So we can all pray together and as families together. An ongoing Novena. cf www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/pray-the-chaplet. A sheet is also available with how to pray the chaplet

COVID-19: We are now making all the benches available for people to sit on except those under the Choir gallery at the back. These remain for social distancing. A reminder that if you do not want people to sit next to you, please put your Hymn book or mass book on the bench.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (ACN) There are copies of the latest newsletter available in the church entrance, together with the Easter catalogue of items for purchase. ACN is the Catholic charity which supports the faithful wherever they are persecuted, oppressed or in pastoral need. The needs of Ukraine and E. Europe are especially highlighted. One way of supporting Ukrainian Christians would be to purchase one or more of the several items in the catalogue made and produced in that war-torn country.

Mr Mark Grieves died on 19th March. His funeral Mass will take place on Thursday April 28th at 3.00pm

Easter Walk with me booklets for adults and Calendars for children are available in the Church entrance. They help us to pray the great Season of easter for which we have been preparing

Inaugurated in 2021 by the Cathedral Chapter and with Bishop Patrick as its President, '**The Friends of Nottingham Cathedral**' aims to support the work and mission of the Cathedral through prayer, encouragement of social and cultural opportunities, and financially in order to maintain its position as a magnificent spiritual and culture gem at the heart of the city and Diocese. Our Mother Church needs your support. To find out more about the Friends or to become a 'Friend' please email: nottinghamcathedral.friends@gmail.com

JOURNEY IN HOPE is a series for members of parish outreach groups who would like to regroup and explore new mission challenges after the Covid-19 lockdown. Six reflective Eastertide sessions, inspired by Scripture and the writings of Pope Francis, take place on Zoom on Tuesdays at 7.00pm from 3rd May. You can find out more www.bit.ly/JourneyinHopeSessions, and book your place at www.bit.ly/JourneyinHopeZoom

PRO LIFE GROUP are going to host a Sunday Coffee & Cakes after the 11.00am Mass on May 15th in aid of SPUC little feet.

Parishioners can be part of the Church's response by giving to **CAFOD's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal** at cafod.org.uk/Ukraine.



Following helpful comments from members of the parish and in keeping with the modern age, **the Third World Group** is planning to change its title to **Aid to Developing Countries.(ADC)**. We would once again like to offer our very deep and sincere appreciation to everyone who continues to support our very needy causes through our envelope scheme and by donating clothes and goods for us to sell (Ebay total is approaching £4000!) We are so grateful that your generous response to our appeals has enabled us to donate some money throughout the pandemic to each of our six charities even though our fundraising events were severely curtailed.

Our collection box for donated goods will be situated as usual under the table in the Cloister and will be labelled with our new title . Please continue to help us support the very poor and underprivileged in our world . The new sets of green envelopes will be available to collect from church in the near future. Many

PUBLIC PRAYING OF THE ROSARY at Our Lady's Statue outside in front of the church. 4.30-5pm every Sunday. As Catholics we pray the Rosary for cohesion and reconciliation in society, for peace, and freedom. We pray for the people, for the rulers, and for the kingship of our Lord Jesus Christ in society. At the same time always for the freedom of the Church, for the clergy, for the bishops, for the Pope, and in reparation for the sins committed against God Almighty and His Holy Mother. For more details contact Maureen Douglas 07966 515115.

		Sat. 6.00 pm	Sunday, 9.00 am	11.00 a.m.
Readers	Apr 23/24	E Andrews	S Acton	M Lane
	Apr 30/1 May	J. Rowland	D. Chappell	J. Bland

Once again Hand made **Reusable Face masks for Sale:** in Church £2.50 towards Church funds. We have raised £107.90 so far. Thank you.

Bookings are now open for the **Nottingham Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage** – under the leadership of Bishop Patrick, from Monday 4th until Friday 8th July. Full details are on the Tangney Tours website: <https://www.tangney-tours.com/nottingham>, or for more details contact Father Simon Gillespie: simon.gillespie@dioceseofnottingham.uk

PARISH WELCOMING: We need more people especially for Sun Morning and in particular for the 9.00am Mass. We are drawing a rota together. Please do consider helping out in this ministry to welcome Parishioners new and old. 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