

COMPLETE THE SURVEY: HOW HAS COVID-19 AFFECTED YOU AND YOUR FAITH?

Bishop Patrick would like to hear from you! The Diocese of Nottingham has launched a short survey in order to deepen its understanding of Covid-19's impact on all Catholics across the diocese. Bishop Patrick is eager to know more about peoples' experiences of the pandemic, with a view to ensuring that the faithful are well supported and understood in the years ahead. Please visit <https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/whats-on/news/share-your-story-how-has-covid-19-affected-you-and-your-faith> and fill out the short questionnaire. Please encourage other parishioners to do so. **The deadline for submissions is July 4th 2021.**

FR CHRIS: THOUGHTS ON THE READINGS:

This weekend we pray for Vocations to the priesthood and religious life on this Good Shepherd Sunday. The background for this is the second reading of that beautiful passage where Saint John tells us that we are all children of God: that is the great beginning point for all vocations. It is not merely an image but a deep truth. By our baptism we share in the divine life of God. We are his children, brothers and sisters of Jesus. That is the reality of our lives. On this day we reflect that as his children we are called to particular vocations. God has a plan for us. That is the constant discernment that we have to do as Christians and that demands ongoing conversation with God in prayer which opens us up to the gentle but powerful influence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

So it is very important that our young people ask themselves what is God calling to me to do? What is God's plan for me? This should feature in our prayer, so that we may hear the voice of the Good Shepherd. On this Sunday we remind our young people and others that God may be calling them to the priesthood or religious life. That continues to be true for some even though not so many recognise it in our culture at the moment. I would say to any young people do not be afraid of the call of God in this way.

For my own part I can say that I was afraid and fought against it for quite a few years. I thought that it was something beyond my gifts and talents and indeed I was aware of my own weakness. But of course, it's not about me and my thoughts so much as it's about God and who he wants and calls. I had to learn to trust but that took some time and indeed I'm still learning. The way forward is always to look on God and on Jesus. He is the cornerstone of everything of all our lives.

For myself I was like Jonah and fled to the farm, but God didn't leave me alone. As a gradual unease with my life grew, I knew I had to think further. And simply put one day, I was at Mass on a Sunday evening in Witney on the feast of Christ the King and I heard the Gospel of the last judgement. When I was in prison did you visit me when I was hungry did you give me food.....and so on and at that moment I realised I had been living a life that was rather selfish and centred on myself and that come that moment of judgement I would fall short. It was at that moment I began to think seriously about priesthood and was able to talk with the priest over sometime and eventually discern a call to seminary and that six years of discernment and formation. Through those six years with the help of the seminary staff I was able to discern the call fully which was confirmed by them and finally by the Bishop. It was then that I knew but he called me to priesthood.

And the joy of this is that I have this certainty in my life I know what I'm called to do. It is the rock on which I stand or build my house. Come the storms of life, the winds that blow and can often batter me, I know the rock on which I stand: the call of God to Priesthood. We all face problems and difficulties - all of us whoever we are - we struggle with our own weakness and sinfulness and failures and we should come back to the reality of our vocations. And it is a source of joy knowing that God is there despite everything even my own failures a joy to trust in his Name as the cornerstone of my life. There is so far to go for all of us - yes. But we must trust the Lord. He will take us there despite our weaknesses and failures. This is the great adventure for priests or any Christian to follow the way of the Lord.

Please pray that young people will hear the Lord calling them to a radical following of him whether in the priesthood or the religious life.



