

FR CHRIS' THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

I find myself moved by the passage of the letter to the Hebrews which begins with the words, *What you have come to is nothing known to the senses*. The author is describing the reality of the Christian community of the new covenant. He seeks to encourage Christian community towards the end of the 1st century as they are suffering from persecution both from the Jews and the Romans. They are somewhat battered under pressure and mostly Jewish Christians. Perhaps they are missing the visibility and status that they had as Jews with the synagogues and of course the temple. But what they have come to what they have been given is far greater even though it is not something according to the senses. Certainly, the old covenant was something that had all sorts of glorious manifestations. It was given on Sinai to Moses where great signs of fire, storm, darkness and trumpet and voice such that they begged that God would speak to them no more. It was too much. They sent Moses as their representative and would not and could not approach the mountain. One could characterise the covenant by fear of God and of course the curses and punishment that awaited failure. The experience of Temple worship must have been awesome. The letter to the Hebrews tells us that the new covenant is something much greater even though it's surrounded by none of these great wonders. At the time they are living as small hidden communities celebrating their prayer in hidden houses. The great liturgies of the Temple are far distant. The author of the letter is saying what they have is far greater in the new Covenant than the old. The covenant is sealed with the blood of Christ which has healed the rift caused by sin which the covenant of Moses could not do with all its temple sacrifices with the blood of so many animals offered. The blood of Christ overcomes the cry of the blood of Abel which was spilt by Cain. It heals the rift with God and brings us into communion with him so much so that we are all first born sons and citizens of heaven. That is the great dignity that we have. Despite the outward conditions of these primitive communities which were often hidden suffering all sorts of oppression. They were in fact as members of the Church present at Mount Zion the new and heavenly Jerusalem. All of them whether Jew or Gentile rich or poor. This was not outwardly visible, but it was true nonetheless and is true for us. We all gather for the festival or feast with the angels and saints at Mount Zion. This is of course the Mass where all are invited to receive the blood of Christ which pours forth for us mercy and not condemnation as did the blood of Abel. In celebrating the Mass, we are joining the angels and Saints who themselves join with Christ who is offering his Sacrifice once and for all in the presence of the Father. At our Mass we are able to experience the priesthood of Christ who cleanses of sin and unites us to him in Holy Communion. Even though we are living our lives amidst the tribulations of this earthly life we are in communion with Christ and the Church in glory. This is something that cannot be perceived by the senses only by faith. Such is our humble worship. Our Mass. Now it is of course wonderful to experience a great liturgy but the great choir and singing and wonderful vestments. It is something I love and loved as a child especially at school which created an atmosphere of great awe. We may have experienced such things. There have been great celebrations at the cathedral such as the chrism mass or an ordination. We have had great papal Liturgies in Rome. However, what we're saying is as true when Mass is celebrated at the bedside of a dying person or in a concentration camp in Germany of Vietnam or on the back of lorry during war. When we come to mass, we come to the city of the living God wherever and however it is celebrated. We come to that city whoever we are poor or rich gentle or Jew, Sinner or Saint. We encounter Christ under the simplest and humblest of signs of bread and wine which through the power of the Holy Spirit bring us to heaven. This is the very humility of God such that we need not be afraid as were the Israelites at Sinai but rather we are invited to draw close to Christ.



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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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

28th August 2022
22nd Week of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 2

Times of Services

Sunday: 22nd of Ordinary Time

Sat. 6.00pm: Boswell Family
9.00am Mass: Mary Lai (Sari)
11.00am Mass: People of the Parish
4.30pm Rosary outside the Church

Monday: The Passion of St John the Baptist

10.00am Mass: Private Intention

Tuesday: THE DEDICATION OF OUR CATHEDRAL

10.00am Mass: Anne Hill RIP (Lowe)

Wednesday: Feria

7.00pm Mass: Betty Crosse RIP (Sisters)

Thursday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Doris & Stanley Wood RIP

Friday: Feria

7.00pm Mass: Rani & Simon Wedding anniv

Saturday: ST GREGORY THE GREAT

6.00pm Mass: Phil Danks RIP (Mary)

Sunday: 23rd of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish
11.00am Mass: Baby William & Mochan Family (Sisters)



*Everyone who exalts himself
will be humbled, and the
man who humbled himself
will be exalted.*

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

FR CHRIS WRITE: Our school goes into full swing on Tuesday although the children were in briefly on Friday and the Staff have been preparing last week with INSET days. Please pray for St Joseph's. also please pray for the Pope and the Cardinals who meet this weekend with many new cardinals meeting each other for the first time. They will of course elect a future Pope and help the Holy father with their counsel.

