



Welcome to the Catholic Parish of Southwell and Calverton

Our Lady of Victories, Southwell and Saint Anthony, Calverton

Our Lady of Victories : Halam Road, Southwell, Nottinghamshire NG25 0AD
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Parish Secretary: Justine Stoddart (currently on furlough)

Telephone: (01636) 812686 Parish Website: www.olvrchurch.com

Part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Nottingham Diocesan Website: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk
Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Company Number: 7151646 Charity Number: 1134449



5th and 6th December 2020 : Second Sunday of Advent

As we continue our journey through Advent we have a reflection from Saint Anselm, archbishop of Canterbury in the eleventh century, about our desire to encounter God:

Little man, rise up! Flee your preoccupations for a little while. Hide yourself for a time from your turbulent thoughts. Cast aside, now, your heavy responsibilities and put off your burdensome business. Make a little space free for God; and rest for a little time in him.

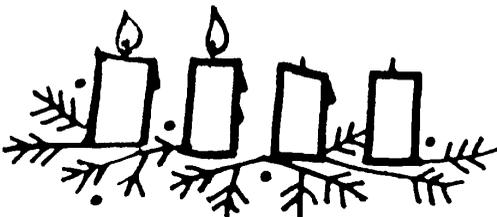
Enter the inner chamber of your mind; shut out all thoughts. Keep only thought of God, and thoughts that can aid you in seeking him. Close your door and seek him. Speak now, my whole heart! Speak now to God, saying, *I seek your face; your face, Lord, will I seek.*

And come you now, O Lord my God, teach my heart where and how it may seek you, where and how it may find you.

Lord, if you are not here, where shall I seek you when you are absent? But if you are everywhere, why do I not see you present? Truly you dwell in unapproachable light. But where is unapproachable light, or how shall I come to it? Or who shall lead me to that light and into it, that I may see you in it? Again, by

what signs, under what form, shall I seek you? I have never seen you, O Lord, my God; I do not know your face.

What, O most high Lord, shall this man do, an exile far from you?



What shall your servant do, anxious in his love of you, and cast out far from your presence? He is breathless with desire to see you, and your face is too far from him. He longs to come to you, and your dwelling-place is inaccessible. He is eager to find you, but does not know where. He desires to seek you, and does not know your face.

Lord, you are my God, and you are my Lord, and never have I seen you. You have made me and renewed me, you have given me all the good things that I have, and I have not yet met you. I was created to see you, and I have not yet done the thing for which I was made. And as for you, Lord, how long? How long, O Lord, do you forget us; how long do you turn your face from us? When will you look upon us, and hear us? When will you enlighten our eyes, and show us your face? When will you restore yourself to us?

Look upon us, Lord; hear us, enlighten us, reveal yourself to us. Restore yourself to us, that it may be well with us, yourself, without whom it is so ill with us. Pity our toilings and strivings towards you since we can do nothing without you.

Teach me to seek you, and reveal yourself to me when I seek you, for I cannot seek you unless you teach me, nor find you unless you reveal yourself. Let me seek you in longing, let me long for you in seeking; let me find you by loving you and love you in the act of finding you.

Coming back to Mass

It is with great joy that we are once again able to come to our churches, with Mass available for parishioners to attend on Saturday in Southwell at 6.00pm and on Sunday in Calverton at 10.45am. The Government has placed our parish in Tier 3 which precludes any social interaction in or at church (outside of our bubble), but otherwise Mass will be celebrated much as it was until early November: that is that we can come to church with a maximum (including priest and stewards) of 20 people in Southwell and 24 people in Calverton.

To book a place telephone Kathleen and Robert Dixon on 01636 813874, at any reasonable time from Monday morning until Friday evening; if there's no reply leave a message, with your name and number, and they'll return your call. Don't use any other number to contact Kathleen and Robert, and please also note:

- ✘ A place needs to be booked for each individual who plans to attend;
- ✘ You'll be asked to provide a telephone number, to be passed onto Public Health England if needed as part of the 'Test and Trace' system;
- ✘ Sunday Masses bookings can be made during the preceding week, from Monday morning (no earlier), until Friday evening, before the Sunday Mass booked.

