

FR CHRIS'S THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY:

We are heading towards the great culmination of Easter with the Feast of Pentecost next weekend. On Thursday we celebrated Ascension Day, when Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father, to begin his heavenly reign. In the Acts of the apostles, we have the account today of the Martyrdom of Stephen who sees the Lord ascended and indeed at the right hand of God the father in glory at the moment of his death: He sees the glory of the risen Lord. What can he teach us?

Stephen had been brought before the court for the power of his witness on the people who heard him and yet his words to the Sanhedrin go unheeded and not understood but rather make them determined to kill him. It must have been a dark moment. He must have thought that God had brought him to the Sanhedrin precisely to convert those great men. But he had failed. It must have seemed like that to him, at least a little bit. He was a saint, but he was also human. He felt the pain of rejection, the bewildering frustration of failure. It is now that he sees the Lord in heaven. He sees him standing in glory. I think this is the only place where Our Lord is described as standing at the right hand of the father; normally he is seated. The symbolism of standing indicates taking an interest perhaps rather like we stand up when something important is happening and also it is a gesture of honouring and welcoming as the king comes down from his throne to welcome and embrace a beloved person.

Saint Stephen teaches us firstly that failure or what we consider failure it's not necessarily so. God's thoughts and ways are not our thoughts and ways and we should bear this in mind when things do not go the way we have planned. Often enough we are called to some suffering like Jesus and Saint Stephen as part of God's way and for our own good and the good of all. Secondly this scene is a great encouragement to us when we are struggling with a failure or suffering: Our Lord is taking interest he is not indifferent to our difficulties quite the opposite and indeed we should never forget that the ascended Lord has his glorious wounds on his body which remain with him forever as a mark of his solidarity. When we are struggling with suffering and failure we should make our prayer the same as Saint Stephen's and entrust ourselves, our whole spirit to him.

Thirdly St Stephen teaches about forgiveness. He forgives his killers and asks God not to hold it against them in imitation of Jesus. Our suffering often enough comes through others. This can come about through direct ill will or unintentionally which is more often the case. People do not mean to cause suffering to us but it happens. We should not hold things against other people whether they have hurt us intentionally or not.

This is so important as we hear in the Gospel where Christ prays for Unity. He prays: *May they all be one. Father, may they be one in us, as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.* He prays for this unity so that all may share the love of the father and the son. We are called to heal divisions. We can only do this through forgiveness. That is to say by asking for and giving forgiveness. This should mark our lives. We do this daily as Pope Francis says by saying I'm sorry and I forgive you. Weekly, we prepare for Sunday Mass by reflecting on what we have done and what we have failed to do to others. And then monthly or very regularly, we ask forgiveness from God in the sacrament of reconciliation. As we do this we inevitably draw closer to Christ in the sacrament of the Eucharist which is of course the sacrament of unity so that we can be instruments of unity in our world today. Perhaps to forgive each other is the greatest sign of the love of God, the sign which will make people believe in the reality of the love of God. Because To forgive is to give fully.



Our Lady of Victories

Market Harborough

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Registered Address: Wilson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham, NG1 5AW

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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

29th May 2022
Seventh Week of Eastertide
Psalter Week 3

Times of Services

Sunday: 7th of Eastertide

Sat. 6.00pm: Doran Family
9.00am Mass: Ron Martin RIP (Plowright Family)
11.00am Mass: People of the Parish
4.30pm: Rosary outside Church

Monday: Easter Feria

9.00am Mass: November Dead List

Tuesday: VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (FEAST)

10.00am Mass: In thanks Bestin & Simon's Birth

Wednesday: St Justin

10.00am Mass: Sister Eithne Hourihan Platinum Jubilee

Thursday: Easter Feria

10.00am Mass: Gabriel Molloy (Sisters)

Coffee after Mass

Friday: Sts Charles Lwanga & Companions

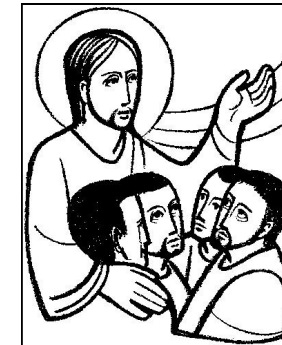
7.00pm Mass: Marjorie & Denis Bennett Anniv. (Armstrong)

Saturday: Easter Feria

6.00pm Mass: Teresa Gatens RIP (Taylor)

Sunday: PENTECOST / 10 Week of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass: Phil Plowright Anniv
11.00am Mass: People of the Parish



*May they be
completely one..*

CONFESSIONS

11am &
5.15 - 5.45pm
Saturdays

*This weekend is World Communications day and there is a 2nd Collection
for the work of Catholic Media*

***PLEASE NOTE: Booking is no longer needed for Masses. However,
please sanitise as you enter the church and we encourage people to wear
masks but please respect those who do not. Please to not come to Mass if
you have any symptoms of a viral infection***

FR CHRIS WRITES: Please pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit for our Parish on the days from the ascension to Pentecost. The novena in honour of the Holy Spirit is the oldest of all novenas since it was first made at the direction of Our Lord Himself when He sent His apostles back to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost.

Please also keep our first Communion children and their families in your prayers as they prepare for First Communion will take place on 18th June and 2nd July. I wish all our families a Blessed Half term.