We welcome this week Revds Vicki and Phil Bryson as the new Team Vicars with responsibility for St Dionysius Church. Their service of welcome will be on Thursday 1st September at 7pm.

A RUMMAGE SALE will take place in the octagonal hall on **Saturday 3rd of September 9.00am – 12 noon**. Good as New items, bric-a-brac, tea and coffee, cakes, raffle. All welcome. please bring items for Sale by Friday prior two sale



EVENTS FOR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE DIOCESE: Following the great successes of the men's and women's Lenten retreats, and the desire for distinct events focused on fraternity and sorority support in faith, the Diocese of Nottingham has organised events this October for men and women. On **Saturday 8th October** our men's ministry team has organised a walking pilgrimage to the Shrine of Saint Joseph in the Peak District for Men (total 5 mile walk) followed by a pub lunch. On **Saturday 29th October** our women's ministry team will host a talk and discussion at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Bulwell (Nottingham) on the role of Women Leadership in the Church, followed by Afternoon Tea. For more information and to book a place visit www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events, call 0115 953 9841, or email adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk

STEP INTO THE GAP is a fully funded year of volunteering with CAFOD in a UK placement with immersive and interactive experiences, developing leadership skills while learning about global justice and inspiring others to use their faith in action. CAFOD's **Step into the Gap** program offers young people a chance the volunteer with CAFOD for a year, in our diocese, and based at The Briars. There is still a vacancy for this opportunity in 2022-23, and applications are open.cf Further information from Will Cruddace – 07710 094455. To find out more go to: youngleader-ship@cafod.org.uk; www.cafod.org.uk/gapyear

RETRouvILLE: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 13 - 16 October or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 24 - 26 February 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk



Please pray for Tony Burke who died on 14th Agust. His funeral will take place on Friday 9th September at 2.15pm

MARCH FOR LIFE: This year marks the sad milestone of 10 million abortions in the UK since the 1967 Abortion Act. It is more important than ever that all people of goodwill, and especially Catholics, give public witness to the inalienable dignity of human life. We can do so at the annual March for Life held on Saturday 3rd September. Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate Mass at 11.00am in Saint George's Cathedral, Southwark, LifeFest22 is a pro-life, family friendly festival held from 10.30am until 1.30pm at the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street SW1P 3DW. The March itself starts at the Emmanuel Centre at 2.00pm, proceeding to Parliament Square, where there will be testimony and speeches, with the day concluding at 4.30pm. Our witness is vital; please do encourage parishioners to attend this event, or to join in prayer on that day. More information can be found at: <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk>

IRELAND PILGRIMAGES REUNION: Thursday 8th September in Lutterworth.10.30am Parish mass followed by coffee. Catch up and buffet lunch. parking at the church which is right next to father John Joe's house at 28 Bitteswell road, Lutterworth, LE17 4EY. please tell any former pilgrims who you think might be able to come. Some people may need a lift if you can offer one. See poster in the porch.

CATHOLIC VOICES and WORD ON FIRE are hosting a conference called **Sharing the Church's Story**. Join Catholics who are passionate about the renewal of the Church in the UK, and a host of dynamic speakers including Bishop Robert Barron. This conference is for all: volunteers, parents, catechists, clergy, and religious. The Conference is being held on Saturday 17th September, 10.00am – 6.00pm, at Friends House, Euston Road, London; more details at: www.sharingthechurchsstory.com

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY - New admissions 2023: We are delighted to be holding an Open Morning on Friday the 16th of September to welcome parents / guardians and children who are looking for school places for August 2023. Please come along to see our wonderful school. Refreshments 9 - 9:30am, Welcome from Mrs. Dabbs, Headteacher 9:30, Tours of school 9:45 - 11am. No bookings are necessary; please contact Mrs Liddle at the school office if you have any questions or would like to arrange an alternative time. 01858 465359 office@stjosephs.leics.sch.uk

The Market Harborough Educational Trust would like to thank everyone who supported the latest lunch at Marston Trussell Hall. We raised £3428.80. All Monies go towards our school, St. Joseph's with different projects. This year's project is to create a forest school area for the children to experience learning in the outdoor environment. Once again thank you.

KEY HOLDERS: We need to establish a list of key holders to Parish Property. I do not have one. Could those who hold keys to the Church Hall or Presbytery let me know what keys they hold. Many thanks

		Sat. 6.00 pm	Sunday, 9.00 am	11.00 a.m.
Readers	27/28 August	M. Atkins	T. Snell	B. Tyrrell
	3/4 September	J. Rowland	C. Goddard	K. Lilley