



Welcome to the Catholic Parish of Southwell and Calverton

Our Lady of Victories, Southwell and Saint Anthony, Calverton

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

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9th and 10th January 2021 : Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

As we come to the final day of the Christmas season we might ponder this reflection from Saint Peter Chrysologus, a fifth-century bishop of Ravenna. He speaks about the three manifestations of Christ after his birth: to the Magi, at his Baptism, and in the first 'sign' or miracle, the Wedding at Cana.

In the mystery of our Lord's incarnation there were clear indications of his eternal Godhead. Yet the great events we celebrate today disclose and reveal in different ways the fact that God himself took a human body. Mortal man, enshrouded always in darkness, must not be left in ignorance, and so be deprived of what he can understand and retain only by grace. In choosing to be born for us, God chose to be known by us. He therefore reveals himself in this way, in order that this great sacrament of his love may not be an occasion for us of great misunderstanding.

Today the Magi find, crying in a manger, the one they have followed as he shone in the sky. Today the Magi see clearly, in swaddling clothes, the one they have long awaited as he lay hidden among the stars. Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look, they believe and do not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die. So the Gentiles, who were the last, become the first: the faith of the Magi is the first fruits of the belief of the Gentiles.

Today Christ enters the Jordan to wash away the sin of the world. John himself testifies that this is why he has come: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Today a servant lays his hand on the Lord, a man lays his

hand on God, John lays his hand on Christ, not to forgive but to receive forgiveness. Today, as the psalmist prophesied: The voice of the Lord is heard above the waters. What does the voice say? This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased. Today the Holy Spirit hovers over the waters in the likeness of a dove. A dove announced to Noah that the flood had disappeared from the earth; so now a dove is to reveal that the world's shipwreck is at an end for ever. The sign is no longer an olive-branch of the old stock: instead, the Spirit pours out on Christ's head the full richness of a new anointing by the Father, to fulfil what the psalmist had prophesied: Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

Today Christ works the first of his signs from heaven by turning water into wine. But water has still to be changed into the sacrament of his blood, so that Christ may offer spiritual drink from the chalice of his body, to fulfil the psalmist's prophecy: How excellent is my chalice, warming my spirit.

Reflection from Cardinal Vincent : The Gifts of the Magi

The coming of the Magi adds a thrilling dimension to the crib and to our appreciation of the Nativity of our Blessed Lord. How I remember a carol service in the Cathedral when a beautifully attired camel came up the aisle with attendants carrying flaming torches. The moment was full of elegance and haughtiness. It was flamboyant and autocratic. Yet the Magi knelt before the child, humbled by the Infant King.

We understand well the significance of the gifts brought by the Magi: gold for the King; frankincense for the presence of God; myrrh for the suffering to come. They were costly, precious gifts. These represent the gifts that we too are to bring. So let's look at them a little more deeply, not least in their origins.

The origin of gold seems to be something that is still not entirely explained. I read that it is thought to have been present in the dust from which the solar system had been formed, the product of 'supernova nucleosynthesis', and from the collision of neutron stars. It is, therefore, something that arrives from very foundational elements and circumstances of the physical world. Frankincense and myrrh are more easily understood. They both come from trees, from the sap of certain trees, which hardens into the resin which we recognise, in incense for example. Frankincense come from a variety of trees, found in the Middle East and Somalia in particular. The trees are 'bled' so that the sap, the 'life blood' of the tree, oozes out, hardens and is collected. Myrrh comes from a rarer tree, in the same regions, and is produced only by a deeper wounding of the tree, repeated many times, in order to obtain its sap.

Like the Magi, we are to bring our gifts to our Saviour. Perhaps we can

understand their symbolism for us in the light of their origins. The gold we are to bring is our deepest reality, the furthest recesses of our being, so often hid from others and often from ourselves too. Only in the embrace of love do we dare to unwrap our innermost selves and let them be seen. This is the gold dust of our existence: the reality from which we have been formed. And it turns out to be written and understood in the language of love. The gold of my heart is love. The gift of my deepest self can be made only out of love and into love. The Infant Jesus is the eternal love of God who purifies my being and gives me new life. I bring my gold to him.

