

## FR CHRIS: THOUGHTS ON THE READINGS:

Our Psalm today expresses a beautiful prayer:

*Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth and teach me: for you are God my saviour.*

That should be our burning prayer. That we should know the ways of God, and not only know them, asking God to teach us, but walk in the way of his truth. This is because we believe and confess that God is our saviour. We desire to know and love God and because he is everything his ways are the ways of truth and thus life. As Christians we believe that. So, we should set about that. How do we know his ways and walk with him.?

Like Jonah in today's Old testament reading, we have to listen to the word of God and obey it. That word comes to us in a most special way in the written and inspired word of God. Our Scriptures. Today we are celebrating Word of God Sunday which celebrates the gift of the written word of God in the scriptures. Scripture is unique as the written and inspired word of God that we can take in our hands and read or listen to. It is the word of God. We say this so easily at the end of the readings at Mass: the word of the Lord and we respond: thanks be to God. Do we really believe what we say and are we filled with thanks? We would be if we regularly read and prayed the scriptures.

God speaks to us in the scriptures for they have God as their author as the authors were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write as he willed. Yet such is the mystery of scripture that parallels in a certain way the incarnation that "To compose the sacred books, God chose certain men who, all the while he employed them in this task, made full use of their own faculties and powers so that, though he acted in them and by them, it was as true authors that they consigned to writing whatever he wanted written, and no more.(Cf Dei Verbum11 & CCC106) The scriptures were not dictated by God but he inspired the authors to write as he intended but using all their human faculties. This Scripture is both divine and human like Christ, and so most suited to our needs both close to us and from God.

And because it is inspired it is alive. The Christian faith is not a religion of the book but of the word of God who is alive and active. It is both inspired by the Holy Spirit and inspiring to us by the Holy Spirit who is all vitality. Because it is inspired it teaches us the truth. As the Church teaches us: *Since therefore all that the inspired authors or sacred writers affirm should be regarded as affirmed by the Holy Spirit, we must acknowledge that the books of Scripture firmly, faithfully, and without error teach that truth which God, for the sake of our salvation, wished to see confided to the Sacred Scriptures (Cf Dei Verbum11 & CCC107).*

As inspiring it moves us to do the will of God and follow him as did those first disciples on hearing Jesus calling to them. "Such is the force and power of the Word of God that it can serve the Church as her support and vigour, and the children of the Church as strength for their faith, food for the soul, and a pure and lasting fount of spiritual life (Cf Dei Verbum 22 & CCC131). Jonah was a reluctant prophet. He did not want to go to Nineveh, Yet the word of God moved him and changed him because he listen and obeyed however reluctantly. It can do the same for us!

Do we read the scriptures? Do we read the bible Stories to our children? Do we read scripture everyday whether reading a bit from a particular book everyday or follow the Church daily readings at Mass? Do we place the bible in our homes in a worthy place?



# Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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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

24th January 2021  
Week 3 of Ordinary Time  
Psalter Week 3  
Year B

## Times of Services

### Sunday: 3rd of Ordinary Time

Sat 6.00pm: Mass - Atkins Aitken & Springer Families RIP

9.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am: Mass: Fr Owen Wellbeing (KSC)

4.00pm Service of prayer for Christian unity on zoom

### Monday: The Conversion of St Paul

Private Mass: Tobias Gatens RIP

### Tuesday: Sts Timothy & Titus

10.00am Mass: Margaret McClosky Birthday( Sister Lucy)

### Wednesday: Feria

Private Mass: John & Celia McKay RIP (Clearkin)

### Thursday: St Thomas Aquinas

Private Mass: November Dead List

### Friday: Feria

9.45am: Funeral Mass of Arthur Johnson

### Saturday: Feria

11.00am - Sacrament of Reconciliation - CONFESSION

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 31st January: Fr Owen (Taylor Family)

### Sunday: 4th of Ordinary Time

9.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am: Mass: Eugene Gatens RIP



*Repent, and believe the Good News.*

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

**BOOK NOW**

### 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)*

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.

**2nd Collection for Sick & retired Priests Fund this weekend**

#### **FR CHRIS WRITES:**

We see signs of the infection rate beginning to slow though the deaths are still so many. Our prayers to all who have lost loved ones to this disease and indeed anyone who has not been able to be with loved ones at this time. I hear quite a few parishioners have received the vaccine which is good news. We are trying to keep up public Masses as best we can though this week we will only have one public weekday Mass on Tuesday.