NHS Covid-19 App and the QR Code in Church

Along with most public buildings both of our churches and the parish hall now have their own QR code, situated just inside the door. If you have a smart-phone please scan the code as you come in, enabling you to 'check in' and assisting with the Government's Track and Trace system. Please note this is in addition to booking a place at Mass, and not instead – please continue to book for Mass as well!

What to expect when coming to Mass

In order to comply with the Bishop's guidelines on celebrating Masses in the covid-19 period there'll be some differences in that way we come to Mass and the way Mass is celebrated. Please follow these directions, and recognise that those asking you to follow the directions are volunteers themselves:

- ✘ Please don't attend if you show any symptoms of covid-19;
- ✘ Try to arrive no earlier than half an hour before Mass, and no later than ten minutes before Mass, to allow time for each person to enter one-by-one;
- ✘ Enter via the car park and follow the one-way signs, waiting by the 2 metre markers in front of the church door if others have arrived before you;
- ✘ Ensure you bring a mask to wear throughout the time in church, except when receiving Holy Communion;
- ✘ Please use the hand-sanitiser (provided) on arrival;
- ✘ Please take one of the Mass Sheets, and a Newsletter, and take them home with you after Mass;
- ✘ Put your weekly offering into the basket in the narthex; at present there are two collections as we're 'catching up' the second collections;
- ✘ There won't be any holy water available, the repository will be closed, and there are no Catholic papers currently available;
- ✘ Please sit on the seat to which you are directed, following the one-way system; seating is at two-metre intervals (in Southwell couples can sit next to each other, and families in a single pew; in Calverton the chairs have been laid out singularly);
- ✘ Please avoid any contact with other parishioners; don't speak unless necessary;
- ✘ Only the disabled toilet will be available for use, and only if absolutely necessary. If you do use the toilet, please do so before you are seated, and then go to your seat (in Southwell, by exiting the hall lobby, walking around the side of the church, and re-entering the church through the main door, following the one-way system);
- ✘ Windows and doors will be open to enable as much ventilation as possible;

- ✘ The Mass Sheet will explain the changes in the way Mass is celebrated, especially:
 - There will be no congregational singing;
 - Responses will be made with quiet voices;
 - There will be no ministries (eg altar servers, readers) during Mass;
 - There will be no sign of peace;
- ✘ After Mass you will be invited to receive Holy Communion; then exit the church following the one-way system, out into the car park, and leave immediately.
- ✘ Since it is not permitted to gather publicly in Tier 3 please ensure that you don't linger in the car park after Mass, tempting as it is to chat with fellow parishioners!
- ✘ As the weather becomes colder please dress appropriately for the weather and temperature.

Ways to continue to participate in the life of the Church

The **readings and prayers for Mass** each day can be found here:

- <https://universalis.com/europe.england.nottingham/mass.htm>

Daily Mass is broadcast from our Cathedral in Nottingham at the following times:

- Sundays and Saturdays: 10am; Weekdays: 1pm

The link to the televised Mass is here:

- http://www.stbarnabascathedral.org.uk/01_Community/livestream.html

Daily Mass is broadcast from the National Shrine and Minor Basilica of Our Lady in Walsingham each day at 12 noon:

- <http://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream>

Sunday Mass, celebrated by Bishop Patrick, will be broadcast from his chapel at Bishop's House each Sunday at 10am, and other days and times during the week:

- www.youtube.com/channel/UCaf7upUMsn3KI8GD79FotjQ/featured?fbclid=IwAR1JRpqkd00rHZY98bsnSC_N9TKbvSKXv0L5bT4yVCcMTHaVmAwaW4g-rAk

Resources for children and young people can be found via the Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Service's (NDCYS) website:

- <https://ndcys.com>

For special Advent-themed Services each Wednesday evening at 8.00pm, exploring the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love:

- <https://www.youtube.com/ndcyslve>

There are ideas for **children's liturgy** on Cafod's website:

- <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

The Catholic Communications Network : This Sunday

Although World Communications Day is usually celebrated in May, we pray for the work of the Catholic Communications Network this Sunday, and a **Collection** will be taken for the work of the Network. Please help to continue this work through contributing generously to the collection.