The frankincense we bring is our recognition of God, present in this child. Our frankincense, like that of nature, comes from the sap that arises within us and sustains our life. Here, in the presence of Jesus, we recognise that it is the mystery of God that flows through my being. It is the breath of the Holy Spirit that keeps me alive and restores my faltering spirit. Sometimes we live by other gods. We can name them easily: those passing things which take too much of our attention, on which we pin too much of our hope. I can name mine. You can name yours, I'm sure. Today we can seek to purify the raising of our minds and hearts and ensure that our prayer is truly addressed to the one God, and addressed primarily to give God our praise and worship. It is to God that this belongs; not to anyone or anything else. So let us bring our pure frankincense to the Lord Jesus.

The third gift is well described in the carol: *'Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breaths a life of gathering gloom. Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding dying sealed in the stone-cold tomb.'* Yes, myrrh is presented to the Lord to signal his future suffering and death. And we remember that it is produced by the repeated wounding of the tree. Our gift of myrrh, then, comes precisely from the events of suffering in our own lives. When we are wounded then something of us is taken away. We are left enfeebled, weary, anxious. It can take a long time to recover. But the gift of myrrh reminds us that we can make a gift of our woundedness, of our suffering. This too we bring to the Infant in the crib, not as a pointer to his future suffering but as our contribution to it, our offering by which we wish to be united to him. This we can do individually and as a community. We offer to the Lord the pain we cause and the pain we live through. They are often intertwined.

How often, when we are in the midst of pain or suffering, we are advised to 'offer it up'. This sound advice is made so clear in this gift of myrrh. The wise person not only kneels before the Divine Child, not only offers their gold and frankincense, but also their myrrh, all that has bled out of them in the course of pain and suffering. Then our gifts are complete. Our gifts, too, are costly and given purely out of love.

2021 – The Year of Saint Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.**

**Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.**

**Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.**

Coming to Mass

Even in the current national lockdown public Mass is available on Saturday in Southwell at 6.00pm and on Sunday in Calverton at 10.45am. Being in a national lockdown we are precluded from any social interaction in or at church (outside of our bubble), but 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; if there's no reply leave a message with your name and number, or try ringing again a few minutes later. 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 only.

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 4 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 is now much colder please dress appropriately for the weather and temperature.

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!

Changes to our church celebrations in the Third National Lockdown

In light of the Government's decision to introduce a third national lockdown Bishop Patrick has issued the following guidance for us all to follow:

Following the Prime Minister's statement this evening, the following has been published by the Government and can be found at the following link: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/949536/NationalLockdownGuidance.pdf The Guidance for Places of Worship published this evening states:

Communal worship and life events You can leave home to attend or visit a place of worship for communal worship, a funeral or event related to a death, a burial ground or a remembrance garden, or to attend a wedding ceremony. You should follow the guidance on the safe use of places of worship and must not mingle with anyone outside of your household or support bubble when attending a place of worship. Weddings, funerals and religious, belief-based or commemorative events linked to someone's death are all subject to limits on the numbers that can attend, and weddings and civil ceremonies may only take place in exceptional circumstances. You must not mingle with anyone outside of your household or support bubble if you do attend a service.

The Places of Worship Guidance (updated 22 our churches. This can be found in full here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-ofplaces-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-useof-places-of-worship-from-2-december>

Here are some relevant extracts, with comments provided to assist interpretation:

Communal worship, including prayers, devotions or meditations led by a Minister of Religion or lay person. Limits for communal worship should be decided on the basis of the capacity of the place of worship following an assessment of risk (see Section 5 'Restrictions on Capacity'). People must follow the restrictions on social mixing set out by their area's local restriction tier and adhere to social distancing between households. In Tier 1 areas, people must not mingle in a group of more than 6 (other than with those they live with or have formed a support bubble with). In Tier 2, Tier 3 and Tier 4 areas, people must not mingle indoors with anyone they do not live with or have formed a support bubble with. You must not attend or

mix with anyone outside your household or support bubble.

Comment: Mass and other acts of worship can continue as normal following the covid-security guidance that has been published by the Bishops' Conference after consultation with officials from Public Health England and MHCLG.