Also there is an evening presentation in Nottingham on 9th June by Fr James Harvey on the Synod. If someone is interested to represent the Parish please let me know by 30th May.

CHANGES IN THE DEANERY & DIOCESE: As we have been aware for a number of years, there have been many consultations and discussions about the future structure of the Diocese with the changes in Parishes and fewer priests than we are used to. Inevitably it had to fall to the Bishop and his council to make final decisions. He has now published definitive 'roadmap' for the future direction of the diocese so that we can all work together to make it a reality. The status of our Parish remains unchanged, though we will have to support neighbouring Parishes as I have said before which may make it necessary to reduce to one Mass on a Sunday morning and one on Saturday evening. The New groupings of Parishes for the Deanery are below. The Present and future number of priests are in brackets They will either become one Parish or a Pastoral area. We do not know when the number of priests will change. This depends on retirements and deaths of Clergy. However the Bishop has asked them all to work together from now on in all areas of Parish life with an outlook for mission and evangelisation.

1. Holy Cross, Leicester (3/3) (Religious). 2. Immaculate Conception, Oadby, with St Edward the Confessor, Aylestone Road, St Mary, South Wigston, St John Bosco, Eyres Monsall, and St Thomas More, Knighton Road (2/2). 3. Most Blessed Sacrament, Gooding Avenue, with St Peter, Hinckley Road, and with Mother of God, New Parks (2/2). 4. Our Lady of Victories, Market Harborough (1/1) 5. Our Lady of Victories and St Alphonsus, Lutterworth, with St Pius X, Narborough (1/1). 6. Sacred Heart and St Margaret Mary, Mere Road, with Our Lady of Good Counsel, Rushey Mead, and St Joseph, Uppingham Road (4/2). 7. St Peter, Hinckley, with Sts Peter and Paul, Earl Shilton, and Our Lady and Saint Gregory, Market Bosworth (1/1). 8. Divine Infant of Prague, Syston, with St Patrick, Beaumont Leys Lane, and with St Theresa, Birstall, with Sacred Heart, Rothley (3/1) (Religious?). We pray for all our Parishes especially those facing changes.

You will see in the **MESSAGE** (cf **NEWS AND MEDIA - CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE** (cbcew.org.uk)) from the Bishops of England and Wales that they are reintroducing the Obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days from Pentecost onwards. This was in last week's Newsletter. Of course, Sunday Mass is a joy and something we should feel the need of: to worship God and to receive his grace. It is vital for our lives as Christians and of course a serious duty to God as our Creator, sustainer, and redeemer. I want to remind people, however, that it is a reasonable obligation. As the Bishops say that there can be things that dismiss this obligation such as health, the call of Charity fear for one's health and so on. This has always applied. In our Mass we celebrate together in a most special way as the People of God and the Body of Christ.

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham takes place on Saturday 11 June 2022. to pray for vocations, peace in our world, and evangelisation. Join with Bishop Patrick on pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady to pray for vocations, peace in our world, and evangelisation. See Poster for details.

Please pray for Charles Van der Liet who died last week. We pray for all the family on their grief. His funeral Mass will be on Tuesday 14th June 1.00pm

THANK YOU! From St Joseph's PTFA: A huge thank you to everyone who supported St Joe's Fest 2022 on Saturday 21st May, in whatever way they were able to. We were very fortunate that the weather continues to be ideal each year and due to the incredible generosity of parents, grandparents, friends & parishioners, we raised over £1600 for the PTFA! These vital funds will be used to support the school, families & students in making their learning journeys even more special. Thank you!

CALLING FOUNDATION GOVERNORS A virtual information session about being a foundation governor in one of our Catholic schools is taking place on **Wednesday 22 June** from 7.00pm – 8.30pm. Please see the poster on the parish notice board. For further information, please contact: Julie Sweeney at the Diocesan Education Service (julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk). This will be an online introduction.

WELCOMING Thank you so much to those who have volunteered so far. We are however still short of volunteers to welcome at both the Saturday evening and Sunday 11am Masses. Please do consider helping out if you are able. Please contact Beatrice (01858 465492) or Theresa (07748 591398) if you would like to chat to us about it, or email tootskendrick@sky.com Thank you.

Our Lady's Flower circle: We are hoping to restart our rota for arranging flowers in church. If you are interested in helping, would you please contact either Pauline Bebb tel 01858 682897 or Mary Penney 01858 440603

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



Bishop Patrick warmly invites people from across the diocese to Saint Barnabas Cathedral on **Thursday 2nd June** for **HAPPY AND GLORIOUS** a musical celebration to mark the Platinum Jubilee of HM The Queen. Tickets for the evening are available at www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events/jubilee Come and join HM's Lord Lieutenant and other guests as we give thanks to God for The Queen. Tickets start at £8.00 and include a glass of wine/soft drink in the beautiful Cathedral gardens during the interval. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start

MARKET HARBOROUGH EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUNDRAISER:

Ladies Lunch Returns!!! Ladies Lunch Marston Trussell Hall June 23rd 12.30pm £37.50/ticket All money raised to go to St. Joseph's Catholic Academy. For tickets please Contact Kate Crawford Tel 01858 446873 please leave a message if there's no answer

		Sat. 6.00 pm	Sunday, 9.00 am	11.00 a.m.
Readers	28/29 May	P. Danks	C. Goddard	R van der Liet
	4/5 June	C. Baldam	C. Reed	C. Sellechia