A focus of our prayer might be to pray for all those professionals who work in communications, especially those who are responsible for communicating on behalf of the Catholic Church in this country. The communications office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales supports the bishops, in their witness and engagement with current issues, and the Church more widely in promoting the Gospel through digital, social, print and broadcast media. The office assists media enquiries and is a resource for media professionals. It also plays an important role in developing the public profile of the Church through word and image.

During the present pandemic it's ever more vital to have a good media presence, in the press and on-line, to help all people 'with ears to hear' to come closer to knowledge of God's love for them.

Sea Sunday : Next Sunday

Since we missed Sea Sunday earlier in the year, next Sunday we'll have a Day of Prayer for all those who live and work at sea. Without them we would not have most of the items we buy in the shops.

The Apostleship of the Sea operates in all the major ports throughout the world. A seafarers' pay is very low by UK standards: they work shifts, seven days a week, for up to nine months, and many send most of their money home to support their families. They do get rest time but imagine working every day, without a weekend or day off, for nine months. And all this time, they are far away from their family and loved ones. A ship visit from the Apostleship of the Sea means seeing a friendly face, someone to talk to, and often the chance to gather for Mass. Your contributions next Sunday will help this work continue, bringing support to seafarers both practically and spiritually.

Special prayer intentions for Advent

During Advent we're encouraged to pray especially for:

- Migrants and Refugees (especially on Migrants' Day, 3rd December)
- Expectant Mothers (especially on the fourth Sunday of Advent, 20th December)

A Spiritual Communion

Spiritual Communion is the heartfelt desire to receive Our Lord, even when we are unable to do so. If you are live-streaming the Mass, or praying the texts of the Mass, when it comes to the time for receiving Holy Communion pray instead the prayer:

From Saint Alphonsus Liguori:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as being already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Prayer during the Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

A Prayer to my Guardian Angel when I can't get to Mass

Dear Guardian Angel, go for me to the church, there kneel down at Mass for me. At the Offertory, take me to God, and offer him my service: what I am, what I have, offer as my gift. At the Consecration, with your seraphic strength, adore my Saviour truly present, praying for those who have loved me, for those who have offended me, and for those now deceased, that the blood of Jesus may purify them all. During Holy Communion, bring to me the Body and Blood of Jesus uniting him with me in spirit, so that my heart may become his dwelling place. Plead with him, that through his sacrifice all people throughout the world may be saved. When the Mass ends, bring home to me and to every home, the Lord's blessing. Amen.

Celebrating Advent across our Diocese

Praying with Our Lady through Advent – We are invited 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. Mary 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 and 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 communities. This can be quite challenging to do this year so we are offered a virtual Diocesan Carol Service. We will celebrate a short online Service on **Friday 18th December** at 6.00pm on Bishop Patrick's YouTube Channel (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.

Being a disciple web series – January is a time when work at being a better person, why not explore how we can be a grow as a disciple of Jesus? On the four Thursdays of January we will explore a different aspect of what it means to be a Catholic disciple with Brendan Thompson, the CEO of Catholic Voices, in a web series on Zoom. Catholic Voices is an international organisation that shares the Good News in the global media. This will be a great foundation for parishes and individuals to explore how we support each other in growing as Catholic disciples. Register here:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMrcuygqjwpGdNBRC5NIQ46Eu1bleEg246A>

For information on how to access things on zoom visit:

www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/information/diocesan-commissions/01_commission-adult-formation/using-zoom

Christmas Masses

Sincere thanks to those who have suggested how our programme of Masses might be arranged for Christmas, and especially to the stewards, cleaners and bookings operators who are making themselves available to ensure as many people as possible can come to Mass at Christmastime. Our celebrations will be:

