

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

Our scripture today challenges us to not merely hear God's word but to live it out. In today's first reading Moses is talking to the second generation of the Israelites after 40 years in the desert. He extols the greatness of the law of God which should be a sign to others who should admire the Law through their example. He says very simply that they should take notice of the law and observe it by living it out. Then other people will acclaim the wisdom of the law and be inspired by it and admire its impact in the people of Israel.

The law of Moses of the old covenant was partial awaiting the fullness of the new law of Christ. Even though it contained divine law, it contained many partial things as well. But it was truly great and as Moses said was life giving if obeyed. Indeed, the Old Testament contains some great things and is more radical than the people would ever live out. Jesus fulfils that law. He completes it by bringing together in a more profound way the love of God and the love of neighbour as he says love one another as I have loved you.

Moses tells us that by keeping and living the law of God we recognise how close God is to us and that he loves us. We want to be like him and be close to him and to be his very own people. It is a testimony of love and an expression of grateful love. As the Old Testament says we desire to be like him to be holy as he is holy. This should be even more evident for a Christian who desires to be like Christ because he knows how much Christ has loved him what he has done for him what he has been through for him.

Then there is the love of neighbour. This was present in the Old Testament in the call to love the widow the poor the immigrant. It is broadened by Christ and radicalised. We fully understand that every person is in the image and likeness of God and indeed is Christ for us and we should treat them as such. The teachings in the Old Testament of the prophets in this regard were radical but Israel generally failed to live up to them. We are in a better position we could say. For we have been given the grace of Christ. He is close to us in the way that the people of Israel could never have imagined such that we even receive Christ himself in Holy Communion. If we think about that how could we fail to imitate Our Lord in our love of neighbour? And yet we do! That is something that we could think about and examine our conscience about as we receive Holy Communion. The greatness of the gift and the poverty of our response. I find that rather frightening. As Saint James says it's so easy to be satisfied by hearing the word that failing to do it. We are very good at deceiving ourselves.

Jesus has that in mind in the gospel as he responds to the Pharisees and talks to the people and his disciples. He criticises the Pharisees and their religious traditions which had become lifeless and empty. Originally they had a purpose. I am sure they were devised to help the religious meaning of family life and particularly meals which were always an act of prayer and worship. However, they had become an end in themselves and a sign of religious goodness itself by their observance. What they pointed to had been forgotten by many and worse. Our Lord says that they "*put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.*" There is a similar danger for us. There are many customs and traditions we have accumulated but they must be an expression of inner life. Recent Popes have pointed to the Mafia in Italy and elsewhere who observe so much of Catholic life externally but doing terrible things. Perhaps we are not Mafiosi but there is much dwelling in our hearts that is unclean and we need to repent of. A family quarrel we have never tried to resolve. We often think the worse of what others do and say. We make rash judgements based on appearance. Perhaps we defraud the State or we do not pay our workers properly. Love of God and neighbour are one.

Jesus offers to us the fundamental Law of Love on which to base our life. But, above all, He gives us the Holy Spirit, who allows us to love God and neighbour as He does, with a free and generous heart. With the intercession of Mary, our Mother, let us open ourselves to welcome this gift of love, to walk forever with this two-fold law, which really has only one facet: the law of love.



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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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

29th August 2021
22th of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 2

Times of Services

Sunday: 22nd of Ordinary Time

Sat. 6.00pm: Sister Mary O'Halloran - Golden Jubilee

9.00am: Mass: November Dead List

11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

Monday: THE DEDICATION OF OUR CATHEDRAL

10.00am Mass: John Mitchell (Sylvia)

Tuesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Josephine & Seamus Clarke

Wednesday: Feria

9.00am Mass: Trudi Blamires (Cyprian)

Thursday: Feria

10.00am: Mass: Bernard Sanderson RIP (Hall)

Friday: Feria

7.00pm Mass: November Dead List

Saturday: Feria

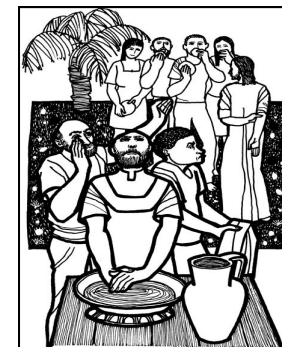
11.00am Confessions

6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 5th September - Joseph Garfield RIP (Lowe)

Sunday: 23rd of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am Mass: Annie O'Rourke RIP (McGlone)



*You put aside the
commandment of
God to cling to hu-
man traditions.*

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:

Dear All,

May I wish you all a happy Bank Holiday weekend as we come towards the end of the summer. It was good to see our children back from holiday and all our staff. Please pray that this term and year goes well with COVID still very much about.

We have had news from The Anglican Parishes. Revd James Pickersgill has been appointed as the new Chaplain to the Bishop of Leicester and therefore will be stepping down as Team Vicar of St Dionysius, Market Harborough. Please pray for the Anglican community as they reorganise and seek a replacement. We pray for James and family in their new ministry.