Marriage ceremonies. In Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 areas marriages, civil partnerships or alternative wedding ceremonies must have no more than 15 people. Anyone working is not included as part of the limit on those attending. In Tier 4 areas weddings and civil partnership ceremonies must only take place with up to 6 people. Anyone working is not included. These should only take place in exceptional circumstances, for example urgent marriages where one of those getting married is seriously ill and not expected to recover, or due where to undergo debilitating treatment or life-changing surgery. Please refer to the guidance for small marriages and civil partnerships during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Attendees should socially distance from anyone they do not live with (unless they are in their support bubble).

Comment: As national lockdown is essentially Tier 5, only 6 people can attend a marriage (apart from anyone working as part of the ceremony) and these should only occur in exceptional circumstances. Weddings planned for the next 6 weeks should be deferred.

Funerals. In all areas, there must be no more than 30 people attending. Anyone working is not included as part of the 30 person limit. Please refer to the COVID-19: guidance for managing a funeral during the coronavirus pandemic. Attendees should socially distance from anyone they do not live with (unless they are in their support bubble).

Commemorative events to celebrate the life of a person who has died. These are events which occur to commemorate or mark the deceased's passing. Examples include a wake, a stone setting ceremony or the scattering of ashes. In Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 areas such events must have no more than 15 people in attendance, excluding those who are present for work purposes. In Tier 4 areas such events must have no more than 6 people in attendance. Such gatherings cannot take place in a private dwelling or garden.

Comment: As national lockdown is essentially Tier 5, only 6 people can attend a commemorative event which would include the interment of ashes after a cremation. The immediate burial of a coffin after a church or crematorium-based service would be subject to 30 people or the restrictions imposed locally by the

graveyard or crematorium authorities.

Significant life cycle events, outside of marriage ceremonies and funerals. In all areas where such events are an element of communal worship, they are subject to the requirements for communal worship set out above.

Comment: This means that the numbers of people permitted to attend life-cycle events such as baptisms, confirmations and other significant sacramental celebrations are subject to the covid-security determined limits of the church.

Supervised children's activities. In Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 areas, these are limited to the number of people who can safely socially distance in the venue in line with COVID-19 Secure guidance. See guidance for providers of out-of-school settings. This includes, but is not limited to, activities such as mother and baby groups with multiple adults supervising children. In these situations, adults should maintain social distancing with other adults from different households. In Tier 4, these activities must only take place where reasonably necessary to enable parents to work, seek work, attend education or training.

Comment: As national lockdown is essentially Tier 5, any activity which is church-based must be fully risk assessed and necessary for the above reasons.

Support groups. In all areas, support groups can take place with up to a maximum of 15 people in a public place, if the support group is organised by a business, a charitable, benevolent or philanthropic institution, or a public body to provide mutual aid, therapy or any other form of support to its members or those who attend its meetings. This includes, but is not limited to, providing support: to victims of crime (including domestic abuse); to those with, or recovering from, addictions (including alcohol, narcotics or other substance addictions) or addictive patterns of behaviour; to new and expectant parents; to those with, or caring for persons with, any long-term illness, disability or terminal condition or who are vulnerable; to those facing issues related to their sexuality or identity including those living as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender; to those who have suffered bereavement. Organised parent and child groups can also take place with up to 15 people. Any child under 5 is not included in this limit.

Comment: These activities should be fully risk-assessed and full covid-security measures should be in place.

Small prayer and study groups. In Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 areas, limits for prayer and study groups should be decided on the basis of the capacity of the place

of worship following an assessment of risk (see Section 5 'Restrictions on Capacity'). People must follow the restrictions on social mixing set out by their area's COVID Local Alert Level (Tier) and adhere to social distancing between households and described above for communal worship. In Tier 4 areas, prayer or study groups must not take place in person. This guidance applies to places of worship when being used for a religious purpose or in preparation for a religious purpose.

