

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS TO CATHOLIC PRIMARY ACADEMIES (Reception Year) - Children born between 01/09/2021 and 31/08/2022. The deadline for submitting an application for a school place is 15th January 2026. Application forms are available on your 'home' Local Authority website. For every Catholic school you apply for if you wish your child to be considered and ranked under a faith criterion you *should also complete a supplementary information form, and return this form to the school by the deadline, (forms are available from the LA and the school).* You must also include the supporting evidence* as required with this form, ie a baptism certificate (photocopies are acceptable; contact the parish of baptism if you don't have a copy); failure to supply the required supporting evidence will mean your child is ranked in a lower criterion which may affect your chance of a place.

Safeguarding Sources of Support

Safe Places – a free and independent support service that provides a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with the Catholic Church. Phone 0300 303 1056 Email: safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk

The Bower House – Harborough Christian Counselling Service offers counselling to those who live in the Harborough District 01858 469257

NAPAC offers support and advice to adult survivors of childhood abuse 0808 8010331

Spiritual Abuse - www.spiritualabuse.com **Action on Elder Abuse Helpline** – 0808 808 8141

Giving in Market Harborough: Many thanks to all who continue giving to the Parish. For anyone who is new there are Gift Aid Form in the cloister near the wall. Name of account: **Our Lady of Victories, Market Harborough RCP** Sort Code: **30 - 95 - 47** Account: **00068953**. Just put a note to say it is church donation. If You are a Tax payer you can pick up a gift Aid Form (if you have not completed one) at the Church or email Fr Chris parish-priest@olvic.com and I can send you one by email. We can claim an extra 25% on top of anything you give if you are tax payer. **We are Accepting Contactless Donations.** You will find our DIGITAL COLLECTION PLATE, contactless terminal in the Cloister . You can also give via the web link: <https://donate.mydona.com/our-lady-of-victories-church> or QR Code.

| December 2025 | EUCARISTIC | MINISTERS | | |
|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 6 p.m. | 10 a.m. | | |
| 20/21 December | B Mugoni | P Green | W Kwacz | K Crawford |
| 27/28 December | M O'Malley | C McInnes | J O' Leary | S Mc Glone |
| 3/4 January 2026 | P Bebb | T Page | A Randle | T Ruane |
| 10/11 January | A Hall | J Shellard | M Douglas | V Winter |

| READERS | | | |
|----------------|-------------|---------|---------------|
| | Sat. 6.00pm | Sunday | 10.00am |
| 20/21 December | J Rowland | R Lewin | M Lewin |
| 27/28 December | J Rowland | P Green | J Thayaseelan |



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

Parish Priest: Fr. Chris O'Connor
Tel: House: 01858 462359
Email: parishpriest@olvic.com
Parish Website: www.olvic.com
Safeguarding: safeguarding@olvic.com

Diocese of Nottingham: Company Number 7151646 Charity Number: 1134449
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 Gift Aid Organiser: giftaid@olvic.com
Parish Pastoral Council Members: see photos on notice board

TIMES OF SERVICES

SUNDAY: 4th of Advent

6.00pm Mass: People of the Parish
10.00am Mass: Malcolm Wallace RIP
Coffee after Mass

MONDAY: Advent Feria

10.00am: Funeral Ron Sambrook

TUESDAY: Advent Feria

9.00am Mass: Dorren Kimberlin RIP

WEDNESDAY: Advent Feria

10.00am Mass: Ashot & Mariam Special Int

Christmas Eve

6.00pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish

10.00pm Night Mass: Personal Int

THURSDAY: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00am Morning Mass: Paedar McConnell RIP (McGlone)

FRIDAY: ST STEPHEN

10.00am Mass: November Dead List

SATURDAY: ST JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

6.00pm Vigil Mass: Charlie Lynn (Duffy)

SUNDAY: THE HOLY FAMILY

10.00am Mass: People of the Parish

Coffee after Mass

MONDAY: St Thomas of Canterbury

10.00am: November Dead List

TUESDAY: Sixth day of the of Christmas

10.00am Mass: November Dead List



Jesus will be born of Mary, betrothed to Joseph, son of David.