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

Parish Priest: Fr. Chris O'Connor
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Convent: Presentation Sisters 01858-462432
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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

25th April 2021
4th Week of Eastertide
Psalter Week 4

Times of Services

Sunday: 4th of Easter - Good Shepherd Sunday

Sat. 6.00pm: Bogush Nowakowski RIP Anniv

9.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am: Mass: Sue & Frank Maley Gold Anniv (Lesley Lander)

6.00pm: Reception of the Body of Canon Owen O'Neill RIP

Monday: Easter Feria

11.00am: Funeral Canon Owen O'Neill RIP

Tuesday: Easter Feria

10.00am Mass: Maureen Hailwood RIP (Douglas)

Wednesday: Easter Feria

Private Mass: November Dead List

Thursday: St Catherine of Sienna

10.00am Funeral Mass Brigid West

Friday: Easter Feria

10.00am Mass: Peter Gibbon (Kenward & Branston families)

Saturday: Easter Feria

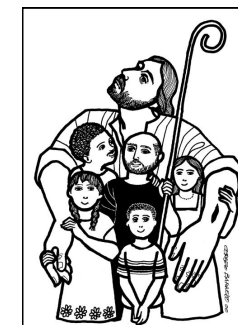
11.00am - Sacrament of Reconciliation - CONFESSION

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 2nd May - Fr Owen O'Neill RIP (Kenward & Branston fam)

Sunday: 5th Sunday of Easter

9.00am Mass: Sheila Plowright(Bacon family)

11.00am Mass: People of the Parish



*The good shepherd is
one who lays down his
life for his sheep.*

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.

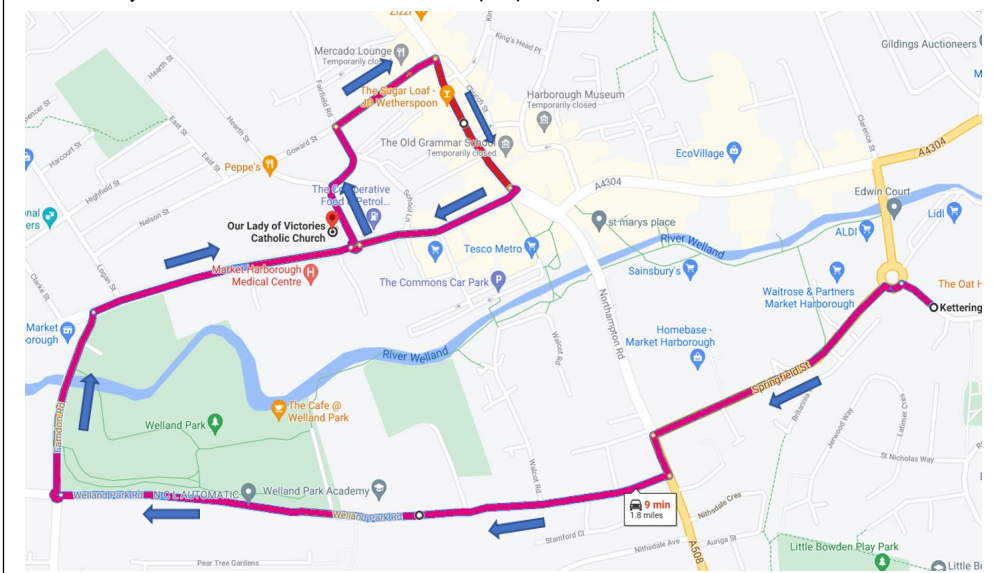
Booking is now online: www.Massbooking.uk You can sign up there and then book. If you do not have the internet you can ask someone else to book for you, a child or grandchild or ring or email Fr. Chris on 01858 462359 giving your name and phone number. Please see instructions in this newsletter.

FR OWEN'S FUNERAL: Fr Owen's mortal remains will be received into Our Lady of Victories Church, Market Harborough, **at a 6.00pm Mass on Sunday 25 April 2021**. Mass will be celebrated for the repose of Fr Owen's soul led by Fr John Joe Maloney .Bishop Patrick will be the Principal Celebrant at Fr Owen's Funeral Mass which will take place **at 11.00 am on Monday 26 April 2021**. Only those who have been specifically invited will be allowed to attend in person. For anyone wishing to pay their last respects to Fr. Owen on **Sunday 25th April**. His cortege will leave the premises of J. Stamp & Sons, Funeral Directors, 'The Chestnuts' at **5.37 p.m.** travelling on the route shown below prior to being received into church at **6.00 pm**



It was Fr Owen's wish to be buried in his native Ireland and so, after the Funeral Mass on Monday 26 April 2021, Fr Owen's mortal remains will be transported to Cappawhite, Co Tipperary, Ireland for a Funeral Mass and burial on Saturday 1 May 2021.

