



Welcome to the Catholic Parish of Southwell and Calverton

Our Lady of Victories, Southwell and Saint Anthony, Calverton

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Saint Anthony : Mansfield Lane, Calverton, Nottinghamshire NG14 6NP

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Part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Nottingham Diocesan Website: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk

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28th and 29th March 2020 : Fifth Sunday of Lent

In these days when our churches must stay closed and Lent seems especially rigorous with so many restrictions, it's a comfort to know that God is close to us and that he holds each one of us in the palm of his hand. This Sunday we celebrate the re-dedication of our country to Mary, as her Dowry, and so it's especially good to use the Holy Father's prayer, to Our Lady, as we seek comfort and Divine protection:

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.

National Temporary Closure of Churches

Diocesan Update: 25th March



Following the announcement last week, by the Bishops of England and Wales, of the suspension of public participation in the public liturgical celebrations, the situation developed a few days ago when all churches were asked to close, for an initial period of three weeks.

Accordingly, from 24th March, and for an initial period of three weeks (including Easter), Bishop Patrick has decreed that all Catholic churches and chapels of ease in our diocese must remain closed. A fuller explanation of this, given by the President of the Bishops' Conference, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, can be viewed on-line here:

<https://rcdow.org.uk/news/churches-to-close-with-immediate-effect/>

Father Simon continues to celebrate Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours each day in Our Lady of Victories church, where the Blessed Sacrament remains reserved. With the current restrictions on movement unless essential it's not easy for Mass to be celebrated, even privately, in Calverton, and so the Blessed Sacrament has been removed from Saint Anthony's church. Sincere thanks to those parishioners in Calverton who continue to visit the church and ensure all is well with the building.

Access to a Priest or the Sacraments

During these days when our Catholic churches throughout the country have to remain closed Mass is still celebrated every day for the intentions of all the parishioners of Southwell and Calverton, and for the specific intentions you have requested. If you need to contact Father Simon, please get in touch : all the contact details are on the front page of this newsletter.

Justine, our parish secretary, is now working from home, but can be contacted through the parish email address, and is collecting the post regularly.

As requested by the Prime Minister on 23rd March, public religious celebrations are not taking place for the time being. **Funeral Services** can still be held, at the cemetery or crematorium, and a Requiem Mass or Memorial Mass can be celebrated later, when it's possible to gather again in church.

If you or someone you know wishes to be anointed with the **Sacrament of the Sick** please speak with Father Simon. Likewise, if you or someone you know wishes to celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** (Confession) this can be arranged directly with Father Simon.

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:

- www.youtube.com/channel/UCaf7upUMsn3KI8GD79FotjQ/featured?fbclid=IwAR1JRpqkdO0rHZY98bsnSC_N9TKbvSKXv0L5bT4yVCcMTHaVmAwaW4g-rAk

Bishop Patrick is also celebrating other liturgies, such as the **Stations of the Cross**, and times of **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**. Check his YouTube channel (using the link above) for each day's schedule.

The **Rosary** is prayed throughout the day from the Shrine of Our Lady at the Grotto in Lourdes:

- <https://www.lourdes-france.org/en/tv-lourdes>

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

- <https://ndcys.com>

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

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

In these days let us stay safe and well, with our eyes fixed on the Lord. As our churches have to remain closed, let us open our hearts even wider. As the Psalms say 'Grow higher ancient doors and let the King of Glory enter.' These are the doors of our hearts. God knows well how to fill our lives. We must open our hearts in prayer and silent welcome.

Readings at Masses this week

During this time when we're not able to attend Mass, reading and pondering the reading we would hear at Mass is one way of being in union with the Church throughout the world. The references to the day's readings are given below:

Sunday	Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 129(130); Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45
Monday	Daniel 13:1-9.15-17.19-30.33-62; Psalm 22(23); John 8:1-11
Tuesday	Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 101(102):2-3.16-21; John 8:21-30
Wednesday	Daniel 3:14-20.24-25.28; Psalm 3:52-56; John 8:31-42
Thursday	Genesis 17:3-9; Psalm 104(105):4-9; John 8:51-59;
Friday	Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 17(18):2-7; John 10:31-42
Saturday	Ezekiel 37:21-28; Psalm 31:10-13; John 11:45-56

Some practical points

Although Masses and other Acts of Worship won't be available to the lay faithful for the foreseeable future, if you wish to have a Mass offered for a particular intention simply put a Mass envelope with the details through the presbytery letterbox, or email the parish office or Father Simon. The daily Mass intentions will continue to be published in the newsletter.

