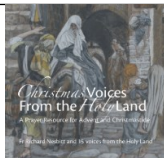


CHRISTMAS VOICES FROM THE HOLY LAND: Friends of the Holy Land have produced this publication, 'Christmas Voices from the Holy Land', a collection of Christ-centred prayer resources for Advent and Christmas which speak powerfully to our journey through Advent to the Nativity of Jesus, and beyond. The publication is available now from



<https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/shop/advent-book-2021> All funds raised from the sale of this book will be used in the charitable activities of Friends of the Holy Land, and so help those who have suffered in Gaza, the West Bank (including east Jerusalem), and the divided communities in Israel this Christmas.

REPOSITORY: Christmas Cards, dairies and so on are available in the Repository.

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

Advent is here! Happy New year! Advent is not the easiest seasons to live as a Christian as most of the world seems to be celebrating Christmas already. Well, not Christmas as such sadly rather the festive season! But Advent is a season of grace in the Church. At Seminary we were not allowed to anticipate Christmas in any way! Of Course, we cannot do that with various customs such as Carols and so on and rightly so. However, there is a reason for Advent. It invites us to lift our gaze and open our hearts to welcome Jesus with attitudes of waiting expectation & Hope. Certainly, we look forward to Christmas when we celebrate his birth but as our readings remind us we also must rekindle the anticipation of his glorious return at the end of time — preparing ourselves, with consistent and courageous choices, for the final encounter with him: Christ who came will come again. We look forward to a world renewed and an end to sin and death. The end is given and we seek to be part of the Kingdom of God and instruments of God to make it present.

Indeed, Advent reminds us he comes to us in the here and now to encounter us. All this fill us with hope and expectation that the Lord is with is and acting in us and our World to bring his purposes to fulfilment, to achieve his goal. Advent calls to us to leave behind our routine and perhaps resigned way of life and in the words of the opening prayer of the Mass *to run forth to meet Christ as he comes to us now, at our death and at the end of time. It is God's time of expectation for new hope and dreams to be born.*

But in the Gospel, Jesus warns us to watch ourselves, to be on guard, *or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life. Another translation could be weighed down or drowsy. Are we drowsy? Are we nodding off in our faith? The danger comes from self-seeking pleasures and diversions of life or letting everything revolve around our life with its challenges, difficulties and sufferings. Pope Francis tells us this is wearying and dull and drains hope. We become lethargic in our spiritual life.*

Advent call us to look beyond ourselves, to open our eyes to God's action in our lives and thus the needs of others as we desire a new world. So we have to be on our guard against what causes spiritual lethargy and be alert to the Lord's Coming. He says: *stand erect, hold your heads high, because your redemption is near at hand and stay awake..... praying at all times. I like that image of standing up. We stand when we are waiting for something or someone. When we are waiting for someone important or someone we love to come, we often stand by the window. We do not drowse off. We do not want to miss them. That should be our attitude in prayer especially in Advent. We ask the Lord that we may be alert and expectant in our prayer. Christ is coming to us: he is indeed very near, at hand at the door knocking we might say. Have we drowsed off? There is an urgency in the Words of our Lord to respond to him. Now is the time!*



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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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

28th November 2021
1st Week of Advent
Psalter Week 1
Mass page 82

Times of Services

Sunday: 1st of Advent

6.00pm Mass: William Murphy RIP(Anniv) Crocker
9.00am Mass: People of the Parish
11.00am: Mass: Minnie McCann RIP

Monday: Advent Feria

10.00am Mass: Trudi Blamires RIP Anniv(with Year 5)

Tuesday: St Andrew, Patron of Scotland

10.00am Mass: Barbara Read RIP

Wednesday: Advent Feria

10.00 Mass: November Dead List

Thursday: Advent Feria

10.00am Mass: Private Int (O'Malley)

Friday: Feria St Francis Xavier

7.00pm Mass: November Dead List

Saturday: St Peter Chrysologus

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 5th December - John Breward RIP (Wade)

Sunday: 2nd of Advent

9.00am Mass: Monica Malone RIP (Davis)
11.00am Mass: People of the Parish



*Your liberation
is near at hand.*

CONFESSIONS
11am Saturdays

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 on our website: www.olvic.com/news.htm

FR CHRIS WRITES:

I should say happy New year as we begin a New Liturgical year this Advent. May we be graced with many blessings from Our Lord as we long for his coming!

May I thank all who have given their responses to the Synod questions. A small group from the PPC has had an initial look through the responses and we have seen themes which emerged and we will further consider the responses at the PPC meeting this week. Some common themes were the need to rebuild and develop the parish



Community and from there to reach out, Churches Together, Marginalized groups, the youth, better communication through technology, keeping in touch with older people, PPC, Adult formation & renewing the spiritual life of the Parish. We need to send a summary to the Deanery and Diocese. We will then also need to present a summary of responses to the Parish and discern our way forward with a Pastoral Plan for the Parish. Pray to the Holy Spirit!