This weekend we have a 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for the sick and retired priest fund which provides a grant to priests who need it either through illness or in retirement.

Please remember the following:

You should not turn up for Mass if you feel unwell particularly if you experience a new persistent cough, a high temperature, or a change in your sense of smell or taste.

- All must enter the Church through the through the Fairfield Rd door
- Please come in good time so we do not have large gatherings.
- Please sit where you are shown by the stewards for safety reasons. You can no longer choose which side.
- Our Lady's side to leave by the Coventry Road door and Sacred Heart side from Fairfield road.
- **Please do not stop and linger near the doors as this is unsafe** and causes a hold up for people leaving.
- Please do not mix with people outside your bubble
- Remember to always keep your 2m distance and remember there is no rush to leave Church

We will continue to review Mass in the light of our local situation.

**PS** Those of you with internet please print off a copy of the Newsletter for Parishioners who do not have the internet. Paper copies are available at church.

**NEWS OF FR OWEN:** Fr Owen is very seriously ill. The doctors continue to treat him as best they can. Let us all envelope him with our prayers so that he can be as comfortable as possible but above all surrounded with the peace of Christ in his journey of faith hope and love to God. He is grateful for all our prayers and cards. We keep a candle lit for him.



**NEW HEADTEACHER:** Please pray for the appointment of a new Headteacher at St Joseph's. We will be interviewing on Monday so there will not be a public Mass that day.

**RECENT DEATHS IN THE PARISH:** Please pray for Arthur Johnson whose funeral will be on 29 January 9.45 am and Mollie Foster whose funeral is on Monday 1 February 10.00 am died this last week. Kitty O'Neill died on Sunday Morning. Her funeral will be on Thursday 4 February at 10.00 am. Also sadly Bernie Spicknell died last week. Please pray for all these wonderful Parishioners.

#### **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARBOROUGH WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY, 18-25 January 2021:**



##### **United service Sunday 24th January 4.00 pm on Zoom**

Host: Revd James Pickersgill (Team vicar of St Dionysius) This will be a simple service of readings, music and prayer to round off the Week of Prayer and to bring to God both local and wider needs including the current pandemic and the issues it raises. For the link and details please email Fr Chris: [Parishpriest@olvic.com](mailto:Parishpriest@olvic.com) And also to end this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Churches Together in Harbourough is suggesting that church members turn their usual socially-distanced exercise walk on Sunday (24th) into an equally socially-distanced prayer walk. There is a link to prayer topics covering our churches and related organisations at <https://www.harboroughchurches.org.uk/news/2021/week-of-prayer.html>. I suggest we could pray the rosary for all the intentions for Christian Unity and especially for Fr Owen.

**THE CUBE:** The Cube Youth Project are looking for a part-time administrator for 20 hours per week with a salary of £9,880 per year. In normal working conditions working hours are Mon-Fri 9 am - 1 pm. For application pack please see: [www.harboroughchurches.org.uk/organisations/cube.html](http://www.harboroughchurches.org.uk/organisations/cube.html)

#### **NEW LECTIONARY FOR ENGLAND AND WALES:**

For a number of years the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have been considering the publication of a new edition of the Lectionary used in Mass to replace that originally published in the year 1969 (second edition 1981). After consultation with a number of English-speaking Conferences of Bishops, the Bishops of England and Wales studied the translation of the Catholic Edition of the *English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible produced by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India*. They approved this in 2018. It is based on the RSV. It is expected that the bishops will complete their approval process in Autumn 2021. The text will then need to be reviewed by the Holy See and others. *The earliest date for publication would therefore be in 2022.* See <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/news-and-media/news/> for that and other news from the Bishops.

PS Another change has already occurred in the Liturgy. The translation of the ending of the Opening prayer or Collect. It now says Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever instead of One God for ever and ever. It was incorrect as it refers to the Son and the translation could therefore be misconstrued.

**JUBILEE FOOD BANK:** The Most Useful Foods Tinned Meat, Tinned Chicken, Corned Beef, Hot Dogs, Fray Bentos Pies, Sugar (500g), Biscuits (small packets), Toothbrushes, Shampoo. **The following supermarkets are still kindly collecting for us: Sainsbury's, Waitrose, B&M and both Coops.** Refill Revolution at the Eco Village is our newest donation point. Lidl is on board now too! Thank you to the supermarkets and the work of their teams! **We do not need: Beans, tinned tomatoes, tinned fish, soup, fizzy drinks, pasta & meatballs, pasta sauce, rice, cereal, tins or large/family size packets of biscuits.**