



Welcome to the Catholic Parish of Southwell and Calverton

# Our Lady of Victories, Southwell and Saint Anthony, Calverton

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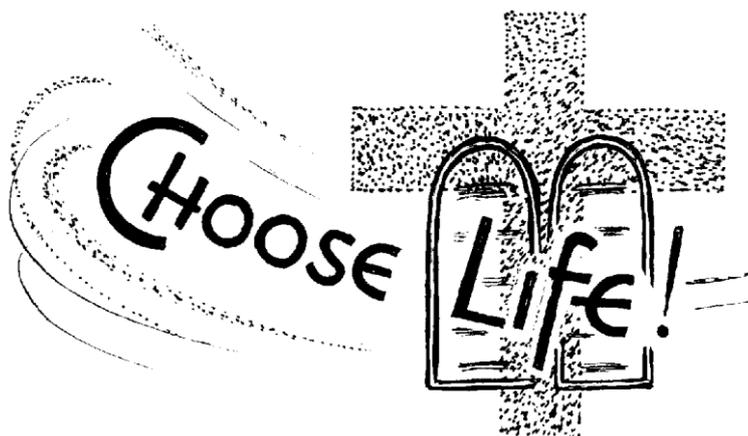


**15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 : Sixth Sunday of the Year**

As we ponder this Sunday's readings, especially the Gospel, we can pray with and reflect a bit upon what we want to hear from God, from the Church, from life. Our personal and family problems get our attention easily. We long to know more, feel deeply, understand mysterious things. We can even pray with what we do not want to hear as well.

Sirach, also known as Ecclesiasticus, is full of wonderful images and wise sayings about most aspects of life. The whole book centres around the depth, presence and practicality of wisdom. This spirit, this awareness, this sensitivity, is a participation in the divine. God knows all, created all, loves all and allows us human beings to participate in that wisdom, but allows us a freedom to exercise just how deeply or to what extent we will share it. If you have time and interest, it would be very helpful to read and listen to both the chapter before this one from which today's verses are taken and this entire chapter (ie chapters 14 and 15). The whole Jewish "law" is complete with God's wisdom and God has shared it with humanity. Wisdom is living the "law," not merely keeping it out of fear.

The many aspects of the "law" of Moses were meant to guide and invite God's people to live in harmony, prosperity and fertility. Wisdom is God's way and we are choosers. We have been given the gift, or burden, of our freedom. Our



wisdom is using our knowledge according to our faith in God's ways.

Wisdom is not a degree; it is received by sensing, listening to, living through the experiencing of choices. It is experienced-based, but that includes the ponderings and wonderings and strugglings it takes to make choices and then the patience to live the consequences. It is all about listening and hearing.

Today's continuation of the Sermon on the Mount, which we hear in the Gospel, contains twenty long verses about what has been heard in the past and what is to be listened to now. Jesus is not spinning the Law and the traditions passed on through the prophets. He is applying a proper spirit to what had become too legalistic. In a sense, the dictates of the "law" were for the head to inform or guide the five senses. The spirit of Jesus is to form the heart as well as the mind.

The ways of Jesus invite us to let go of exactness and conformity for the sake of slavish fear of being punished or excluded. This whole sermon, at the beginning of Jesus' preaching about the Kingdom of Heaven, is not meant for exact execution, but for our interiorizing the heart and mind of Jesus.



It is not about doing this or not doing that. It is about the "why" of our doing anything. For instance, we are encouraged not to lust sexually in our relationships with each other, but why not? It is about reverence of the human body and the sacredness of love and life that is important. This sacredness of life extends to killing all forms of human life. Killing relationships with our brothers and sisters is a violation of the new way of living the Old Law as well.

This is a long Gospel today and the whole Sermon on the Mount takes much pondering. In our lives and in our country much is often made about the exactness of laws, so we know what's right and how we can get around or through or under or above what's written. God so loved the world that God sent a Relational Person to share the sacredness of our lives and the sacredness of God's relationship with us. The Wisdom of Jesus is not "how" he lived, but the "why." He came and continues coming, respectful of our freedom, to encourage us to reverence our lives, the time we have and the lives and times we have with others.

"They ate and were filled;  
the Lord gave them what they wanted:  
they were not deprived of their desire."

(Psalm 78:29-30)

## Prayers before Mass : and the Year of the Word

We pray before Mass the Angelus (in preparation for the Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary) and the Prayer of the Year of the Word. Thanks to the parishioners who lead these prayers, about five minutes before the Mass each day.

## Changes to Mass times this week

Father Simon leaves on Sunday for further studies in Canon Law in the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. During his time out of the parish he will offer Mass each day for parishioners' intentions, especially each Sunday, when he will offer Mass for all the people of our parish, living and dead.

## Welcome to Father Frank

During Father Simon's time in Leuven Father Frank Carvill will celebrate our Sunday Masses. Father Frank will also celebrate Masses on Ash Wednesday, with the imposition of Ashes, at 9.30am in Our Lady of Victories' church, Southwell, and at 7.00pm in Saint Anthony's church, Calverton. It's good to have a 'permanent supply' with Father Frank, who will no doubt be made very welcome in our parish.