One of the things we have started again is that our Eucharistic Ministers are taking take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound with all the proper precautions. If you know of anyone who is sick or housebound, please let me know. People sometimes get missed especially after this time of lock down.

There will now be Public daily Mass available. The Mass times will vary on weekdays depending on my duties and funerals and so on. **Always check the Newsletter!!** Please follow the instructions as below. We shall keep weekends Masses as they are with the same booking system, though we can seat people closer together if necessary. We are also thinking about the Thursday Coffee again!!

As we are now coming out of lockdown we do **need a Parish Health & Safety representative** if someone could volunteer who has some relevant background.

Covid 19: As you all know the Government removed regulations on Monday 19th July and from 16th August the contact Isolation rules change for the double- vaccinated. However, the Virus is still about and the rate of infection remains high. So we need to proceed carefully and slowly. This is the opinion of those whom I have consulted. With the Delta variant on the rise in our areas **Hands, Face, Space, Ventilate** is just as important as ever.

So we will still have to wear **masks** in Church as before: this is to protect all concerned and is an act of Christian charity

Mostly There will still be the 2m **social distancing** in Church., even if we can relax the spacing when necessary.

We will still **sanitise** hands as we enter and leave Church.

People can now kneel as before at Mass

Stewards will operate at the weekend Masses with booking for Mass as we do now. However, **on weekdays** there will not be a steward. We ask people to sign in or use the NHS QR code. **It will be easier if people book in online on a weekday.** On a weekday we will alternate sitting: on the Sacred Heart side on Monday, Our Lady's on a Tuesday and Sacred heart on a Wednesday etc. If people could help sanitise the touch points after Mass that would be helpful i.e. the tops of the benches. I think we are now all accustomed to how to act in a safe way. We will review this every few weeks in the light of local conditions.

The Church is open for Private prayer each day

Enter through Fairfield Rd

Sanitize your hands on Entry & Exit

Please sign in on the list or use the Covid NHS App Q code displayed

A PRAYER FOR AFGHANISTAN: Lord, compassionate and merciful, you hear the cries of all peoples, formed as they are in Your own image. Reach with into the hearts of all who call Afghanistan home; of all her people in this time of trauma; of all who flee, and all who can give them shelter; of all who have given of themselves in the cause of peace; and of all who have taken the nation in their hands. We pray for tranquillity, dignity and freedom; for the women, men and children of Afghanistan; and for wisdom and generosity in the international community. Jesus Christ, prince of peace, hear our prayer. Amen.

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.

“MARCH FOR LIFE” UK – Saturday 4th September “March for Life UK” is taking place on Saturday 4th September 2021 in London. This is an actual, in-person event that will inspire, educate and motivate our nation to value all life from the moment of conception. **The Morning:** [#LifeFest21](#) 10.00 - 13.00 in the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham St, London, SW1P 3D - Pro-Life organisations from around the UK showcasing their work, inspiring speakers, moving testimonies, live music, pro-life merchandise, pro-life tots, kids and teens' activities, selfie stands and much more! **The March:** 13.30 - 16.00. For more information please follow the link to the “March for Life UK” website: <https://marchforlife.org>

GIDEA PARK STUDY DAY - The Cry of Creation Exploring the Encyclical *Laudato Si* - Saturday 4th September 2021 11.00 to 12.30. *As the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26), to be held in Glasgow in November, draws nearer, and at a time of unprecedented danger for the world, the 2015 encyclical of Pope Francis, Laudato si, on care for our 'common home', could not be more relevant. Fr Ashley Beck will explore its contents and explain its crucial relevance. Fr Ashley Beck is a priest of the Archdiocese of Southwark, based in the parish of Beckenham in South East London. He is Dean of Studies of the Diaconate formation programme which covers most of southern England, and Associate Professor at St Mary's University, Twickenham. He has degrees from Oxford University in Classics and Theology, and a PhD by publication from Surrey University in the methodology of Catholic Social Teaching. For access to this free live stream event go to www.whatgoodnews.org and follow the instructions. No registration needed. Talks will be available subsequently on www.whatgoodnews.org To join the www.whatgoodnews.org mailing list please email gideapark@dioceseofbrentwood.org*

From the Ad Clerum: Rooting Out Racism There was a very interesting and thought-provoking article in the Tablet (17th July 2021) entitled “It is not enough to say ‘I am not a racist’.” It is not permissible to photocopy the article for you, but the testimonies and reflections of parishioners from the parish of Our Lady of Fatima, White City, are taken from a booklet produced by the parish. There is a link to the booklet on the parish website: www.ourladyoffatima.org.uk

YouCan – Retreat for Catholic Families at Alton Castle – 24th-25th September - The Young Catholic Adult Network, YOUCAN, is a grouping of young Catholic adults aged between 18 to 35 living in the UK, together with organisations that work with them. It aims to bring all young Catholics together. For more information on YouCan or to book on the retreat at Alton Castle in September please follow the link to their website: <https://youngcatholicadultnetwork.uk>