Comment: As national lockdown is essentially Tier 5, in person prayer or study groups (which would include catechesis for the celebration of the sacraments) should not take place physically, but only using online means. For permitted uses of a place of worship not included in this guidance, you should refer to the specific guidance linked below: Tourism, retail and restaurants and other hospitality industries; Meetings or small gatherings, as permitted in other multi-purpose community settings; Places of worship should take account of the performing arts guidance in organising any indoor or outdoor performances, paying particular attention to the sections on singing.

Face Coverings. Face coverings must be worn in places of worship, unless you are exempt. This is now law. Guidance on face coverings and exemptions is here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

Summary. It is important that during this time all places of worship continue to provide hand sanitiser at points of access and egress, there should be stewarding and managed social distancing within the church space and that full cleaning of the space should be done immediately after the church has been in use. The time that people are in the church should be minimised (so the use of liturgical choices should reflect this, including a short homily, the omission of the prayers of the faithful and any other permitted mitigations) and the church must be well ventilated even during the liturgical celebrations. There should be no congregational singing as part of the liturgical celebrations and if a choir or cantors sing, the choices of music should be such that the exposure time is not excessively prolonged. It is very important to encourage all who attend our churches to abide by these covid-security restrictions and to protect themselves and those around them. It is also an opportunity to thank those who clean and steward our churches for their generosity of service to the local community.

If you have any thoughts or concerns about these guidelines please speak to Fr 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, and other days and times during the week:

- www.youtube.com/channel/UCaf7upUMsn3Kl8GD79FotjQ/featured?fbclid=IwAR1JRpqkdOOrHZY98bsnSC_N9TKbvSKXv0L5bT4yVCcMTHaVmAwaW4g-rAk

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

- <https://ndcys.com>
- <https://www.youtube.com/ndcyslives>

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

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

Pope's Prayer Intention for January

Intention for evangelization – Human fraternity

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

A reflection from 'Marriage Matters'

You are my Beloved

How we each adapt to and accept the many differences in each other is a remarkable insight into the Spirit of God deeply seeded within us. It is this which calls us to say to one another: you are my chosen one in whom my heart delights! Let us celebrate with joy God's love for us and for all marriages.

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.

Forthcoming Events

Diaspora and diversity: in the missionary parish

Thursday 14th January, 4.30 pm – 6.00pm. As our shared ministry for social justice and charity, Caritas should reflect the rich diversity of our parishes. This workshop will begin to explore and share how we can ensure that all are welcome, whether to serve or be served.



Journey in Hope: Patterns for action and contemplation

Wednesday 20th January, 10.00am – 11.30am. Let's ensure that everything we do together with Caritas springs from a generous and reflective spirituality, and nourishes us for more. We'll take time to discern what that might look like in practice, sharing ideas and sharing prayer.

To book a place on any of the three courses above visit:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScBM-_FusEpK4SPMvoqEJmi3pklUjUarrDnORTzSYNzold0Tg/viewform

The Adventures of a Biblical Translator Dom Henry Wansbrough, editor of the New Jerusalem Bible and most recently the Revised New Jerusalem Bible, Dom Henry has spent a lifetime in Bible translation. On **Saturday 23rd January** between 11.00am and 12.30pm he'll speak about his life's work. To access this live stream event go to www.ssppilford.org.uk and click on live stream remote services. The event will be available subsequently on www.whatgoodnews.org

Dr Sean Ryan, chair of the Catholic Bible Association, will introduce the event. Questions for Fr Henry on bible translation may be emailed beforehand to catholicbiblicalassociation.gb@gmail.com

Let us Dream: The Path to a Better Future Let Us Dream! is the first book written by a pope in response to a major crisis, and the first ever to be drafted in English – by his collaborator and biographer, Austen Ivereigh. The book offers not just the Pope's reflections on the multiple coronavirus crises, but spiritual guidance on how to make use of the pandemic to make a better world, drawing on powerful episodes from his own life and a lifetime of leadership. The event will be held on **Saturday 30th January** between 11.00am and 12.30pm. To access this live stream event go to www.ssppilford.org.uk and click on live stream remote services. The event will be available subsequently on www.whatgoodnews.org Questions for Austen may be emailed beforehand to adriangraffy@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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>

The Year of the Word

The Year of the Word has been extended to continue through 2021, since so many of the planned events didn't happen last year. We might continue to pray the Prayer for the Year day by day:

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.