## Forthcoming Events in our parish, community and diocese

The annual **Diocesan Marriage Mass**, to celebrate the gift of Christian marriage, is where married couples are able to renew their vows before the Bishop, and receive his Apostolic blessing on their marriages, will be celebrated on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February**, at 3.00pm in Saint Barnabas Cathedral. This Mass is open to all married couples, especially those celebrating a significant anniversary. All are Welcome.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February is the Day of the Little Shepherds**, Saint Francisco and Saint Jacinta Marto of Fatima, the two children canonised by Pope Francis in 2017. They are the first non-martyred children canonised in the Catholic Church. 20<sup>th</sup> February is also the centenary of the death of Saint Jacinta. The Good Shepherd Church, Nottingham, is holding a service of Eucharistic Adoration (a core message of Fatima) to celebrate the lives of the two little saints and their spirituality, and to promote Our Lady's message at Fatima. We encourage families and young people to attend. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from 4.00pm until 6.00pm, with time for quiet prayer, music and hymns, readings and the Holy Rosary. All are very welcome.

As part of the Year of the Word Nottingham Diocese is hosting the **National Scripture Tour** on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**, from 10.30am, in Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Newark, NG24 4AU. The keynote speaker will be the artist for the Year, Pete Codling. The Scripture Tour aims to bring the Word of God alive – all are very welcome!

**Sharing Scripture in my life** on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February** from 3.00pm at the Rosmini Centre, LE7 4SJ. Visit [www.rosminicentre.co.uk](http://www.rosminicentre.co.uk) or contact 01509 813078 for information.

As part of Fairtrade Fortnight, which runs from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February until Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March, Churches Together in Southwell is hosting an exhibition outlining the benefits of Fairtrade at Southwell Library on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February** from 10.00am until 1.30pm. Please come along and enjoy a Fairtrade tea or coffee and biscuits.

**Cafod's Lent Fast Day** will be held on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March**. Look out for more details in the newsletter over the next few weeks.

Have you ever thought about becoming a Religious Sister or Brother? **Come and Ask afternoon** on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March**, from 2.30pm until 4.00pm, at Our Lady and Saint Edward, Nottingham NG3 2LG. See the poster in the porch for more details, or contact Sister Maureen Brennan [maureenbrennancsjp@gmail.com](mailto:maureenbrennancsjp@gmail.com), Sister Susan Richert [religious@nrcdt.org.uk](mailto:religious@nrcdt.org.uk) or 07751 196124 or The Nottingham Vocation team [nottinghamvocations@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nottinghamvocations@hotmail.co.uk)

A **Charity Saint Patrick's Folk Night** will be held on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March** in Our Lady of Victories' parish hall, from 7.00pm until 11.00pm, including a buffet, tea and coffee (but bring your own tippie if you wish), music and singing. Tickets cost £5, with the proceeds going to the Newark Emmaus Trust, and will be on sale after each Sunday Mass from this weekend. All are very welcome.

**Fields of Hope:** the annual Churches Together in Southwell Ecumenical Lent Lunch, takes place on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March** in the Minster State Chamber at 12.45pm for 1pm. Please join us for this sociable soup lunch and compete in the table top quiz. Tickets are £5.00 per person, available from Theresa Martin or Lesley McKenzie, or contact [SouthwellChristianAidCommittee@gmail.com](mailto:SouthwellChristianAidCommittee@gmail.com). Funds raised will go to Christian Aid.

Saint Vincent de Paul Society members invite you to join them for **Coffee and Croissants** after Mass on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** : any donations made will go towards projects including the Children's Summer Camp sponsorship. They have appreciated parishioners' support in the past which has helped in many ways.

## Diocesan Youth Singing Day : Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February



The Diocesan Youth Singing Day is an exciting opportunity for children and young people aged 12 – 18 to come together and sing at the Cathedral – for free! We will spend the afternoon learning a variety of great songs inspired by The God Who Speaks, as part of the 2020 Year of the Word, focussing on music from the Bible (although we will sing some secular music too). We will be joined by members of the Cathedral Youth Choir and the Kurczewski Girls' Choir who are travelling from Poland. The day will culminate in a free informal concert for family and friends at 6pm in Cathedral Hall. This free workshop will be led by the fantastic Ellie Martin and Alex Patterson - their fun and enthusiastic approach to singing will make the day an unmissable singing experience! Details are:

- ✘ Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2.00pm – 6.30pm, Nottingham Cathedral Hall
- ✘ Refreshments will be available throughout the day
- ✘ Reserve places by 18<sup>th</sup> February by emailing [alexpattersonmusic@gmail.com](mailto:alexpattersonmusic@gmail.com)

### Outside the Walls : Further Screenings

The director and distributor of the film Outside the Walls, Nick Harmer, has received enquiries about its release on DVD. He has advised that this is too costly (about £2,500 and is looking for funding. Meanwhile further screenings of this documentary film about Mount Saint Bernard Abbey in Leicester have been arranged:



- ✘ The Century Theatre Coalville, Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2.30pm  
[www.centurytheatre.co.uk](http://www.centurytheatre.co.uk)
- ✘ The Venue Cinema, Lincoln, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm  
[www.thevenuelincoln.co.uk](http://www.thevenuelincoln.co.uk)
- ✘ The Ritz Cinema Belper, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm  
[www.ritz-belper.co.uk](http://www.ritz-belper.co.uk)
- ✘ QUAD Cinema Derby, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March  
[www.derbyquad.co.uk](http://www.derbyquad.co.uk)

## A Day for Catholic Women : Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February

**One Faith: Different Cultures** will be held on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February**, 10.30am – 4.00pm, at Saint Joseph's parish, Leicester LE5 6RA. Women speakers will share their experience, understandings and vision for our Catholic Church being representative of the diverse cultures that make up our universal Church. The day is open to all women who identify as Catholic, also to those who no longer practise their faith. There is no charge for the day although lunch (soup, rolls, cakes, etc.) is available at £3.50. To book a place telephone 0116 220 7881 or email Alison.CWS@outlook.com

## World Day of Prayer : Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March

A Women Led, Global, Ecumenical Movement, this year the Women of Zimbabwe have prepared the service and they encourage us all to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years. The service will be held on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March** at 6.30pm in Holy Trinity Church, Southwell. All are invited.