Since there are no Sunday collections it's greatly appreciated when parishioners are able to give their offerings via standing order. Sincere thanks to those parishioners who have set-up new standing orders in light of the Financial Presentation to the parish in February. If you've not set one up yet, but are able to do so, the details your bank will need are:

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

Newsletter via email

If you'd like to receive the parish newsletter by email simply email Justine (the parish secretary, at olv.rcchurch@gmail.com), asking to be added to the list. You can still collect a paper copy if you wish, and it will be available on the parish website also. In these coming days when it isn't possible for parishioners to get to Mass **it would be very helpful to have parishioners' written consent (via email is fine) to send out the newsletter**, and possibly other urgent messages, via email.

Rededication of England as Mary's Dowry

Over the past weeks we have been praying the Angelus prayer before Mass, and no doubt in our homes and families, as a way of preparing for the rededication of our country as Mary's Dowry.

England was first dedicated to Mary in 1381, by King Richard II and was 'set apart for her among the nations'. In medieval times Mary was recognised as having a particular care for the people of England, who saw Mary as their protectress. From this came about the title of *dos Mariae*, or 'Dowry of Mary', acknowledging this special relationship towards Mary, especially through pilgrimages to her greatest shrine in Walsingham, Norfolk. Although this devotion came to an abrupt end at the time of the Reformation (despite King Henry VIII himself having made pilgrimages to Walsingham earlier in his life), love of Mary continued, secretly, for those who kept the 'old faith' alive. Pope Leo XIII, in 1893, acknowledged this devotion when speaking to English pilgrims in Rome: 'the wonderful filial love which burnt within the heart of your forefathers towards the great Mother of God ... to whose service they consecrated themselves with such abundant proofs of devotion, that the kingdom itself acquired the singular and highly honourable title of 'Mary's Dowry.'

England was re-dedicated as 'Mary's Dowry' by the Pope in 1893, and the Catholic Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham was refounded, at the Slipper Chapel, in 1897. From then the ancient filial love of Mary has continued to grow, and become a hallmark of English Catholicism. After the Second World War, when fourteen life-sized crosses were carried by ex-servicemen to Walsingham, in thanksgiving for the end of the war, and to make a life-sized Stations of the Cross, Cardinal Griffin, then Archbishop of Westminster, re-consecrated England as Mary's Dowry. After the Mass was revised in 1969 Cardinal Heenan made a special request that the 'Hail Mary' prayer be retained in Masses in England, so that this love of Mary might not be forgotten. In 1982 when Pope Saint John Paul II made his pastoral visit to England, although he didn't visit Walsingham he asked that the statue of Our Lady be brought to his national Mass at Wembley Stadium, and there re-consecrated England to Our Lady, recognising again that special bond, that 'dowry' of England to Mary.

Over the past three years the statute of Our Lady has travelled from Walsingham to each Cathedral in England, making a pilgrimage though the Catholics of our country in preparation for this re-dedication. On Sunday Cardinal Nichols, together with all the bishops in England, each in his own Cathedral, will pray this re-dedication. Although none of us can be physically present, we are invited to make the same prayers and dedication in our own homes, and all the young people in our schools have been invited to do the same on Monday, when they would have been in class. The two prayers opposite unite us in this beautiful way to Mary, our Mother.

The Angelus Promise

The Angelus Promise is a spiritual exercise created to assist you to embrace the message of Our Lady, as expressed in the Angelus. It invites you to “share in the joy of the Annunciation” by following Mary’s openness to God’s call, through her faith-filled “yes”. Through your own faith-filled “yes”, the Lord will work wonders in your life.

R: The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary

V: And she conceived by the Holy Spirit

As God once chose Mary to become the Mother of His Son through the message of an angel, so He chooses me this day, and invites me through the ministry of the Church or the example of another, to seek and do His Will at this moment in my life. Hail Mary full of Grace...

R: Behold the handmaid of the Lord

V: Be it be done unto me according to thy Word

Mary’s response to her invitation, “let it be done to me according to your Word”, opened her heart to God’s grace and all things became possible. Let my “yes” today take away fear, as I embrace God’s Will, and like Mary “ponder these things in my heart”.

Hail Mary full of Grace...

R: And the Word became flesh (Bow or genuflect)

V: And dwelt among us

At a moment in history, Mary’s faith-filled “yes” conceived Him, first in her heart, which then led to the birth of our Saviour. Through accepting Him in my heart, enable me to recognise my role in bringing Christ to my sisters and brothers today. Hail Mary full of Grace...