We have [a live streaming viewing room](#): for both Masses for Fr. Owen. In addition to the livestreaming, you will see that the page contains some lovely photos, a link to the online donations page for CAFOD and a Tribute from Fr. John Joe Maloney and you can leave messages of condolences as well: : <https://www.funeralstreaming.co.uk/viewing-room/11260/> Also Fr Owen's family in Ireland have opened a Book of Condolence if you wish to add your own message: <https://rip.ie/death-notice/canon-owen-o-neill-cappawhite-tipperary/455373> The link for Fr Owen's funeral Mass in Ireland on Saturday 1st May at 11.30am is <http://funeralslive.ie/canon-owen-o-neill/> PS. The draw for places was made by a teacher from our school and the people with paces have been informed.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS, Sunday 25th April – Good Shepherd Sunday. This Sunday is our yearly opportunity to reflect on the Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life. Also, we can contribute to the Clergy Formation Fund which helps train our future priests and contributes to our priests continuing formation. Please pray for the priests who serve you and encourage the young men [and may be the unattached young at heart!] to either consider the call to priesthood for themselves or encourage among their peers those whom they think would make good priests.

ONLINE BOOKING FOR MASS:

Latest News: If you are a couple living in the same house or bubble you only need to book one seat!

As we gradually come out of Lockdown, after long reflection I have decided to move to online booking for Mass. I have been asked to do this by many of the younger families who find this much more convenient and it is easy for those who have internet access. Also you can see at a glance if a Mass is full. This will be happening more and more as numbers increase with the vaccine roll out but social distancing remains. We have our own diocesan website for all the Churches to book Mass:

<https://massbooking.uk/>

How do I do it?

- You just sign up with your details and create a password (write it down! **& NB confirmation email could go to spam folder**)
- Click on the Churches tab & select our Church which is under Leicester & you will see a booking button next to the particular Mass. They appear about a week ahead.) Now you can book your seat or seats or choose to book for someone else.
- **For Couples or 3 people in a bubble**, I suggest you book **one Seat** as you can sit together giving all your names.
- Some seats are allocated as family benches which are particularly for those who are 4 or more in a family or part of a "social bubble". (there are 2 family benches at present)
- **For 4 people in a bubble** if there are no family benches left I suggest you book **2 places**
- **If you cannot come please cancel the booking.** You can go to **my details** on the web page when you have signed in. Someone else can use your place.
- **Booking closes 4 hours before the Mass.**

How do I book if I am not online or find it difficult?

You can ask a family member or friend to do it for you. I would ask people to help those they know who do not have internet access. You can book for others with their details. That would help me. Otherwise you can email me(parishpriest@olvic.com) or ring me at the Church(01858 462359). It will only take me a couple of seconds to book you in.

What about weekday Masses?

Booking is not strictly necessary at the moment as they are not full. However it is helpful to the Stewards who will only have to tick your name. *There is a very good help section on the website*

THIRD WORLD GROUP: *Just a gentle reminder that the Third World Group is still selling clothes and other items through Ebay to try and maintain donations to our six charities. Please could you possibly make us your first choice Charity Shop at the moment by leaving any unwanted clothing, shoes, books etc in our box in the cloister or arrangements could be made to collect from your home - with strictest safety measures in place. Please contact Chris 01536 711560, or Judith or Margaret at church. Many thanks to everyone for continuing to help all those in our world who are so very needy.*

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: **Brigid West** whose funeral is on Thursday here at Church and **Michael Cheeseman** again on Thursday at Great Glen and **Fr Tony Colebrook** who died on Monday evening very peacefully in Immingham.

SHARING THE CHURCH'S STORY: Catholic Voices will be hosting an online conference exploring simple, powerful tips and workshops so that everyone can share the Church's story with charity, clarity, and confidence. Register for the conference on Saturday 17th April here: <https://smartcatholics.com/sharing-church-story/>