- Christmas Vigil Mass – Thursday 24th December, 6.00pm, Calverton
- Christmas Midnight Mass – Thursday 24th December, 11.00pm, Southwell
- Christmas Dawn Mass – Friday 25th December, 8.30am, Southwell
- Christmas Day Mass – Friday 25th December, 11.00am, Calverton
- Holy Family Mass – Saturday 26th December, 6.00pm, Southwell
- Holy Family Mass – Sunday 27th December, 10.45am, Calverton

Bookings can be made for any of these six Masses by telephoning Kathleen and Robert Dixon on 01636 813874 at any reasonable time from Monday 21st December onwards. Bookings will be on a first-come, first-served basis, with alternative availability offered if the Mass you wish to attend is already fully booked.

Christmas Cards in Church

Some parishioners leave Christmas cards for other parishioners to collect at the back of church during Advent. Due to the risk of virus transmission it won't be possible to leave cards in church this year. If you need to send a card to a parishioner for whom you don't have an address Father Simon is happy to add addresses to any pre-stamped cards for which addresses are held on the parish database. Such addresses won't be given out, and some parishioners aren't on the database, so please check with Father Simon if you wish to do this.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

The Lay Chaplains of the Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT (the organisation which runs all of our diocesan Catholic schools in Nottinghamshire) would like to invite you to their **Virtual Advent Liturgy** on **Tuesday 15th December** at 7pm. The Service will be hosted by each of the 21 schools that form our Catholic Multi-Academy Trust.

To join the Liturgy follow the link: shorturl.at/pzGHN or go to the Trust Chaplaincy website – Be Inspirational – where you can also find the lyrics for the Advent carols to be sung during the Liturgy!

<https://www.beinspirational.co.uk/tues-15th-dec-7pm-olol-advent-liturgy/>

Southwell Minster Christingle Trail

Southwell Minster, has teamed up with the Children's Society and Muddy Church to do Christingle in a different way this year. Instead of a service there will be a Christingle Trail around the grounds of The Minster, along with take-away Christingle bags to make at home, and a short on-line Christingle service to watch.

This innovative way to celebrate Advent and enjoy Christingle is open to anyone to join in on their own or in family groups – all that is needed is a smart phone to follow QR codes, and to follow normal social distancing guidelines. Head for the North Porch at any point during the times given below. We really look forward to seeing you!

The Christingle Trail will be available on the following dates and times:

- ✕ Saturday 5th December, 10.00am – 4.00pm
- ✕ Sunday 6th December, 12.00 noon – 4.00pm
- ✕ Saturday 12th December, 10.00am – 4.00pm
- ✕ Sunday 13th December, 12.00 noon – 4.00pm

For more information please contact the event coordinator, Nick Harding, at nick@nickharding.net or on 07426 530599.

Government Review

Colin Bloom has been appointed as the Faith Engagement Adviser at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to lead a review into how best the government should engage with faith groups in England. The Ministry is headed by one of our local MPs, Robert Jenrick, member for Newark (which covers Southwell and some of the villages in our parish).

This call for evidence will pose a series of questions around how those of all faiths, or none, perceive the government's engagement with faith organisations. Because the review is specifically about faith and religion, priority will be given to responses that fit within those parameters. However, space is given for respondents to share their views in a way that they feel is appropriate.

Colin Bloom will make recommendations to the Communities Secretary as part of his review.

The link to the online submission, which is open to our parishioners, but which closes at 11.45pm on Friday 11th December, is:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-faith-engagement-review-call-for-evidence

Covid-19 and Vaccinations

In September 2020 the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales issued a statement Covid-19 and Vaccination (24th September 2020). In the light of the recent breakthrough in vaccine development we now wish to issue a follow up statement. The development of a vaccine against Covid-19 presents an important breakthrough in protecting others as well as oneself from the virus; a virus which has not only caused a global pandemic and led to a huge loss of life but has also placed a great burden on healthcare workers and systems.