R: Pray for us most holy Mother of God

V: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

Let us pray: O Holy Mother of God, pray for us, and assist us as we dedicate ourselves this day. Your Yes at the Annunciation brought our Saviour Jesus into the world, and you invite us to contemplate the great mystery of the Incarnation, sharing your joy in announcing that “the Word was made flesh and lived among us.” May our yes, this day, open our hearts to serve our sisters and brothers in this your Dowry, that they too may share our joy in the Good News that God walks among us. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Act of Entrustment of England to Mary

These prayers will be led by Cardinal Nicholas at 12 noon, and can be watched through the live-stream on the National Shrine's website:

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

Alternatively, pray these prayers at 12 noon, or in small portions throughout the day, either alone or as a family, even with loved ones over the telephone, or via an on-line chat or webcam call.

Our physical separation in these days doesn't stop us praying together!



Prayer

O Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our most gentle Queen and Mother, look down in mercy upon England thy "Dowry" and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee.

Response

We your faithful people assembled here offer you this country in which we live. Once it was yours, all its children were your children and you were honoured throughout England as its Protectress and its Queen. Again do we consecrate it as your Dowry, and entrust it to your maternal care.

Prayer

By thee it was that Jesus our Saviour and our hope was given unto the world; and He has given thee to us that we might hope still more.

Response

To you we entrust the Church, which invokes you as Mother. On earth you preceded her in the pilgrimage of faith. Comfort her in her difficulties and trials. Make her always the sign and instrument of intimate union with God and of the unity of the whole human race. To you, Mother of the human family, and of the nations, we confidently entrust the whole of humanity with its hopes and fears. Let it not lack the light of true wisdom. Guide it to seek freedom and justice for all. Direct its steps in the ways of peace. Enable all to meet Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Prayer

Plead for us thy children, whom thou didst receive and accept at the foot of the Cross, O sorrowful Mother.

Response

Pray, O Holy Mother of God, for the conversion of heart of the people of England, restoration of the sick, consolation for the troubled, repentance of sinners, peace to the departed. Queen of Peace, pray for us and give to the world the peace for which all peoples are longing, peace in the truth, justice and charity of Christ. Give peace to the nations and to the souls of all, that in peace, the Kingdom of God may prevail.

Prayer

Intercede for our separated brethren, that with us in the one true fold they may be united to the supreme Shepherd, the Vicar of thy Son.

Response

May your prayers bring back this country to the fullness of its ancient faith. May your intercession lead us to a closer union with your divine Son. We offer you all the people of this land, especially those who know you so little or not at all. May all in our country know Christ, the light of the world and its only Saviour.

Prayer

Pray for us all, dear Mother, that by faith fruitful in good works we may all deserve to see and praise God, together with thee, in our heavenly home.

Response

May we who follow your Son, be fruitful in the good work of building a culture of life in our world, where all human life is treasured and the gift of God's creation is respected and cared for, so that all may share the fruits of Gods generous love.

V: Pray for us O Holy Mother of God**R: That we may be made worthy of the Promises of Christ.**

O Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, and our most gentle Queen and Mother, look down in mercy upon England, thy Dowry, and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee. By thee it was that Jesus, our Saviour and our hope, was given unto the world; and he has given thee to us that we might hope still more. Plead for us thy children, whom thou didst receive and accept at the foot of the cross, O sorrowful Mother, intercede for our separated brethren, that with us in the one true fold they may be united to the Chief Shepherd, the Vicar of thy Son. Pray for us all, dear Mother, that by faith, fruitful in good works, we may all deserve to see and praise God, together with thee in our heavenly home.

Amen.

Visit the website www.Behold2020.com for fuller information

Supporting the vulnerable during the Covid-19 pandemic

Parishioners may already know that Southwell Town Council is co-ordinating a service to offer support to isolated vulnerable people who are required to remain in their own homes for the duration of the Covid-19 crisis. They have asked for each church community to provide names of parishioners who would be prepared to offer such help. The range of help is from collecting and delivering food, medicines and other essential items to simply being prepared to make contact by phone on a regular basis, offering moral support. If you feel able to offer this support, almost certainly to complete strangers, then either email or telephone the parish office with your details and an indication what support you would feel comfortable providing.

Foodbank Appeal

Foodbank collections in Southwell are now only at the Co-Op, One-Stop and Lloyds. **During these extraordinary times there will be even greater demand for our local foodbank.** The volunteers there are bracing themselves for the inevitable increase in demand that Covid-19 brings and are determined to keep open and provide support. For many people there will be real difficulties maintaining the donations normally provided, be it because of remaining indoors or feeling reluctant to be seen purchasing more than we personally need.

