

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY: Jeremiah was called from his mother's womb to be a prophet, Simply put to speak the truth to the People of Israel: to all of them whether kings, priest or the simple country people. However he is warned from the very beginning , he is not going to be popular! They will not listen to him and oppose him at every turn. Jeremiah must brace himself for that and do as the Lord commanded. In his life Jeremiah did suffer much amongst many things he was dumped down a well as he warned Israel about destruction and exile if they did not change their ways! Many have seen in him an image of the sufferings of Christ.

Last week we heard Jesus's word quoting Isaiah about the Good News he was announcing. Today we have the reaction. On one level the words seem gracious and pleasant and receive approval but then their meaning seems to sink in and they remember who Jesus is, that is to say one of them and then I suppose "who does he think he is to speak to us in such a way!" We know him - the carpenter's son. Initial admiration turns to rejection to such an extent that they want to throw him off a cliff as a foreshadowing of the crucifixion.

As Christians we are called to witness to the Gospel of Christ by deed and word and it will not always be popular for whatever reason. Naturally we try to be gracious and seek agreement with those around us but like Jeremiah we heed the word of God and as Jesus we must bear witness to the truth. Jesus warned us many times about persecutions that will come. It will come to us in different ways when we live and give witness to our faith every day. When we give witness to the wrong of abortion for example many will think us extreme. It is particularly difficult for Doctors and Nurses but their witness to life is vital. We may find our views that marriage is between man and woman are considered as discriminatory and cruel. When we stand up for injustice at work, we can suffer. Indeed it may become more difficult to be a Christian in Public employment. We can struggle with our Children when we have to put them right about something. Young people suffer when they give witness to Christian Chastity. I have heard how hard it can be at college or university. Speaking up for those in prison is not popular.

Our second reading reminds us that we must do this in the right way always with love. In the face of rejection or opposition it is easy to become self-righteous or pompous or even bitter. We can also give in to condemnation of the so called wicked in society so much so that we can become a resounding gong or clashing symbol that cannot speak to the human heart. Certainly we must never hide the truth. *St Paul says: Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth. Love cannot exist without truth. But at the same time, it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes. This is a most difficult thing to do- to learn to suffer persecution while still practicing and showing love. It is not within our natural powers as such but comes as a gift of God. His love enables us to endure as Christ endured all his suffering. We could mediate on those four things of love to excuse to trust to hope and endure – all things.*

In regards to hoping all things Pope Francis says: Love does not despair of the future: *"this phrase speaks of the hope of one who knows that others can change, mature and radiate unexpected beauty and untold potential. This does not mean that everything will change in this life. It does involve realizing that, though things may not always turn out as we wish, God may well make crooked lines straight and draw some good from the evil we endure in this world..... This realization helps us, amid the aggravations of this present life, to see each person from a supernatural perspective, in the light of hope, and await the fullness that he or she will receive in the heavenly kingdom, even if it is not yet visible. (cf para 117 , [Amoris laetitia: Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on love in the family \(19 March 2016\)](#) | [Francis \(vatican.va\)](#)*



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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Parish Primary: St. Joseph's Academy 01858-465359.
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

30th January 2022
4th Week of Ordinary Time
Psalter Week 4

Times of Services

Sunday: 4th of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: Eddie Armstrong RIP (Pat)

11.00am: Mass: People of the Parish

Monday: St John Bosco

9.00am Mass: Eugene Gatens RIP (Taylor)

Tuesday: Feria

10.00am Mass: November Dead List

Wednesday: THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

2.00pm Funeral Suzanne Higgins

Thursday: Feria

10.00am Mass: Frank Willis RIP

Friday: St Gilbert of Sempringham

7.00pm Mass: Maria & Family

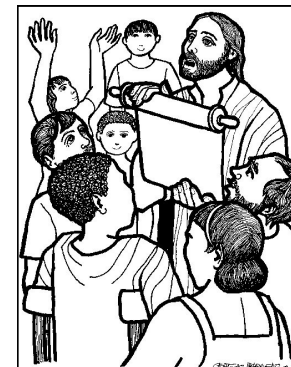
Saturday: St Agatha

6.00pm Mass Peter Northway RIP (Smrectak)

Sunday: 5th of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: People of the Parish

11.00am Mass: Sally Wyatt-McCormack (Goddard)



Like Elijah and Elisha, Jesus was not sent to the Jews only.

CONFESSIONS
11am &
5.15 - 5.45pm
Saturdays

2nd Collection for the Sick & Retired Priests Fund – This weekend

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:

This weekend the summary of our Parish Consultation as part of the Universal Synod is available. It contains a summary of themes which emerged in the variety of responses from individuals and groups as well as some quotes from particular responses. It may be that the Holy Spirit speaks through one voice. A small group and then the PPC members looked at all the responses. A summary has also been sent to the Deanery and then the Bishop will discern the Diocesan response.