Each of us has a duty to protect others from infection with its danger of serious illness, and for some, death. A vaccine is the most effective way to achieve this unless one decides to self-isolate.

At present, debate concerns the use of the vaccines developed by Pfizer & BioNTech, Moderna, and AstraZeneca. Some have questioned the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine since it has been developed from cell-lines originating from the cells of an aborted foetus in 1983.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and the Pontifical Academy of Life, have expressed the view that one may in good conscience and for a grave reason receive a vaccine sourced in this way, provided that there is a sufficient moral distance between the present administration of the vaccine and the original wrongful action.

In the COVID-19 pandemic, we judge that this grave reason exists and that one does not sin by receiving the vaccine.

Both the Pfizer & BioNTech and Moderna vaccines have a different source since they are mRNA-based vaccines. On 2nd December the Pfizer & BioNTech vaccine was approved for use in the UK.

Each Catholic must educate his or her conscience on this matter and decide what to do, also bearing in mind that a vaccine must be safe, effective, and universally available, especially to the poor of the world.

Catholics may in good conscience receive any of these vaccines for the good of others and themselves. In good conscience, one may refuse a particular vaccine but continues to have a duty to protect others from infection.



+ Richard Moth

Bishop of Arundel and Brighton,
and Chair, Department of Social Justice,
Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales



December News from Cafod

Advent Calendar: Cafod's 2020 online Advent calendar of daily prayer and reflection offers an opportunity to pause

and reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. Join Cafod as we journey throughout the season of Advent with our global family. Download an Advent calendar for children and an alternative for young people; alternatively sign up for daily reflections from the Advent Calendar sent directly to your inbox. See cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-calendar

World Gifts for Christmas: Get your Christmas shopping done early with ethical gifts that save lives. From cards and calendars to gold coins and goats, Cafod has loads of perfect last-minute Christmas presents that help support people living in poverty overseas. Cafod's range of virtual charity gifts will delight your friends and family, but are also a great way of rediscovering what it really means to share the love, peace and joy of Christmas. Each gift you buy comes with a beautifully illustrated gift card for you to pass on to your loved one, which describes the difference it will make to communities living in developing countries. *Keep Clean Kits* and *Soap to Keep Safe* are particularly pertinent during the pandemic. See: worldgifts.cafod.org.uk

Christmas cards: Traidcraft stocks a fantastic range. For every pack of cards you buy, Cafod receives 10% commission. See: traidcraftshop.co.uk/christmas/charity-christmas-cards

Just a short time left to Send a Message to the brave: Every day, human rights defenders and environmental activists across the world are risking everything to defend our brothers and sisters and protect our common home. Let's not forget them this Christmas – send a card of solidarity to the brave. This Advent, amid the busyness of the season and the waiting in joyful expectation, remember that they are waiting too – for justice and safety. In the face of threats, your card will help show them that they aren't alone in their struggles but that they have a community of people in the UK who are all praying and standing with them. All Christmas cards must reach Cafod by Monday 7th December. See cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Latest

Let us pray: In this season of Advent, inspire us to be people of hope. Encourage us not to be greedy for material possessions, but for justice and truth. Enflame us with a love for others, which crosses boundaries of race, religion and nationality. Stir within us a desire to fight for the integrity of creation and appreciate the immense beauty of the earth. Be with us, Lord, at this time, that we may be a people of hope. Amen.

Christmas Raffle

In previous years at this time there has been a parish raffle to help raise much-needed funds for our parish, and to support local charities. Since we aren't able to meet for Mass or social events at this time it seems prudent to hold-over the raffle until such time as we're able to gather together again in good numbers. Of course, if anyone has any potential raffle prizes, or indeed wishes to make a financial donation, both would be very welcome! Thank you to those parishioners who have donated already, it is much appreciated.

Parish Newsletter by email

If you'd like to receive the parish newsletter by email simply email Father Simon at simon.gillespie@dioceseofnottingham.uk, asking to be added. It's necessary to have parishioners' consent to send the newsletter, and other messages, via email.