PROJECT LIFE GROUP: Next week we have the Feast day of the Immaculate Conception. There will be an evening Mass(7.00pm) with a Holy Hour before at 6.00pm praying for Life from Conception to its natural end. Please come and pray for this and spend some time with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

Advance Notice: **PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE on Sunday 19th December 3.00pm.** Supported by the Catenians. Parishioners family and friends are very welcome. Children from school will also be taking part.

THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The PPC now has a notice board in the cloister where minutes and notices etc will be put up. Please contact one of the members or Fr. Chris, if there is any particular subject to be raised, we will try to keep people informed. We are meeting on 1st December to discuss the Synod responses to the Club, a Memorial to Fr Owen & the plans for Christmas.

SALE OF KNITTED GARMENTS: after all Masses in the weekends of 27/28th November & 4/5 December.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FOR 2022. We are now looking forward to First Holy Communion in 2022. Applications forms are now available from Fr Chris after any of the Masses. Please return the form by **Friday 17th December 2022.** It is for children in year 3 and above, The first meeting for **parents** will take place on **Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 7.30pm** in the Octagonal Hall when we will introduce the course and give out the plan. The first session **for children** will take place **on Friday 14th January 2022 from 3.30-4.30pm** in the same place and then the 21st & 28th January. Depending on the numbers & COVID there will be two first communion days: 18th June 2022 & 2nd July 2022



ST JOSEPH SCHOOL from the twitter account Our ECO warriors have sent a very Important letter to Mrs Dabbs... they want action! How can we help to reduce plastic waste in our school? @sta_cmat See school website and twitter feed: www.stjosephs.leics.sch.uk Year 5 will be joining us for Mass on Monday. We had hoped to have the whole school but COVID prevented it. Please pray for the school.



Also could People bring in their **Red Mission Boxes** for emptying. If anyone would like a box please let myself or Christine Shepherd know



DISCOVER HOW JESUS IS SPEAKING TO YOU IN SCRIPTURE – On Tuesday 7th December at 7:30pm Sr Hyacinthe a Dominican Sister, catechist, tutor, writer and joy filled follower of Jesus will lead a workshop on Zoom introducing the 4 senses of Scripture. These skills are great ways to help us see how we can use and understand scripture more in our own lives and in catechesis too. Register for the talk by visiting www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/onlineevents

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL—VACANCIES: We are looking for a fulltime teaching assistant to join our happy team at St Joseph's. The role is for 30 hours per week (term time only), supporting our amazing teaching staff to ensure every child reaches their potential. The working hours are 8:30 - 3:30 each day. We are also looking for a **lunchtime supervisor**, looking after our children at lunchtime, helping them to make the most of their time with their friends so that they are refreshed and ready to continue their learning each afternoon. The position is to work 12 - 1pm each day. Both positions close at 10am on Monday the 29th of November; interviews will take place on Wednesday the 1st of December. If you would like to know more, please contact Karen Liddle at the school office - 01858 465359 or email office@stjosephs.leics.sch.uk

The **ORDINATE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM** at Saint Mary's Catholic Church, Husbands Bosworth have organised an ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION on Saturday December 11th from 10am to 3pm (arrivals from 9.30am), to be held at Market Harborough Methodist Church. The theme for the day is : LIVING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD and will be led by Mr Peter Green, OP. Members of OLV's are warmly invited. Please bring a packed lunch. "

WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS are available at church. They have a meditation for each day based on the readings for Mass each day including the Christmas period. They are a great resource to help us pray in this special season.

The Universe Catholic Weekly is thrilled to announce that we have launched our new online newspaper with the full support of our first subscriber none other than His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Order **your Digital** copy by going to www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk or call us on 0743661 7650 and ask for Michelle. Special offer: Only £20 for 3 months.

PRISON FELLOWSHIP ANGEL TREE PROJECT: The local Prison Fellowship group will be running the Angel Tree Project this year at HMP Gartree and would like your help. The purpose of this project is to purchase Christmas presents for children of some of the prisoners. The gifts will be sent to the children as from their dad's. The value of each gift will be **approx. £15.** The aim is to alleviate some of the sadness experienced by prisoners and their families at Christmas time. Angel Tree provides a crucial link between innocent children and their imprisoned father. If you would like to help with this project, either with a **monetary donation or a suitable gift** you will be given a gift tag with the first name, age and gender of the child. **The gift can be wrapped by yourself in Christmas paper** if you wish, but we do need to have a photo of the gift for security reasons otherwise a member of Prison Fellowship will wrap the gift. A hand written gift tag from their dad will be attached to make it extra special. **All presents will be posted so please keep them light.** Local bank account details: Prison Fellowship (Gartree Angel Tree) Sort code: 40 32 04 Account: 91564005. For your donation to be **Gift Aided** contact [in-fo@prisonfellowship.org.uk](mailto:info@prisonfellowship.org.uk) Thank you for your kindness this is very much appreciated by prisoners, their families, staff and chaplaincy. Maureen Douglas, Angel Tree Co-ordinator 43 Gardiner St, Market Harborough, LE16 9QN Tel 07966 515115

**The Church is open for Private prayer each day
Please sign in on the list or use the Covid NHS App Q code displayed**