

FR CHRIS: THOUGHTS ON THE READINGS:

As we begin the Church's year, we look forward to celebrating our Lord's birth. There are many themes to Advent: longing, expectation, alertness, hope and joy. All these are contained in the very word Advent which means arrival or coming. For us it is the coming of the Saviour in three ways. He who came, will come again and comes to us in the present. Today our readings touch on the longing of Israel for God to come and Jesus coming at the end of time. I will give a few thoughts on the first.

The prayer of Israel in Isaiah is one of my favourites: *Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down! – at your Presence the mountains would melt. In a literal sense it is a prayer of Israel in exile longing for a New Exodus and return to the Promised Land, remembering the great theophany of God on Mount Sinai, when God made the Covenant with them. They need God's intervention once again to bring them home and rebuild themselves as his People. But it also reflects a deeper spiritual awakening that we see happening in the great prophets such as Ezekiel and Jeremiah. Israel is the chosen people blessed with the Covenant that makes them the People of God. Blessed in so many ways with God's favour. Yet they realise that again and again they have been unfaithful to the covenant. They are awakening to the fact that they cannot keep the covenant by themselves through their own will power. They need a new intervention of God to change their hearts and hence the wonderful prayer calling on God to come down. This gives birth to hope and with hope joy. Little could they know how God would answer that prayer.*

But we know! That God himself would take on our nature and our sins and show how he indeed is the redeemer of his people. This prophecy is fulfilled with the birth of Christ and in a specific sense at the Baptism of our Lord which ends our Christmas season when the heavens are torn open and the Holy Spirit is seen to descend on the chosen one(cf the Psalm). It makes me think on how God always goes beyond any expectations or prayers we make. For indeed that same Holy Spirit that came on Jesus is given to us. Each day we should ask for the Holy Spirit to come down on us that he will shower his gifts on us.

Like the People of Israel, we must recognise that we cannot keep the New Covenant by will power alone. Indeed, without God's grace we would be without hope. Sin withers us like the leaves in Winter as Isaiah says today. We need to invite Jesus to come down to us and melt the hardness of our hearts. We cry out with the Psalmist today to be saved from our sins.

There are some lovely prayers in today's Psalm which we can pray individually or as a community seeking God's help: *God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved..... O Lord rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. ...Give us life that we may call upon your name. Over all we have the great Advent prayer: Come Lord Jesus come.....Come into my heart, into my soul, into our family, our Church our world....Come Lord Jesus come. Then hope will be born in us with joy following. May you all have a Blessed advent in preparation for Christmas.*



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

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

29th November 2020
1st Week of Advent
Psalter Week 1
Year B

Times of Services

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent

Saturday: Private Mass: Ian Milner R.I.P. (Beryl) Anniv.

Sunday: Private Mass: Trudi Blamires R.I.P.

Monday: St Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland

Private Mass: November Dead List

Tuesday: Advent Feria

Private Mass: Peter Paris RIP(Croucher)

Wednesday: Advent Feria

Private Mass: People of the Parish

Thursday: St Francis Xavier

Private Mass: Joan & Robert Int

Friday: St John Damascene

Public Mass: 10.00am: Cyril & Irene Phillips RIP(Phillips)

Saturday: Advent Feria

11.00am - Sacrament of Reconciliation - CONFESSION

Public Mass: Sat 6.00pm: First Mass of Sunday 6th December -
Gaughan - McClone families RIP

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Public Mass: Sun 9.00am: Sister Carmel Ruane(Ruane)

Public Mass: Sun 11.00am: People of the Parish



*Stay awake! You will
never know when
the Lord will come.*



Private Prayer with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Tuesday & Thursday this week between 10.00am – 12 Noon

BOOK NOW

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MUST PRE BOOK FOR OUR WEEKEND MASSES:

TO PRE BOOK TO COME TO MASS:

You can only make your booking on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings between 5pm and 7pm.

TO BOOK TO COME TO THE 6PM MASS, please ring Angela Wade on 01858 462293.

TO BOOK TO COME TO THE 9AM MASS, please ring Jo Shellard on 01858 440983.

TO BOOK TO COME TO THE 11AM MASS, please ring Stephen McClone on 01858 465939.

FR CHRIS WRITES:

As Lockdown finishes it will be good to welcome people back to Mass starting this Friday 4th December. Prayers answered but keep them up!! As before booking will be necessary for the Weekend Masses. But not for weekdays. Please keep an eye out on the times for weekdays as they will vary a little bit as we settle in and due to my prison commitments. I encourage those people who can, to come on weekdays so others can come at the weekend.