## Saint John's Passion : Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March

J S Bach's setting of Saint John's Passion will be performed by the Cathedral Choir as we begin Lent. Join Bishop Patrick in this Year of the Word event on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March** beginning at 7.45 pm. Experience the spiritual and artistic grandeur of Bach's great reading of Christ's passion in Saint Barnabas Cathedral. Tickets are £16, £12, £10, and available online from [www.nottinghamcathedralmusic.com](http://www.nottinghamcathedralmusic.com) or in person from the Nottingham Tourism Centre. Flyers are available at the back of church.

## Faith in Action : Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March

God is love, and he calls us to love, generously and joyfully. The Diocese is on the way to becoming part of the global Caritas network, and as parishioners you will be part of it too. On **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March** from 10.30am until 4.00pm we have the invitation to come to Cathedral Hall in Nottingham and to join with Bishop Patrick, Caritas Social Action Network, the Justice and Peace Commission, and people from all round our diocese, for a day to nourish the work we do for the common good; be inspired for the adventure of missionary discipleship; build our parishes as confident, outward-looking communities; make common cause and achieve more together. Book via Paul Bodenham ([justice.peace@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:justice.peace@dioceseofnottingham.uk) or 07470 907656).

## Feast Days this Week : 22<sup>nd</sup> February : The Chair of Saint Peter

On Saturday we celebrate an unusual feast, that of the Chair of Saint Peter. Of course, it's not the actual chair we celebrate, but rather this feast brings to mind the mission of teacher and pastor conferred by Christ on Peter, and continued in an unbroken line down to the present Pope. We celebrate the unity of the Church, founded upon the Apostle, and renew our assent to the Magisterium of the Roman Pontiff, extended both to truths which are solemnly defined *ex cathedra*, and to all the acts of the ordinary Magisterium.

Since early times, the Roman Church has had a special commemoration of the primatial authority of Saint Peter. As witness one of the most renowned of the Apostolic Fathers, the Roman See has always held a peculiar place in the affection and obedience of orthodox believers because of its "presiding in love" and service over all the Churches of God. "We shall find in the Gospel that Jesus Christ, willing to begin the mystery of unity in His Church, among all His disciples chose twelve; but that, willing to consummate the mystery of unity in the same Church, among the twelve He chose one. He called His disciples, said the Gospel; here are all; and among them He chose twelve. Here is the first separation, and the Apostles chosen. And these are the names of the twelve Apostles: the first, Simon, who is called Peter. (Matthew 10: 1-2)] Here, in a second separation, Saint Peter is set at the head, and called for that reason by the name of Peter, 'which Jesus Christ,' says Saint Mark, 'had given him,' in order to prepare, as you will see, the work which He was proposing to raise all His building on that stone.

In celebrating this feast we are invited pray for three things:

- ✘ For the ministry of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, that his faith might never fail, and that he might strengthen his brothers (the bishops of the world) in their ministries;
- ✘ For the unity of the Church, that, as Christ prayed, the Church might one day all be one, and that the unity of the Church will be a witness to people throughout the world;
- ✘ For ourselves, that through our love of the Church, our Mother, we will come closer to a knowledge and a love of Jesus, who founded the Church on the rock of Saint Peter. May Saint Peter pray for us all!



# Financial Report to the Parish

## Parish Income

	Forecast	Actual (year to 31 <sup>st</sup> March)				Variance
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	'20 vs '19
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Recurring Sources of Income</b>						
Collections	29,920	30,107	29,625	34,823	42,065	(187)
	<i>This line represents the weekly collections as well as standing orders</i>					
Gift Aid Tax Repayment	7,480	6,998	14,893	11,918	5,031	482
Total weekly income	37,400	37,105	44,518	46,741	47,096	295
	<i>This line represents our total income from the weekly collections including the Gift Aid tax reclaim on those collections</i>					
Fundraising	0	0	0	2,194	0	0
Donations Received	1,313	4,699	4,962	5,820	8,121	(3,386)
Interest credited - Set-off Account	800	861	252	873	877	(61)
Repository income	1,041	2,120	2,284	3,125	3,004	(1,079)
Sundry income	16,043	15,289	16,667	18,971	12,064	754
	<i>See the analysis of sundry income in Note 1 below</i>					
Total Recurring Income (A)	56,597	60,074	68,683	77,724	71,163	(3,477)
<b>One-off Income</b>						
Legacies received	0	21,480	0	0	0	(21,480)
Total One-off Income (B)		21,480				(21,480)
<b>Total Parish Income (A) + (B)</b>	56,597	81,554	68,683	77,724	71,163	(24,957)
Income from Second Collections	5,983	5,615	5,986	5,168	11,252	368
	<i>This income does not belong to our parish and is paid over to the various beneficiaries of the Second Collections see 'Payment of Second Collections' in the expenditure section below</i>					
Total Parish Income reported to the diocese	62,580	87,169	74,669	82,893	82,414	(24,589)