Likewise if you haven't filled in a parish census form please consider doing so. The form can be found on the forms tab of the parish website.

Financial Support of our Parish

Thank you to those parishioners who give regularly via standing orders. If you don't do so, please consider what you can give. Our parish is projected to make a loss of almost £25,000 this year, due to the lack of parish hall bookings and the reduction in weekly collection income. If you've able to set up a standing order, the details are:

- Account name: **Our Lady of Victories Southwell RCP**
- Sort Code: **30-67-76**
- Account number: **45368360**

Many thanks to all our parishioners for your continuing generosity!

Supporting Newark Foodbank

The following items are especially needed at the moment:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| ✘ Long life fruit juice (not squash) | ✘ Tinned fruit |
| ✘ Tinned meat soup | ✘ Sugar (500g or 1kg) |
| ✘ Sponge puddings (tinned /
microwave) | ✘ Laundry liquitabs / tablets |

Items can be donated at the Co-op, One Stop, and Lloyds Chemist in Southwell.

Some particular requests for support received recently

This Christmas will be a particularly difficult time for those in the prisons of the diocese and the staff who care for them. Consider praying for **prisoners and their families** during the Christmas season. You may wish to participate in 'Operation Elf', a scheme overseen by PACT to enable those in prison to send presents to their children. The pandemic means that this is being carried out in a different way this year and details can be found at www.prisonadvice.org.uk

So much can be asked of us at this time of year. It may be hard to always say yes. Mary said yes to being the Mother of Jesus and as a young, unmarried girl this must have been a terrifying moment for her. Yet her "yes" brought Jesus into the world and changed lives forever. Throughout this year of many challenges, thanks to our generous supporters, **Mary's Meals** has continued to say yes to feeding desperately hungry children with a daily meal in a place of education. Now we are delighted to share with you a new opportunity to say yes and provide 43,000 hungry children in Bong County, Liberia, with a life-changing meal at school. From 2nd November until 31st January, donations made to our Double The Love campaign will be matched by the UK government, up to £2 million. Please consider setting a place at our Big Family Christmas dinner table or buying a Christmas gift card on our website. More information on how to support us can be found at

www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove

Greetings from Birthplace of our Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour! Appeal for Christmas Gifts and Christmas Lunch for our orphan special needs students. By now, everyone is familiar with coronavirus and the impact of this pandemic on the entire world. The big question is how much longer it can last, and most of all how will that impact our Christmas celebration Bethlehem? Christmas without tourists to the birthplace of Christ looks bleak for Christian people in Bethlehem region.

We ask you in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ who was born in Bethlehem to donate for offering **Christmas gifts and Christmas lunch for our poor orphan special needs students** at the School of Joy for special needs, help us to put the smile on their faces, and make their life different, because nobody is offering anything for them! Many thanks in advance for your solidarity and support to our poor special needs students.

God bless; fraternally yours in Christ

Father Mamdouh AbuSada, Director, School of Joy, Bethlehem

Prayer for the Year of the Word

Living God,
you walk alongside us and speak to us throughout the Scriptures.
Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears
and shows us how to live for one another.
Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds
so that we may be your witnesses throughout the world. Amen.

V. Your word is our path and your truth is our light. R. This day and every day.

Our Lady of the Annunciation : Pray for us.
Saint Matthew : Pray for us.
Saint Jerome : Pray for us.

From the Saint Vincent de Paul Society

Our local SVP conference has 10 members and we normally meet each month and regularly organise fund raising events. Our main work in the parish is visiting the sick, elderly and housebound but this has not been possible since March, although we have remained in contact with the people whom we would normally visit. This has been by telephone sending birthday and greeting cards by post. We have also done odd jobs and dropped small gifts off at the doorstep. We know that many parishioners have made great efforts to remain in touch during this difficult period.