As a Parish we will draw on these responses to discern a vision and thus a way ahead for our community as please God COVID-19 recedes. Thank you to all for your participation

COVID 19 AND MASS:

The Government directives have changed and we have received new guidance from the Bishops' Conference. We will be gradually adapting as the Pandemic becomes endemic. However, always in a safer manner as possible. Therefore we will proceed carefully with the transition to a more normal environment. The key protection is to be vaccinated: this means two doses plus a booster for anyone aged 16 or over. Some Changes

- From next week you will no longer need to book for mass. The track and trace is not required.
- Masks are strongly advised for the sake of other people if though no longer a legal requirement.
- Stewards will no longer direct people to come up for Holy Communion. Simply Our Lady's side will begin and then we will proceed to the Sacred Heart Side. Please come slowly and leave a good space to the person in front – so that they do not feel there is someone breathing down their neck.
- We will maintain alternate benches for the moment. However there will be no limits to numbers on a bench though we wish to have a system which acknowledges people's wish to maintain distances. When entering a bench, if you wish to maintain a distance from those following you, please place your Mass/hymn books as far from you as you wish, to indicate your preferred gap. If someone is already in the bench, then watch out for where they have put their books.

Once again Hand made **Reusable Face masks for Sale:** in Church £2.50 towards Church funds.

JUBILEE FOOD BANK: you are asked to leave food bank items in the trolleys at various supermarkets when you shop. Refill Revolution at the Eco Village, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Both Coop supermarkets, B&M, Nationwide, Coop, Great Glen cf <https://www.jubileefoodbankmh.uk>

/Shopping List: We are out of certain items. We have run out of: Tinned Fruit, Corned beef, Sweet corn. We are very short of: Custard, Pasta sauce, Sugar, We **do not** need more of: Other beans (red kidney beans, chickpeas...) Biscuits,



YOUR ACTION REQUIRED: From the Parish Consultation, one of the themes that emerged was the need for good Communication. We realised we need to update the Parish List to build the community through good communication. We have now sent out a letter or email to all who are on the Parish List. **If you do not receive either a letter or email, you are not on the Parish List.** Please pick up a Parish registration form from the Narthex so we have your details or you can email Fr. Chris: parishpriest@olvic.com Please check with any Catholic neighbours or friends to see if they have received the letter or want to be on our Parish List.

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



PARISH WELCOMING: It's a couple of months since we resumed Welcoming at some of the weekend Masses, but currently we only have 3 people on the rota for Sunday 11am Mass, and 5 people for the Saturday evening Mass. We're appealing to any welcomers who maybe didn't see our original email requests or who may now have changed their minds, to consider helping out, and also to anyone else who feels that they would like to volunteer to take part in welcoming their fellow parishioners to Mass. Please do consider helping out if you are able to, and 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

CALLING CATHOLIC TEACHERS If you are a **Catholic teacher currently working outside of Catholic education** and would like to find out more about the joys of working in a Catholic school within the Diocese of Nottingham, a virtual information session will take place on Tuesday 8 February from 7.00pm – 8.30pm. Please see the poster on the parish notice board. For further information 7 Booking contact: Julie Sweeney at the Diocesan Education Service (julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk)

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL currently have vacancies for a **full time teaching assistant** and **lunchtime supervisor** roles at our school. If you would like to know more about these roles, please contact the office for further information. Please contact Mrs Liddle at the office if you're interested in these roles. office@stjosephs.leics.sch.uk 01858 465359. You can email Mrs Liddle over the weekend. Applications close on morning of 31 January.



VOLUNTEERING IN SCHOOLS: There is a Churches Together in initiative to gather volunteers to help in Schools. This is a town wide initiative to mobilise volunteers in all our primary schools. The flyer invites volunteers to complete a simple online form - <https://forms.gle/HTDkPwYxneHq8Rvk9> - and identify which school they want to volunteer with. These will be distributed to the relevant schools at the end of January. See the flyers in Narthex

POETRY, RAP & COMEDY WORKSHOP WITH HARRY & CHRIS: 16th February 3-5pm at St Hugh Church, Market Harborough. An exciting and creative workshop in half term aimed at 10 to 18 year olds, with the renowned Comedy-Rap-Jazz duo Harry and Chris. This will be an interactive workshop, which will help young people to explore poetry through comedy and rap. The workshop is free, but spaces are limited, so booking and completion of parental / carer consent form is essential. Booking form available: <https://www.harborough-anglican.org.uk/new-events/2022/2/16/comedy-workshop> Comedy Festival Website: <https://comedy-festival.co.uk/event/poetry-rap-and-comedy-workshop-with-harry-and-chris/>

The Church is open for Private prayer each day. Please sign in on the list or use the Covid NHS App Q code displayed. Please wear face masks for the sake of others

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