## Parish Expenditure

	Forecast	Actual (year to 31 <sup>st</sup> March)				Variance
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	'20 vs '19
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Church and Hall Expenses	25,161	17,968	15,496	36,362	29,143	(7,193)
						<i>See Note 3 below</i>
House and Housekeeping costs	8,952	4,748	4,855	4,480	6,469	(4,204)
Insurances Paid	2,423	2,403	1,921	1,767	2,078	(20)
Diocesan Quota Paid	10,553	9,816	9,888	10,728	8,232	(737)
Payments to Clergy	11,003	14,476	13,724	12,145	12,357	3,473
Wages & NIC	9,951	9,464	8,785	11,195	7,777	(487)
Office Expenses	2,076	3,926	1,672	1,313	2,269	1,850
Travel Expenses	2,683	2,473	2,340	2,452	2,579	(210)
						<i>Mainly the reimbursement of travel expenses incurred by our priests on parish work</i>
Other Quotas Paid	375	500	500	500	500	125
Sundry expenses	0	0	0	48	0	0
Repository Purchases	971	2,350	1,479	1,554	1,110	1,379
Fundraising expenses	0	254	84	78	136	254
Donations made	1,136	642	12,246	646	572	(494)
						<i>The figure in the 2018 column contains a donation to the Sick and Retired Priests Fund from parish reserves (Set-off Account)</i>
Total Recurring Expenditure	75,284	69,020	72,990	83,268	73,221	(6,264)
<b>One-off Expenditure</b>						
Church maintenance	15,593	0	0	6,290	0	(15,593)
						<i>2020 - presbytery refurbishment and other costs; 2017 - decoration costs</i>
Total Parish Expenditure	90,877	69,020	72,990	89,559	73,221	(21,857)
Payment of Second Collections	5,384	4,873	5,921	5,458	11,825	(511)
Total Parish Expenditure reported to the diocese	96,262	73,893	78,911	95,017	85,045	(22,369)
Income less Expenditure	(33,682)	13,276	(4,242)	(12,124)	(2,631)	(46,958)
(+ = Surplus ; bracket = deficit)						

## Income and Expenditure Notes

(1) Analysis of Sundry Income	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Hall rental	15,153	15,289	12,217	9,151	0
Other	889	0	4,450	9,820	12,064
Total	16,043	15,289	16,667	18,971	12,064
(2) Income and Expenditure Summary	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Recurring					
Recurring income	56,597	60,074	68,683	77,724	71,163
Recurring expenditure	75,284	69,020	72,990	83,268	73,221
Underlying (deficit)	(18,687)	(8,946)	(4,307)	(5,544)	(2,058)
One-off items					
One-off income	0	21,480	0	0	0
One-off expenditure	15,593	0	0	6,290	0
(Deficit) / Surplus	(15,593)	21,480	0	(6,290)	0
Second Collections					
Income	5,983	5,615	5,986	5,168	11,252
Expenditure	5,384	4,873	5,921	5,458	11,825
Surplus / (Deficit)	598	742	65	(290)	(573)
Total					
Income	62,580	87,169	74,669	82,893	82,414
Expenditure	96,262	73,893	78,911	95,017	85,045
(Deficit) / Surplus	(33,682)	13,276	(4,242)	(12,124)	(2,631)

### (3) Church and Hall Expenses

These costs account for a significant proportion of our total expenditure and represent the cost of running the church and hall at Southwell and Calverton. In 2020 heat and light accounts for approximately 45% of Church and Hall Expenses. 2020 light and heat costs include a £5k gas bill which is very high and being investigated. Other costs included within Church and Hall Expenses are general church expenditure, sacristy supplies, water and welfare, cleaning, repairs and renewals, grounds and flowers for the church.