The other work we do involves supporting our twin conference in Kerala in southern India and we are also committed to supporting the establishment of a small shop close to a Catholic school. The shop sells a wide range of things which are needed by the school children such as pens and pencils. It also provides an income for two widows and their families. The widows are repaying the money that we provided but it is being used to establish another project and will not be returned to us. We also plan to support the SVP children's camps at Mablethorpe again in 2021.

Our current problem is that we have only £10 in the bank and we urgently need some money. We do not usually ask directly for money but if you have some to spare The easiest way is pay it into our bank account. Sort code is 60-60-04 the account is 46077413 and the account is SVP OLV Southwell. Cheques are ok as is cash. Call Mike Asker on 01636 636221 if necessary.

A reflection from 'Marriage Matters'

Let us be a sign for all

A voice cries "*Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord*". Sometimes life can seem to be a wilderness as we look ahead. If we try to live today to the best of our abilities, removing those attitudes and behaviours that prevent us from being better husbands and wives, then we can become a clearer 'signpost' for everyone.

A prayer for life

This Tuesday we will be celebrating the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On this day, let us remember all unborn children, especially those recently conceived. That safety, protection and love would be granted to them, and that we the Church, with the intercession of Our Lady, would take on the call to support these precious children of God. Lord hear us!

www.righttolife.org.uk

Pope's Prayer Intentions for December

For a Life of Prayer. We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Prayers for ...

Please remember in your prayers especially:

- ✘ **All those affected by the coronavirus outbreak** – those infected, those caring for them, those who have died, and those who mourn.
- ✘ **Rev Limnyuy Gamsi**, a transitional deacon who is ordained priest for our diocese on Saturday 5th December!
- ✘ **John Pett**, of Saint Wilfrid's church, Calverton
- ✘ **William McCay**, father of Father John McCay in the Holy Spirit parish, West Bridgford, who died recently. May he rest in peace!
- ✘ **Clergy of our diocese who are sick at this time:** Monsignor Jonathan Moore, Canon Michael Moore, Fathers John Cairns, Anthony Colebrook, John Daley IC, Hugh Doherty, James Hannigan, Peter Harvey, Christopher Hogan, James Lynch, Frank McLaughlin, Robert Rutledge, Michael Tutchter; Deacons Tom Berrie, Stephen Doona, William Hutchinson and Robin Pollard.



Masses and Services this week

Saturday 5th December	Advent Feria
Collection for The Catholic Communications Network	
	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
S 6.00pm Mass	Mary Back RIP
Sunday 6th December	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
C 10.45am Mass	Pro Populo (people of the parish)
Monday 7th December	Memorial of Saint Ambrose, bishop and doctor
Mass	Special Intention (DG)
Tuesday 8th December	PATRONAL SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE
	CONCEPTION, PATRON OF OUR DIOCESE
Mass	Father Joe McGovern RIP
Wednesday 9th December	Advent Feria
Mass	Sheilah Andrews
Thursday 10th December	Memorial of the Martyrs of Lincolnshire
Mass	Monsignor John Coghlan RIP
Friday 11th December	Advent Feria
Mass	Father John Seabrook RIP
Saturday 12th December	Advent Feria
Collection for Sea Sunday	
	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – GAUDETE SUNDAY
S 6.00pm Mass	Pro Populo (people of the parish)
Sunday 13th December	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – GAUDETE SUNDAY
C 10.45am Mass	John Hodgkinson RIP

Readings at Masses this week

Sunday	Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11; Psalm 84(85):9-14; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8
Monday	Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 84(85):9-14; Luke 5:17-26
Tuesday	Genesis 3:9-15.20; Psalm 97(98):1-4; Ephesians 1:3-6.11-12; Luke 1:26-38
Wednesday	Isaiah 40:25-31; Psalm 102(103):1-4.8.10; Matthew 11:28-30
Thursday	Isaiah 41:13-20; Psalm 144(145):1.9-13; Matthew 11:11-15
Friday	Isaiah 48:17-19; Psalm 1:1-46; Matthew 11:16-19
Saturday	Ecclesiasticus 48:1-4.9-12; Psalm 79(80):2-3.15-16.18-19; Matthew 17:10-13