For those who regularly donate food an alternative would be to donate some money directly to the foodbank. If you're able to do this, please either

- send a cheque payable to Newark Foodbank, to:
 - Newark Foodbank, c/o Barnbygate Methodist Church, 15a Barnbygate, Newark NG24 1PX
- or make a bank transfer to their account:
 - account name: Newark Foodbank
 - sort code: 40-52-40
 - account number: 00027004

Parishioners might even consider regular giving by downloading a standing order mandate from their website:

- <https://newark.foodbank.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/93/2015/06/Newark-Standing-Order-Form-PDF.pdf>

The Foodbank certainly expect to have to augment their supplies by buying in food to cover dropping donations. However difficult times become in the next few months, let us not forget those whose struggle is often great than ours.

Destitute Asylum Seekers

Thank you to everyone who is able to continue donating items to those asylum seekers who find themselves in desperate situations without the necessary food, toiletries etc to support themselves. The collection box in Southwell Post Office is still available, open from 10am until 3pm on weekdays. In this difficult time, if it's easier, you might wish to make a monetary donation to the Saturday Group instead, via their website: www.nottsrefugeeforum.org.uk/projects/anti-destitution-project
Sincere thanks as ever: Pati Colman : 01636-813260

Job Opportunities within the Diocese

The directors of the Nottingham Roman Catholic Education Service are seeking to appoint an Assistant Director to take a leading role in the continuing development of all areas of Catholic Life within our diocesan schools. Full details are available at www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/education/recruitment/diocesan-education-service
The closing date for applications is Thursday 2nd April.

The governors of Bishop Ellis Catholic Primary School, Leicester LE4 8GP are seeking to appoint a new headteacher. Further details are available on the website www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/education/recruitment/primary-school-vacancies
Visits to the school can be arranged by calling Sarah Kennedy at the school office on 0116 269 5510. The closing date for applications is Thursday 2nd April.

Join the 'Fight Infections in Africa' Appeal

Bishop Patrick is Patron of this small Leicestershire charity which offers medical care to some of the poorest people in sub-Saharan Africa. The charity has Catholic roots and works closely with the Catholic Religious Sisters who run the few local small Medical Centres. The Bishop is asking if each parish in the diocese would be prepared to raise £100 to support this appeal. Too many vulnerable children and adults in sub-Saharan Africa are suffering or dying from treatable infections, and they desperately need our help. £100 could treat 380 patients with diarrhoeal disease. For further details please take a quick look at this short video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqy2Jbr1COg> or go to <https://intercare.org.uk>

We won't have a specific collection for this appeal – but if anyone is able to make a donation please place it in an envelope and put it through the presbytery letterbox during Lent. Let's see if, as a parish, we can raise £100 before Easter?

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.

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
- ✘ **Canon John Berry**, parish priest of Eastwood, Nottingham, and a priest of our diocese for more than 65 years, who died on Wednesday 25th March aged 90. May he rest in peace!
- ✘ **Archbishop Peter Smith**, formerly Bishop of East Anglia, and Archbishop of Cardiff, and of Southwark, who died on Friday 6th March, and whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on 30th March. May he rest in peace!
- ✘ **Clergy of our diocese who are sick at this time**: Monsignor Jonathan Moore, Fathers John Cairns, Tony Colebrook, Hugh Doherty, James Hannigan, Peter Harvey, Chris Hogan, Jim Lynch, Joe McGovern, Frank McLaughlin, Robert Rutledge, Michael Tutcher; Deacons Stephen Doona, and Bill Hutchinson.

A reflection from 'Marriage Matters'

The Lord will lead us back together Ezekiel's words apply to us when we are going through tough times in our relationship, when intimacy, physical or otherwise, seems impossible. At such times, Jesus weeps for us as He did for Lazarus. He will bring us back together if we ask Him and are willing to be vulnerable enough to explore together the changes we need to make.

Masses and Services this week

During these days, although parishioners aren't able to attend Mass, Father Simon will continue to celebrate Mass for your intentions each day

Saturday 28th March

Mass

Lenten Feria

John and Cora Lynch RIP

Sunday 29th March

Mass

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Pro Populo (people of the parish)

Monday 30th March

Mass

Lenten Feria

John Bell RIP

Tuesday 31st March

Mass

Lenten Feria

Sabina May Crosse RIP

Wednesday 1st April

Mass

Lenten Feria

Geoff Smith RIP

Thursday 2nd April

Mass

Lenten Feria

John Bell RIP

Friday 3rd April

Mass

Lenten Feria

Frances Rooney RIP

Saturday 4th April

Mass

Lenten Feria

Sister Mary Joseph of Jesus ODC

Sunday 5th April

Mass

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Pro Populo (people of the parish)

Pope's Prayer Intentions

For March: Catholics in China We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

For April: Freedom from Addiction We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.