### (4) Bank and Other Accounts

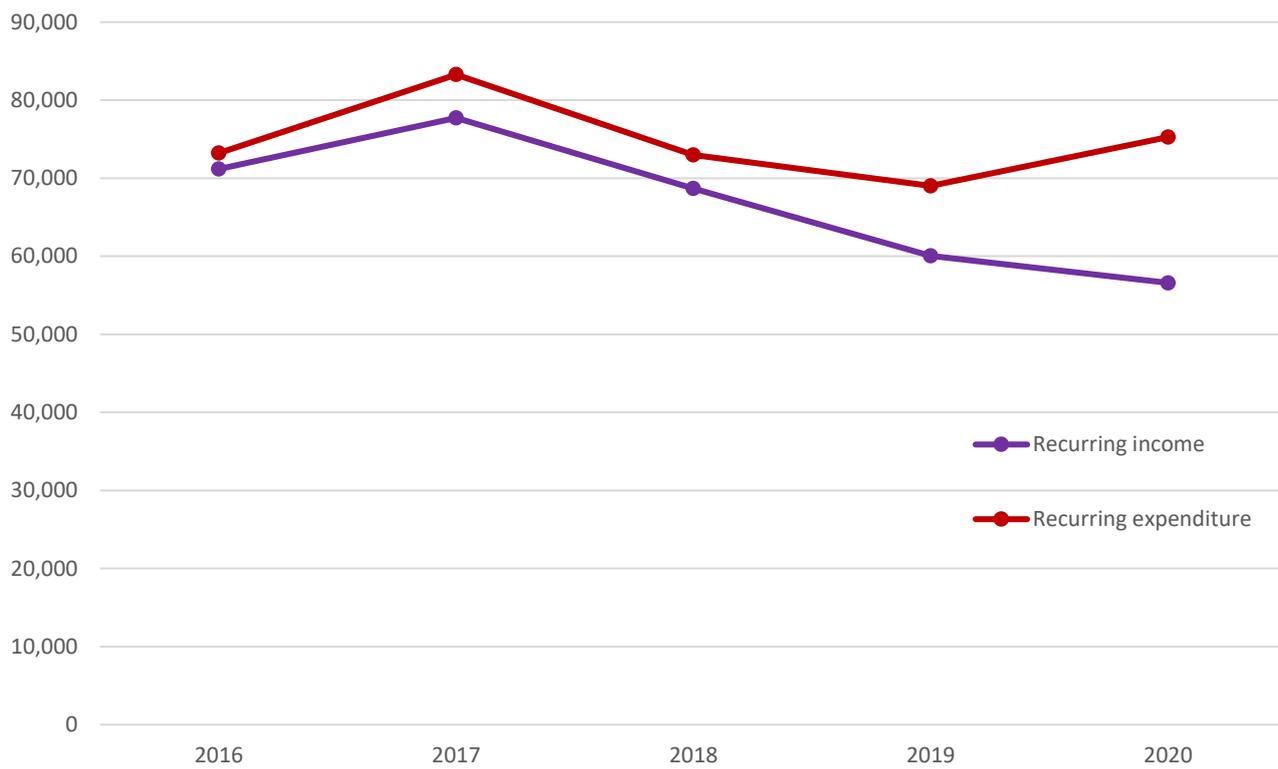
We have a bank current account which is part of a diocesan arrangement. This is our working bank account and our collections and all other items of our income are paid into it and all of our expenses are paid out of it. In addition to the current account we also have a 'Set-off Account'. This isn't a bank account as such but is a loan from us to the Diocese. In the past any surplus cash we have had is paid over to the Diocese and in return we are paid a rate of interest. This money belongs to our parish and when we need funds we submit a request to the Diocese which transfers this into our Lloyds account. This arrangement is a diocesan requirement and we have to follow it. To all intents and purposes the Set-off account represents our parish financial reserves.

As at 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020 the balance on the Set-off account was £139,062.