We are looking forward to sharing an Advent Mass with the school on Wednesday 9th December at 10.00am. Some of year 6 will come to read etcetera and the Mass will be streamed to the School in their classroom "bubbles"

For Christmas there will be four Masses: Christmas Eve 6.00pm & 10.00pm, Christmas Day 8.30am & 10.00am. Of course, we will be limited as before due to social distancing, even if we use the De Trafford room as well. This is sad. However, I remind people that Christmas is celebrated over 8 days finishing with Mary the Mother of God on January 1st. We call it the Octave, so aim to come on one of those days.

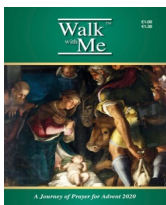
God Bless you all and especially all who are isolating.

Please pray for the repose of the Soul of Robin Bullock whose funeral I am celebrating on Monday 11.00am. Our Prayers go to Mary, his wife and their eight children.

PS Those of you with internet please print off a copy of the Newsletter for Parishioners who do not have the internet. Paper copies are available at church.

ADVENT RESOURCES:

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. Also there is a advent and Christmas calendar for children with a little thought for each day.



Praying with Our Lady through Advent – We invite you to pray one extra Hail Mary each day in Advent, asking for Our Lady's prayers to help all of us as a diocese, open our hearts and minds to welcome Jesus afresh this Christmas. She was the first person to welcome Him into her life and her intercession can help us to draw closer to Him and feel His presence with us anew this Christmas. Every other day you will be able to watch people from our diocese pray the Hail Mary in different languages on the diocesan social media sites, search for Diocese of Nottingham or Bishop Patrick McKinney on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.



Living Advent Podcast – Living Advent is a weekly podcast series throughout Advent exploring the virtues of Hope, Love, Joy & Peace with people from across the diocese and how we can live them out. We speak to a young husband and father, a musician, a retired social worker and a police officer. You can find it on your usual podcast service by searching 'Living Advent Podcast' or visit www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/podcasts for links on how to stream or download it.



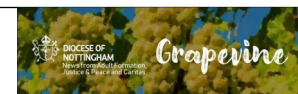
DIOCESAN CAROL SERVICE – Carol services are a wonderful family tradition of our Advent and Christmas celebrations, and often are a great opportunity to invite those who are not regular Churchgoers to connect with our parish or chaplaincy community. This can be quite challenging to do this year so we are offering a virtual diocesan carol service. We will celebrate a short online carol service on **Friday 18th December at 6pm** on Bishop Patrick's YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/BishopPatrickMcKinney>) with readings, music, prayers and reflections. Please join us as a family and invite others to join us too. After the service grab a mince pie, something warm to drink and join us on zoom for our family Christmas Quiz (6:45pm-7:15pm). The link and access code will be given out during the service.



ALTAR SERVERS: Hi guys and gals, I wanted you to know you have not been forgotten. Fr. Chris and I have spoken on several occasions about the possibility of Altar Servers returning to the Sanctuary. We are both very keen to include you in the Mass, but at this strange Covid time it is just not practical. We have discussed having one Server on a rota basis, the social distancing required, the cleaning of the Sacristy, etc. Sorry to say the restrictions and the risk of infection is just too great up till now. However, It would be brilliant to see our younger people taking part at Mass. Please be sure Fr. Chris and I will be talking and if possible, getting our Servers back and involved in the service of our Holy Mass as soon as possible. Let's look forward to Advent and the Christmas festivities and hope we can be seen contributing to Fr. Chris's first Christmas services at Our Lady's. Thank you all and please stay safe. Dave Percival



GRAPEVINE: Grapevine is the Diocesan Newsletter for Adult formation, Justice & Peace and Caritas in our diocese. **This week** there are various bits of news and events. Please ctrl + click on the image above or [this link](#). There is an address on Caritas by Bishop Patrick amongst other things.



Also please see:

Mondays from 30 November, 7.45pm-9.00pm [Introducing Laudato Si'](#) You are Invited to an Advent series of online talks on *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' encyclical on care for the Earth our common home. The series opens with Paul Bodenham on *Reading Laudato Si' with heart, head and hands*, and closes with Sr Margaret Atkins OSA from Boarbank Hall in Lancaster Diocese. (https://stgregorys.org.uk/laudato_si/)



VOCATIONS CAFÉ:

The Diocesan Vocations Team are holding a Zoom Café for men and women on Tuesday 1st December at 7 pm to chat about vocation and what it means. If you would like to meet the team, ask any questions or simply just listen in, email Diane at: vocationsad-min@dioceseofnottingham.uk for the link and password to enable you to join them on your device with your drink and cake. Find out what it means!!!