As we continue with the Year of the Word consider listening to the excellent short mini series (five 14 minute segments), which has been aired recently on BBC Radio 4 and is available still to hear via BBC iPlayer (BBC Sounds). In each segment Hugh Bonneville reads **John Barton's 'Story of the Bible'** the link to access is: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/series/m000qlrx>

Special Feastdays in 2021

Each year on the solemnity of the Epiphany (6th January) there's a tradition that the feasts of the forthcoming year are proclaimed after the Gospel. This harks back to a time before people had such ready access to calendars and diaries as we have now, but it also makes the link between the celebrations at Christmas, when Jesus is born, and those at Easter, when his life on earth comes to its fulfilment through his death for our salvation. Although we might not be able to celebrate all the feasts this year as we usually do Mass will be celebrated each day, and the intentions of parishioners remembered at each Mass as well as at Morning and Evening Prayer daily. Perhaps make a note of these special dates, and make a point to watch Mass on-line, or read the scriptures for the day, if it's not possible to come to Mass in person.

January

- **Friday 1st** – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
 - **Wednesday 6th** – Solemnity of the Epiphany
 - **Sunday 10th** – Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
-

February

- **Tuesday 2nd** – Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
 - **Wednesday 17th** – Ash Wednesday
-

March

- **Friday 19th** – Solemnity of Saint Joseph
 - **Thursday 25th** – Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
 - **Sunday 28th** – Palm Sunday
-

April

- **Thursday 1st** – Maundy Thursday
 - **Friday 2nd** – Good Friday
 - **Sunday 4th** – EASTER DAY
 - **Friday 23rd** – Solemnity of Saint George
-

May

- **Thursday 13th** – Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord
 - **Sunday 23rd** – Solemnity of Pentecost
 - **Sunday 30th** – Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
-

June

- **Sunday 6th** – Solemnity of Corpus Christi
- **Friday 11th** – Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- **Sunday 13th** June – Solemnity of Saint Anthony of Padua
- **Thursday 24th** – Solemnity of the Birth of Saint John the Baptist
- **Tuesday 29th** – Solemnity of Saint Peter and Saint Paul

August

- **Friday 6th** – Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord
- **Sunday 15th** – Solemnity of the Assumption

September

- **Tuesday 14th** – Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

October

- **Thursday 7th** – Solemnity of Our Lady of Victories (and the sixtieth anniversary of the laying of the church's foundation stone)
- **Sunday 31st** – Solemnity of All Saints

November

- **Monday 1st** – Solemnity of the Dedication of Our Lady of Victories
- **Tuesday 2nd** – Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)
- **Tuesday 9th** – Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
- **Sunday 21st** – Solemnity of Christ the King

December

- **Wednesday 8th** – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of the Diocese
- **Saturday 25th** – Solemnity of the Nativity of Jesus
- **Sunday 26th** – Feast of the Holy Family

Second Collections 2021

Sincere thanks to all who have supported the collections for charities and Church activities in 2020. Below is a provisional list of collections for the forthcoming year.

- 17th January Sick and Retired Priests of our Diocese
- 28th February CAFOD Lent Fast Day (*Fast Day – Friday 26th February*)
- 2nd April Holy Places in Palestine (*Good Friday*)
- 25th April Clergy Formation Fund (*Day of Prayer for Vocations*)
- 16th May Catholic Communications Network
- 20th June Day for Life
- 27th June Peter's Pence (*the charitable work of the Holy See*)
- 11th July Apostleship of the Sea
- 12th September Catholic Education Service (*Day of Prayer for our schools*)
- 19th September Evangelisation – Home Mission Sunday
- 3rd October CAFOD Harvest Fast Day (*Fast Day – Friday 1st October*)
- 24th October Missio – World Mission Sunday
- 12th December Poor and Needy Parishes in our Diocese

An Epiphany Letter from Bishop Mark O'Toole

My dear brothers and sisters,

The one piece of 'good news' in the advice issued by the Government, following the Prime Minister's address last night, was that people can still attend public Mass. This present 'lockdown' will, therefore, be different to what we experienced between March and June of last year. It is a blessing that people can still visit Church, and that we are able to continue to celebrate Mass publicly. We know this is not the case in some other places.