## Financial Notes

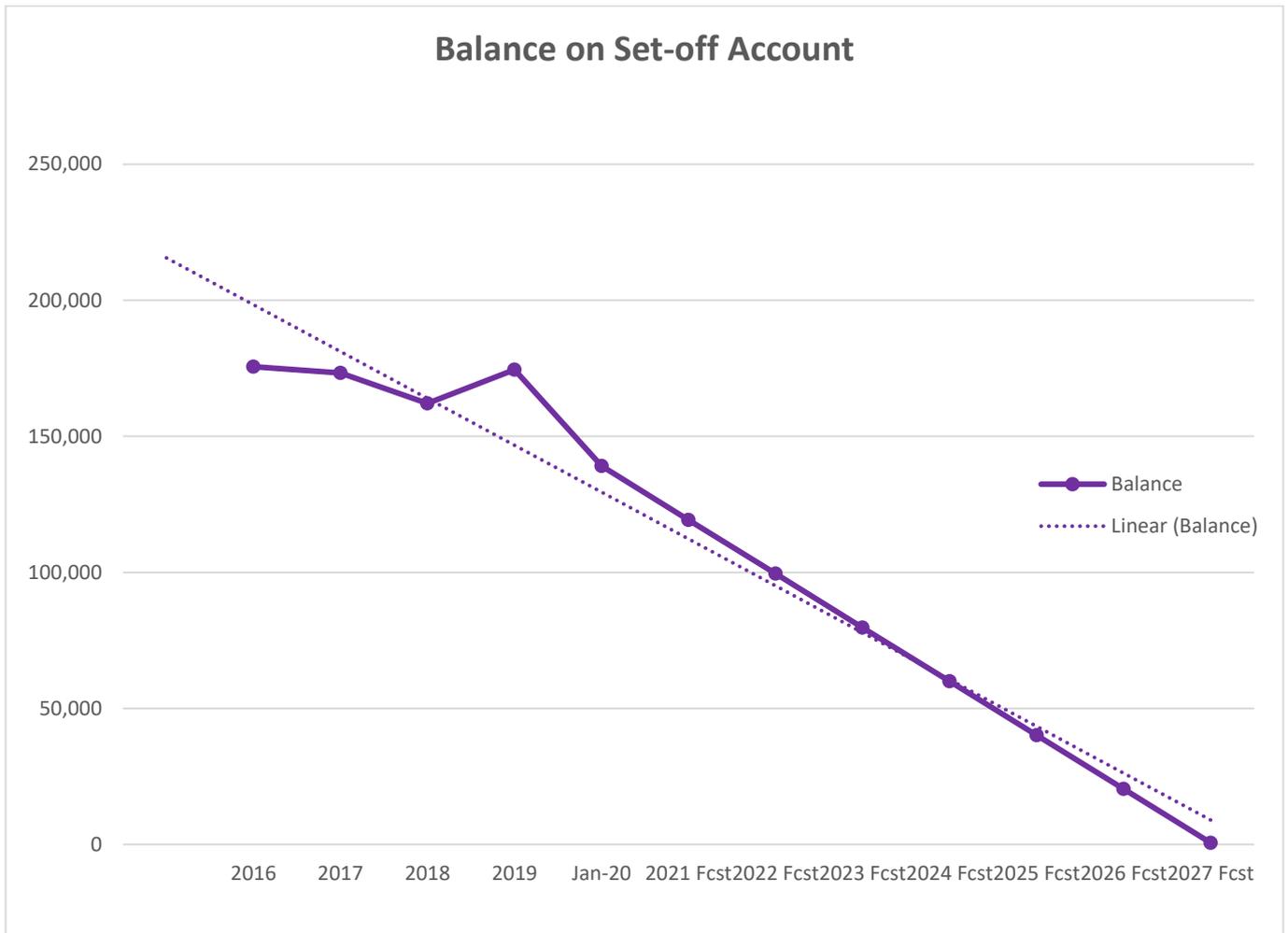
- ✘ We are currently forecasting a deficit of £33,682 to the 31st March 2020. Our forecast costs for 2020 have increased in comparison to 2019 mainly due to church and hall heating costs and increases in house and housekeeping costs but these increases were offset elsewhere by some savings. Our recurring costs have increased by a net £6,776 from 2019.
- ✘ In 2020 we incurred one-off costs of £15,593 for the refurbishment of the presbytery which includes the purchase of a new photocopier.
- ✘ Whilst our income from collections has remained broadly flat in comparison to 2019, we have suffered some falls in other sources of income, including donations received and repository income. These have been offset by some small increases in income in other areas which has resulted in a net reduction in income of £3,109 in comparison to 2019.
- ✘ In 2019 we received legacies of £21,480. No legacies were received in 2020.
- ✘ We have been running at an underlying deficit from 2016 to 2019 when excluding one-off items. This is forecasted to increase in 2020 for the reasons given above.
- ✘ We have a bank current account which we use for our day to day financial transactions and into which the collections are paid and out of which we pay our expenses.
- ✘ We also have a loan account with the Diocese referred to as the 'Set-off Account'. We loan surplus cash to the Diocese and in return get a rate of interest. This is parish money and we are able to draw on it when we need additional cash to fund our activities. To all intents and purposes the Set-off Account represents our parish financial reserves. It has been built up over the years from surpluses and legacies among other things.
- ✘ The balance on the Set-off Account as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 was £175,584 and by January 2020 this has fallen to £139,061. This fall is consistent with us 'burning' cash as a result of our deficits over the years.
- ✘ If we assume that our underlying deficits continue at the same rate then the Set-off Account will be exhausted in just over 7 years, assuming that there are no further one off items which is unlikely to be the case.
- ✘ Whilst we have sufficient cash for our day to day activities for the foreseeable future, this does rely in part on us drawing on the Set-off Account. Our current level of income is insufficient to sustain us without drawing on the Set-off Account.
- ✘ We also face some financial risks. We receive £15k a year from renting out the hall but if for some reason we were to lose one of our major clients this would have a major impact on our financial position. There is also the risk of significant cost for a new heating system to address the current issues with the church in Southwell.
- ✘ We do control our costs tightly but the churches and hall are expensive to run. We will continue to monitor our costs closely but there is limited scope for major costs reductions. The net result of this is that we need to increase our income in all areas, including from collections.
- ✘ Our current financial position is not sustainable in the longer term and we need to address this sooner rather than later.

## Recurring Income vs Recurring Expenditure



Year to 31 <sup>st</sup> March	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Recurring income	71,163	77,724	68,683	60,074	56,597
Recurring expenditure	73,221	83,268	72,990	69,020	75,284
Recurring deficit	(2,058)	(5,544)	(4,307)	(8,946)	(18,687)

### Balance on Set-off Account



At 31st March:	2016	2017	2018	2019	Jan-20	2021 Fcst
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance	175,584	173,231	162,077	174,439	139,061	119,276
	2022 Fcst	2023 Fcst	2024 Fcst	2025 Fcst	2026 Fcst	2027 Fcst
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance	99,491	79,706	59,921	40,136	20,351	566

If we continue to burn cash at the rate at which we did between 2019 and 2020, the Set-Off Account will be exhausted by 2027, as shown in the graph above.

## Querida Amazonia – An Overview

*On Wednesday this week Pope Francis promulgated his Apostolic Exhortation 'Querida Amazonia', Beloved Amazon, the fruit of the Synod held in Rome last October, and of all the preparation which had been undertaken beforehand. The full document is available on the Vatican's website:*

*[http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco\\_esortazione-ap\\_20200202\\_querida-amazonia.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20200202_querida-amazonia.html)*

*A precis of the document is below, which helps us to understand those areas of priority which were highlighted by the Bishops in the Synod and affirmed by the Pope.*

In the first two points (2-4), the Pontiff explains “the significance of this Exhortation”, enriched with references to documents of the Episcopal Conferences of the countries that make up the Amazon region, as well as of poetry written by poets connected to the Amazon. He emphasizes that he desires “to offer my own response” that the Synod evoked in him and explains that he does not intend to substitute duplicate the Final Document which he invites us to read “in full”. Pope Francis prays that the entire Church might allow itself to be “enriched and challenged” by it and that the Church in the Amazon might strive “to apply it”.

### **The Pope's dreams for the Amazon region**

Pope Francis shares his “dreams for the Amazon region” (5-7), whose destiny must concern everyone because that land is also “ours”. His “four great dreams” are thus articulated: an Amazon region that “fights for the rights of the poor”, that “preserve its distinctive cultural riches”, that “jealously preserve its overwhelming natural beauty” and lastly, that the Christian communities might be “capable of generous commitment, incarnate in the Amazon region”.