CONFESIONS
Sat 11 am
5.15am

2nd Collection for flowers this weekend

21st & 28th December 2025
4th Week of Advent & Christmastide
Psalter Week 4 Year A

WEDNESDAY: Seventh day of Christmas

9.40am: Morning Prayer

10.00am: Sheila Holmes RIP (Cyprian)

THURSDAY: Mary Mother of God

9.40am: Rosary

10.00am Mass: Christine & Zoe (Eileen)

No Coffee

FRIDAY: St Basil & St Gregory

10.00am Mass: November Dead List

SATURDAY:

6.00pm Vigil Mass: Shaun Curran RIP (Phillips)

SUNDAY: 2nd Sunday of Christmas

10.00am Mass: Antonette Kilfeath RIP (McGlone)



FR CHRIS WRITES: As is traditional this Newsletter covers the 2 weeks of the Christmas Period. As you will see there are various times for you to come to Mass over this Christmas period. I remind people that Christmas is celebrated over 8 days finishing with Mary the Mother of God January 1st. Why not come to Mass during the Christmas period?

May I take this opportunity of wishing you and all your families a very Happy Christmas and blessings for the New Year May I thank everyone who helps in the Parish in the various areas of our Parish Life: Church, Hall, House, our School. There are so many involved in our Parish Life here! And may I say, personally, thank you for the help and prayers you give me. Fr. Chris PP

May Christ who was born for you at Christmas Be with you and yours this Christmas and throughout the coming year. Wishing you a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas May the New Year be rich in Blessings.

A retiring collection for Church Flowers will be made this weekend.

Ron Sambrook whose funeral will be on Monday 22nd December at 10.00am.

THE REPOSITORY has Diaries, Christmas cards and so on. Buy something Holy as a Christmas Present!

READERS WANTED: We are about to organise the rota for 2026 for readers at both weekend masses and are inviting anyone who would like to take part in this vital ministry to let us know as soon as possible. We particularly need more readers for Saturday evening at 6.00 p.m. If you are interested please contact Margaret Atkins at church or by email - margaretatkins52@gmail.com or telephone, 01858 446369 or give your name and contact details to Fr Chris.

COLLECTION AT ALL OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES will be your Christmas gift to Fr Chris. Envelopes available as you come into Church. Thank you in anticipation.

WHAT A CATHOLIC BELIEVES AND WHY: will continue after Christmas on 13th January.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION. We are now looking forward to First Holy Communion in 2026. Application forms are now available from Fr Chris after any of the Masses. Please return the form by **11 January 2026**. It is for children in year 3 and above, The first meeting for parents will take place on **Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 7.00pm in the Octagonal Hall** when we will introduce the course and give out the plan. The first session for children will take place on Sunday 25th January 2026 from 9.20am - 10.20am and the children will join their parents and the congregation after the Liturgy of the Word .

"PEACE BE WITH YOU ALL: Towards an 'unarmed and disarming' peace" The theme of Pope Leo XIV's Message for the World Day of Peace (1st January 2026) invites humanity to reject the logic of violence and war, and to embrace an authentic peace based on love and justice. This peace must be unarmed, that is, not based on fear, threats or weapons. And it must be disarming, capable of resolving conflicts, opening hearts and generating mutual trust, empathy and hope. It is not enough to call for peace; we must embody it in a way of life that rejects every form of violence, whether it be visible or systemic. The greeting of the Risen Christ, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19), is an invitation addressed to everyone — believers, non-believers, political leaders and citizens — to build the Kingdom of God and to work together to build a humane and peaceful future. Cf www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/peace.index.html

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: Ladies Midsummer Lunch supporting St Joseph's Academy Thursday 18th June 2026.

ST JOSEPH'S PTFA is excited to launch our very first online auction, and we would be grateful for your support. The auction runs from **Friday 30 January to Sunday 08 February 2026 at 9:00pm**. To take part, simply **scan the QR code** in this newsletter to view and bid on the items. We have a fantastic range of prizes, including **signed sports memorabilia**, family days out, experiences, vouchers, and unique treats. **Full details of all auction lots are included in the attached catalogue**. Every bid helps raise valuable funds for our children and school community — thank you for your support.



STAND UP FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM! Consider signing Aid to the Church in Needs' global petition supporting persecuted Christians. Your voice matters. By signing this petition, you can help us urge world leaders to act on behalf of those who suffer simply for practicing their faith. Follow the link or use the QR code. www.acnuk.org/article-18-petition-religious-freedom-human-right-not-privilege