We are grateful to the Government for recognising the central place that places of worship have in the life of our country. They are vital for our spiritual and personal wellbeing, and our worship of God, in turn, is a source of strength and spiritual energy for our continued service of others. We know we must observe the protocols around 'Hands-Face-Space' with an increased vigilance, given the virulence of the latest strain of the virus.

I am aware within myself - and I imagine within many of us - of a certain weariness. It does not help that we are in the depths of winter, and the normal familial, and friendship supports, are not easily accessible to us. It is also clear that life will not return to any kind of 'new normal' for several months yet. Covid will continue to exercise its power, limiting so many aspects of our lives. I believe each of us must 'dig deep' within ourselves, and in our faith, in these months.

Tomorrow we will celebrate the great Solemnity of the Epiphany, when we recall the visit of the wise men and the homage they came to pay to the Infant King. They brought the gift of Myrrh, used to anoint those who die, recognising that this child would participate fully in the reality of our human mortality. He, too, would experience death. As we reflect on that 'painful gift' let us continue to work with those close to death, to give them and their loved ones, hope in a time of darkness. The wise men also brought Gold, a sign that Jesus is King; a reminder to us that we need to put our countries' resources at the service of those most in need.

Their third gift was Frankincense - a reminder that this child they were greeting was also their God and deserving of their worship and prayer. We need to continue to pray deeply; to find silence to be with God, who makes sense of all our struggles. It is vital, in order to be in touch with the life of Jesus and His Holy Spirit which He has poured into our hearts. In that vein, I am reminded of a maxim of Saint John of the Cross which gives a direction, and to me, a certain consolation: *"Enter within yourself and work there in the presence of your Lord who is always there loving you."*

So often we do not see the fruits of our prayers or of our labours, and this

seems acutely so in the time of covid. Yet every faithful thing we undertake in this time, for the love of God and of our neighbour, will bear fruit in ways beyond our understanding. I am sure of this, even if the reality of that is 'hidden with Christ in God', at least to us. In these months, then, let us look to Him, who brings light to our eyes and strength to our weary limbs.

In this year of Saint Joseph, the great protector and defender of Jesus and Mary, in a time of crisis, it is to Him that I entrust us all, and I ask your prayer for me. God bless you. Yours devotedly,
+ **Mark O'Toole** *Bishop of Plymouth*

For when we find it difficult to pray

Finding God in all things (with thanks to Father Simon Bishop SJ)

So, it might be that we are not able to find a time and place to pray regularly but, if we have the desire to do so, the opportunities will not only appear but we will, also, recognise those opportunities, instead of letting them pass us by. It might be, for example, that it is during the ten minutes in the car, driving to and from collecting a parent or grand-parent, a child or grand-child from the doctor or football or music that, instead of turning on the radio or making another call on the cell phone, we take the opportunity to surrender ourselves again to the Lord, speaking to Him of all that is in our heart and listening to Him speak to us of all that is in His heart. Slowly, gradually, gently, deeply, we will not only begin to recognize the Lord's loving presence in our lives and in the lives of those around us, what Saint Ignatius referred to as, 'finding God in all things', we will also recognise His voice 'speaking' to us, leading us, guiding us in every moment of every day. And so, as Father Peter Hans Kolvenbach SJ, the previous superior general of the Jesuits once wrote: prayer 'is less a matter of searching for God than of allowing oneself to be found by Him in all of life's situations.

A preparatory prayer to begin our time of prayer

Father, show me who You are,
Holy Spirit, let me see with Your light, whatever You want me to see,
Jesus, lead me to wherever You want to meet me, so that,
I may know You more intimately,
Love You more whole-heartedly and
Follow You more closely,
To Your greater service, praise and glory. Amen.

more next Sunday

Adult Education Courses

We have now released our Spring Term courses which can be found on our website:

<https://www.inspireculture.org.uk/skills-learning/online-learning-spring-2021/>

There is a wide range of topics on offer from free Functional Skills English, Maths and ICT through to our discounted community learning programme which includes titles like 'Creative Writing: Your life through a lens' and 'Creative Photography for beginners'. All of these will be offered through Zoom. Priority will be given to residents of Nottinghamshire on all of our courses.