### **A social dream: the Church at the side of the oppressed**

The first chapter of *Querida Amazonia* is focused on the “social dream” (8). It highlights that “a true ecological approach” is a “social approach” as well and, valuing the “good living” of the indigenous populations, he warns against an “environmentalism” concerned only with the environment. With vibrant tones, he speaks of “injustice and crime” (9-14). The Pope recalls that Benedict XVI had already denounced “the devastation of the environment and the Amazon”. The original peoples, Pope Francis warns, suffer a “subjection” on the part of both the local and outside powers. According to Pope Francis, the economic operations that fuel devastation, killing and corruption merit the name of “injustice and crime”. With John Paul II, he reiterates that globalization must not become a new version of colonialism.

### **A social dream: that the poor might be heard regarding the Amazon's future**

In the face of so much injustice, the Pope asks that we “feel outrage” and that we “beg forgiveness” (15-19). According to Pope Francis, “networks of solidarity and development” are needed, and he requests everyone to commit themselves, including political leaders. The Pope then dwells on the theme of “a sense of community” (20-22). He recalls that for the Amazonian peoples, human relationships “are steeped in the surrounding nature”. Thus, he writes, they experience a real “uprootedness” when they are “forced to migrate to the cities”.

### **A social dream: that the Amazon region become a place of dialogue**

The last part of the first chapter is dedicated to the “broken institutions” (23-25) and to “social dialogue” (26-27). The Pope denounces the evil of corruption which poisons the State and its institutions. He also expresses the hope that the Amazon might become “a place of social dialogue”, first of all, with the least, and that the voice of the poor might be “the most authoritative voice” in the Amazon region.

### **A cultural dream: taking care of the Amazon polyhedron**

The second chapter is dedicated to the “cultural dream”. Pope Francis makes it immediately clear that “to promote the Amazon region” does not mean “colonizing it culturally” (28). He thus uses an image that is dear to him – “the Amazonian polyhedron” (29-32). “Postmodern colonization” needs to be combatted, he says. For Pope Francis, “caring for roots” is urgent (33-35). Citing *Laudato si'* and *Christus vivit*, he emphasizes that the “a consumerist vision of human beings” tends to “have a levelling effect on cultures” and this has an effect above all on young people. The Pope asks young people to “take charge of your roots”, and to “recover their damaged memory”.

### **A cultural dream: an intercultural encounter rather than a closed “indigenism”**

The Apostolic Exhortation then dwells on the “intercultural encounter” (36-38). Even the “supposedly more developed cultures”, he observes, can learn from peoples who have “developed a cultural treasure, interacting with nature”. Diversity should, therefore, not be “a wall” but “a bridge” which rejects “a completely enclosed ‘indigenism’ ”. The last part of the second chapter is dedicated to the theme of “endangered cultures, peoples at risk” (39-40). In any project for the Amazon region, the Pope's recommendation is that “there is a need to respect the rights of peoples”. “It will be hard for them to remain unaffected”, he adds, “if the environment in which they are born and in which they have grown up “is damaged”.

### **An ecological dream: to unify caring for the environment and caring for people**

The third chapter proposes “an ecological dream” and is the chapter that is



most directly connected with the Encyclical *Laudato si'*. In the introduction (41-42), the fact that there exists a close relationship between the human being and nature in the Amazon is underlined. Pope Francis emphasizes that taking care of our brothers and sisters as the Lord takes care of us is “the first ecology that we need”. Caring for the environment and caring for the

poor are “inseparable”. Pope Francis then directs his attention to “the dream made of water” (43-46). He cites Pablo Neruda and other local poets regarding the power and beauty of the Amazonas. Through their poetry, the Pope writes, they “help free us from the technocratic and consumerist paradigm that destroys nature”.

### **An ecological dream: sustainable development in the Amazon region**

According to the Pope, it is urgent that “the cry of the Amazon region” be listened to. He recalls that the health of the planet depends on its health. There are, he writes, powerful interests which are not only local interests, but are even international. The solution is not, therefore, “internationalizing” the Amazon region; what needs to grow is “responsibility on the part of national governments”. Sustainable development, he continues, requires that the people living there be always informed about projects that concern them. In this regard, he hopes that “a legal framework” with “clear boundaries” will be created. He thus invites us to “the prophecy of contemplation” (53-57). By listening to the original peoples, he underlines, we can love the Amazon region and “not simply use it”; we can find in it “a theological locus, a space where God himself reveals himself and summons his sons and daughters”. The last part of Chapter Three is centered on “ecological education and habits” (58-60). The Pope points out that ecology is not a technical theme, but that it includes an “educational dimension”.

### **An ecclesial dream: to develop a Church with an Amazonian face**

The final chapter is the longest and is dedicated “more directly” toward pastors and members of the Catholic faithful. Its focus is the “ecclesial dream”. The Pope invites us to “develop a Church with an Amazonian face” through a “great missionary proclamation” (61), a “message that needs to be heard in the Amazon region” (62-65). A “social message” is not enough according to the Pope. These peoples have “a right to hear the Gospel”, otherwise, “every ecclesial structure would become” an NGO. A substantial portion is then dedicated to inculturation. Referring to *Gaudium et spes*, he speaks of “inculturation” (66-69) as a process which brings “to fulfilment in the light of the Gospel” the good that already exists in the Amazonian cultures.

