

LACY OUTSIDE STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Sun 3rd April 2022 – at the Rosmini Centre, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, LE7 4SJ. Calling **ALL YOUNG PEOPLE**, families and friends – come and share some time with us taking a “**Journey with Jesus**” as we make the Stations of the Cross outside in the grounds of the Rosmini Centre, commencing at 1.30 p.m. This will be followed by a Celebration of Mass and light refreshments. With LACY support and help we are hoping that young people will lead the Stations and feel they can be involved in the Celebration of Mass through Music and readings. Let us know if you can be with us and would like to be involved. Contact paulinepayne@hotmail.com or claudi-acoxon@googlemail.com.

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

Last week we reflected on the name of God and we reflected that we can only see him properly through the lens of repentance. Today we explore in the parable of the merciful father the mystery of mercy. Bishop Patrick said disciples of Christ are grateful recipients of God's merciful forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, so that they in turn may become instruments of that mercy and forgiveness to others. Our vision of the Father is very important. Who is he for us? Do we know him?

The Two sons in so many ways share in the same vision idea of their father at least at the beginning. Their father was simply I suspect a good father who brought up his children: there were rules; they had duties to do: their share of the work on the land on the farm, household chores, there were boundaries for their behaviour, certain things they could not do, they had to be back at a certain time: they both saw him as in charge a rule giver the one to be respected. Neither understood him. Perhaps some of you parents have had this experience with children.

One of them reaches the end of his tether and sets out: He has had enough. He demands his inheritance and departs: so much as to say as far as I am concerned you are dead. His father lets him go, giving into his demand. This reminds us love can never impose on the other, the son does not see this because he does not see his father's Love. He has his freedom at last he thinks! I can be free do what I want! We know how he ends up: after the initial high he ends up with nothing at all: hungry empty alone, no friends and no freedom. His dignity is gone as he ends up with the pigs the lowest of the low.

But we are told he comes to his senses: I love those words. He realises he is in a state. He will go back home. He does not expect anything but at least he might find a job at home. I think his saving grace is he has no pride. He has been a fool but, in some ways, a honest fool. He is prepared to swallow his pride. He sets off home: maybe in fear and trembling, expecting a severe scolding, maybe severe conditions, a coldness, a distance and certainly severe embarrassment.

It does not happen but rather a great big embrace. The first move is made by his father: he rushes to him meeting on the way, coming to him making his journey shorter. (He had his eyes on him all the time) It must have been quite a moment of revelation. A revelation of total unmerited, love that demands nothing but gives everything: he saw his father for the first time in a true light: he had been blinded by his selfishness. Only in this lens of repentance does he know his father truly: The father has not changed one iota. But in the embrace he realises the love of his father and see the very depth of his sin: **that he had thrown the love of the father back in his face. The love of his father has been unrequited all his life.**

The dutiful son: has not left home but neither does he know the fathers love. He only knows him as in charge and ungenerous. He does what he is told and would even see himself as a good person. He is owed something for his obedience. He cannot understand in the slightest what the father is up to in his unconditional welcome of the prodigal Son. He complains: you have never given me so much as a kid a small goat to celebrate with my friends? What I wonder here is: Did he ever ask? I suspect not (cf the word of the father: All I have is yours). Where are we on the spectrum of the two sons? More of the elder Son I suspect on my part. Have we asked the gift of true repentance? True contrition for our sins? Asked for a realisation of sin: what it means to God as revealed in Jesus: That is the thing I struggle with: a true sorrow a true deep sorrow that may be might make me weep, and mourn from the bottom of my heart. From that I may be a better disciple as the Bishop says. Have we asked anything of God? Something really, truly worthwhile: Perhaps open your heart to me, O God? The God who says: *all I have is yours.*



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

27th March 2022
Fourth Week of Lent
Psalter Week 4

Times of Services

Sunday: 4th of Lent

Sat. 6.00pm: Mass: The Boswell Family (Katie)

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am: Mass: Patricia White RIP

4.30pm: Rosary outside Church

Monday: Lenten FERIA

9.00am Mass: Teresa Gatens RIP (Bell)

Tuesday: Lenten FERIA

10am Mass: Phil Danks' Operations

Wednesday: Lenten FERIA

10.00am Mass: Sr Theresa Ridge (60th Anniv)

Thursday: Lenten FERIA

10.00am: Mass: Mike Hall's Ints (operation) *Coffee after Mass*

7.00pm: Holy Hour

Friday: Lenten FERIA

6.30pm: Confessions

7.00pm: Stations of the Cross

7.30pm Mass: November Dead List

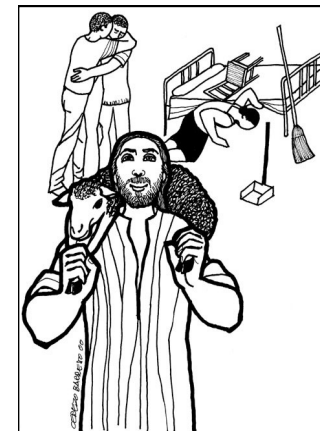
Saturday: Lenten FERIA

6.00pm Mass: Vera Murphy RIP (Rose & Keith) month mind

Sunday: 5th of Lent - Passion Sunday

9.00am Mass: Gurmen Sari RIP Anniv

11.00am Mass: People of the Parish



*Your brother here
was dead and has
come to life.*

CONFESSIONS
11am &
5.15 -5.45pm
Saturdays

The Church is open during the day for visits. Use the Fairfield Rd Entrance

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

FR CHRIS WRITES: The Holy Father Consecrated the World, Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Friday. A copy of the prayer is available for you to pray and thus join with the Church throughout the world. Cf [the Vatican website](#) and at the back of Church There will be **extra time for Confessions** in the run up to Easter: this week at 6.30pm before stations of the Cross.