For more information please contact Andrew Day, Lead Tutor (Gedling), Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries: Telephone: 0115 804 4943; Mobile: 07552 290736

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 liquid tabs / tablets

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

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!

A prayer for life

As we celebrate the baptism of our Lord, we recall our own baptism and the promise of life we have gained through it. We pray that all would be given the opportunity to experience life in its fullness, both in this world and the next. Lord hear us.

Right To Life UK have set up an easy to use tool which will enable you to email your MP asking them to make it clear to the Government that it should not give into demands from the assisted suicide lobby to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It only takes 30 seconds to email your MP by visiting the link below:

<https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>

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. Also for those who make decisions concerning lockdown restrictions and the preservations of essential services throughout our countries.
- ✘ **Jim Baker**, a chemistry teacher in Ss Peter and Paul school, Lincoln, who had died this week. May he rest in peace.
- ✘ **Bridget Morgan**, who is in her final agony in these days.
- ✘ **Canon Owen O'Neill**, recently-retired parish priest of Our Lady of Victories, Market Harborough, who has been hospitalised with liver cancer this week.
- ✘ **All of those who will be baptised in 2021**, that their lives may always be guided by the light of Christ into the ways of truth, and that they may grow to become saints for the twenty-first (and perhaps the twenty-second) century.
- ✘ **Dom Robert Igo OSB**, who has been elected ninth Abbot of Ampleforth, in succession to Abbot Cuthbert Madden, whose eight-year term of office had come to an end, and whose late parents lived in our parish. The new Abbot will now hold overall responsibility for the monastic community and its works.
- ✘ **Clergy of our diocese who are sick at this time**: Monsignor Jonathan Moore (and his sister, Joy, who is undergoing an operation this weekend), Canons Michael Moore and Owen O'Neill, Fathers John Cairns, Anthony Colebrook, John Daley IC, Hugh Doherty, James Hannigan, Peter Harvey, Christopher Hogan, James Lynch, Frank McLaughlin, Robert Rutledge, Michael Tutcher; Deacons Tom Berrie, Stephen Doona, William Hutchinson and Robin Pollard.

Masses and Services this week

Saturday 9th January

No morning Mass

Saturday after the Epiphany

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Collection for the Sick and Retired Priests of our Diocese
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S 6.00pm Mass

John Hodgkinson RIP

Sunday 10th January

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

C 10.45am Mass

Neil Gillespie RIP (16th anniversary)

Monday 11th January

Feria

Mass

Pro Populo (people of the parish)

Tuesday 12th January

Feria

Mass

Friends of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society

Wednesday 13th January

Feria

Mass

Eleanor RIP

Thursday 14th January

Feria

Mass

Hall Family intentions

Friday 15th January

Feria

Mass

Alan Granger RIP (funeral day)

Saturday 16th January

Saturday Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary

No morning Mass

Second Sunday of the Year (Peace Sunday)

Collection for the Sick and Retired Priests of our Diocese
--

S 6.00pm Mass

The Lawton Family

Sunday 17th January

Second Sunday of the Year (Peace Sunday)

C 10.45am Mass

Pro Populo (people of the parish)

Readings at Masses this week

Sunday Isaiah 42:1-4.6-7; Psalm 28(29):1-4.9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Mark 1:7-11

Monday Hebrews 1:1-6; Psalm 96(97):1-2.6-7.9; Mark 1:14-20

Tuesday Hebrews 2:5-12; Psalm 8:2.5-9; Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday Hebrews 2:14-18; Psalm 104(105):1-4.6-9; Mark 1:29-39

Thursday Hebrews 3:7-14; Psalm 94(95):6-11; Mark 1:40-45

Friday Hebrews 4:1-5.11; Psalm 77(78):3-4.6-8; Mark 2:1-12

Saturday Hebrews 4:12-16; Psalm 18(19):8-10.15; Mark 2:13-17