A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE: We pray that the Lord God send His Holy Spirit to all the people of Ukraine and gives them the grace of endurance in faith, hope and love amid the current ordeals; may peace be granted throughout Ukraine and may the Ukrainian nation be delivered from all enemies, so that we may glorify the good and merciful God in justice and truth. Lord hear us and have mercy. Amen.

Information from Caritas on the Ukraine and the Welcome scheme is available from the [Grapevine Newsletter](#) and there is an online workshop for anyone interested in knowing more about, or developing the **Church's welcome for Ukrainian Refugees** is being held this coming Monday, 28th March, at 2.00pm-3.30pm. To register for the event visit bit.ly/ParishesofWelcome or email caritas@dioceseofnottingham.uk. Also see **Catholic Social Action Network (CSAN)** <https://www.csan.org.uk/ukraine/>



TIMES FOR HOLY WEEK:

Palm Sunday times as normal. However the 11.00am will have the procession with Palms starting outside hopefully!

Wednesday: Chrism Mass at the Cathedral 11.30am

Maudy Thursday 7.00pm

Good Friday: Liturgy of the Passion 3.00pm
Stations of the Cross 7.00pm

Easter vigil: 8.00pm – First Mass of easter: Mother of all Masses

Easter Sunday: 9.00 & 11.00am



STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 7.00pm on Fridays. Normally followed by Mass
HOLY HOUR WITH BENEDICTION Thursdays 7.00pm – 8.00pm with a couple of meditations on next Sundays readings. This is an opportunity for the most powerful prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, Our Bishop and the Holy Father have called us to adoration before the Blessed Sacrament especially at this time of the Synod and seeking to come out of COVID, Many graces are received before the Blessed Sacrament.

The diocesan draft **RESPONSE TO THE SYNOD** is (published this weekend / available at the back of church / on the parish website). Please take some time to read it, and send any further responses or reflections, by Saturday 19th March, directly to the Diocesan Co-ordinators: Fr David Cain (david.cain@dioceseofnottingham.uk) or Joe Hopkins, Adult Formation Director for Mission (joe.hopkins@dioceseofnottingham.uk)



Also the **Deanery summary** will be on our [Website](#) shortly. These will both help us to discern as we go Some Lent Resources can be found at: <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/preparing-for-lent-and-eastertide/lent-and-eastertide-resources/>

CAFOD – Lent Fast Day and Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal: Our family Fast raised £679 so far. Parishioners can be part of the Church's response by giving to CAFOD's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal at cafod.org.uk/Ukraine.



I just wanted to let you know about **The Mark 10 Mission Little Liturgies**. We launched some new virtual liturgies a couple of weeks ago. They have been created specifically for children under 8. Thanks be to God, they are being very well received in our primary schools. We will be putting out a new little liturgy each Friday and they can always be found by following this link: <https://www.themark10mission.co.uk/little-liturgies>

ST JOSEPH'S PTFA QUIZ NIGHT - Friday 1st April: Please join us for our first quiz night & PTFA event in over 2 years! Doors open at 7:30pm, with the quiz beginning at 8pm in the school hall. Tickets are £10 per person including a fish & chip supper (veggie option available) & raffle ticket. Teams of no more than 6 adults & tickets can be purchased from the school office, a member of the PTFA team or by contacting Catherine Searcy on 0772 555 1009.

Adrian Weston died on Monday last week. His Requiem Mass will be on Monday 11th April at 11.00am. May he rest in peace. Just to be clear funerals are open to all who wish to attend.

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 thanks from ADC.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARBOROUGH: United Lent reflections 2022 Into the desert: A Lenten journey towards deeper faith Every Friday lunchtime (12.30 to 1.00) during Lent there will be a short service and reflection led by lay people from different churches. Every one is invited to join them. This year these meetings will be held on Zoom. The log-in details are the same for each service. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86087703786?pwd=NC9CdFhFR0ptVj9DRWFvdVdmY3VHUT09> Meeting ID: 860 8770 3786; Passcode: LENT22 Telephone Passcode: 761448. These are available from Fr Chris by email. *Friday 1 April – led by Harborough Methodist Church* Isaiah 35:1-10 **The desert of renewal: experiencing showers of blessing in arid places and times**

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

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	March 26/27	N. Williamson	P. Green	R. Lewin
	April 2/3	M. Atkins	T. Snell	C. Sellicchia