### **An ecclesial dream: a renewed inculturation of the Gospel in the Amazon region**

The Pope then turns his gaze more in depth to the “paths of inculturation in the Amazon region” (70-74). The values present in the original communities, he writes, need to be taken into account “in the process of evangelization”. Then, in the next two paragraphs, he dwells on “social and spiritual inculturation” (75-76). The Pope highlights that, given the condition of poverty in which many of those who live in the Amazonian region experience, inculturation needs to have a “markedly social cast”. At the same time, however, the social dimension should be integrated with the “spiritual” one.

### **An ecclesial dream: accessibility of the Sacraments to everyone, especially the poor**

The Apostolic Exhortation then indicates the “starting points for an Amazonian holiness” (77-80) which should not copy “models imported from other places”. He emphasizes that “it is possible to take up an indigenous symbol in some way, without necessarily considering it as idolatry”. It is possible to use “a myth charged with spiritual meaning”, he added, without necessarily considering it to be “a pagan error”. The same applies to some religious feasts which, even if they require a “process of purification”, “have a sacred meaning”.

### **An ecclesial dream: inculturating the liturgy**

Another significant passage in *Querida Amazonia* is on the inculturation of the liturgy (81-84). The Pontiff notes that the Second Vatican Council had already called for an effort “to inculturate the liturgy among indigenous peoples”. In addition, he recalls in a footnote that during the Synod “a proposal to develop an ‘Amazonian rite’ ” emerged. The Sacraments, he states, “should be accessible, especially for the poor”. The Church, he adds, recalling *Amoris laetitia* cannot transform itself into a “toll-house”.

### **An ecclesial dream: sending missionaries to the Amazon region**

Connected to this is the theme of the “inculturation of forms of ministry” (85-90) to which the Church must give a “courageous response”. According to the Pope, “a more frequent celebration of the Eucharist,” must be guaranteed. In this regard, he reiterates, it is important to “determine what is most specific to a priest”. The answer, as one finds, is in the Sacrament of Holy Orders which enables the priest to be the sole presider over the Eucharist. How is it possible, then, “to ensure this priestly ministry” in remote zones? Pope Francis urges all the bishops, especially those in Latin America, “to be more generous” in encouraging those who “display a missionary vocation” to choose the Amazon region and invites them to evaluate formation to the priesthood.

### **An ecclesial dream: fostering the involvement of the laity in the communities**

After speaking about the Sacraments, *Querida Amazonia* dwells on “communities filled with life” (91-98) in which the laity must assume “important responsibilities”. For Pope Francis, in fact, it is not a matter “of facilitating a greater presence of ordained ministers”. He calls this a “narrow” objective if it does not succeed in awakening “new life in communities”. Thus, new “lay services” are called for. Only through an “active involvement of the laity”, he reiterates, can the Church respond to the “challenges in the Amazon region”. According to Pope Francis, consecrated persons have a special role to play. At the same time, he reminds us of the role of the base communities who have defended social rights. In particular, he encourages the activities of REPAM and “itinerant missionary teams”.

### **An ecclesial dream: new places for women, but without clericalization**

A part of the document is dedicated to the “strength and gift of women” (99-103). Pope Francis recognizes that in the Amazon region some communities are only sustained “because of the presence of strong and generous women”. He then cautions against reducing “the Church to her functional structures”. If that were the case, women would only be given a role insofar as they had access to Holy Orders. According to Pope Francis, the clericalization of women must be rejected, and instead, a feminine contribution that allows the “tender strength of Mary” to be present should be accepted. He thus encourages the creation of new feminine services which – with the public recognition of the bishop – allow their input to affect decisions taken in the community.

### **An ecclesial dream: Christians fighting together to defend the poor in the Amazon region**

According to the Pope, “expanding horizons beyond conflicts” (104-105) is a must as well as allowing the Amazon region to challenge us to “transcend limited perspectives... mired in partial approaches”. The fourth chapter then ends on the theme “ecumenical and interreligious coexistence” (106-110). The Pope invites believers to “find occasions to speak to one another and to act together for the common good”. “How can we not struggle together?” Pope Francis asks. “How can we not pray and work together, side by side, to defend the poor of the Amazon region?”

### **Entrusting the Amazon region and its peoples to Mary**

Pope Francis concludes *Querida Amazonia* with a prayer to the Mother of the Amazon Region (111). “Mother, look upon the poor of the Amazon region”, he prays, “for their home is being destroyed by petty interests... Touch the hearts of the powerful, for, even though we sense that the hour is late, you call us to save what is still alive.”



## Nottingham Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Under the leadership of Bishop Patrick McKinney

Lourdes theme for 2020  
"I am the Immaculate Conception"

12th - 17th July  
by air and train

**TANGNEY  
TOURS**

Pilgrim House, Station Court,  
Borough Green, Kent,  
TN15 8AF, UK

[www.tangney-tours.com/nottingham](http://www.tangney-tours.com/nottingham) - 01732 886666



**See Father Simon for further details and booking forms**

## Forthcoming Pilgrimages

An **Easter Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine**, will be held from 8<sup>th</sup> April, costing £649 per person, with a single person supplement of £100. Five nights' accommodation is in Knock House Hotel (half board), and all excursions are included, with lunch provided on the days out. Further information is available from Patricia on 01268 762278, 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com)

**Pilgrimage to Lourdes and Nevers by Coach June 13<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>** Picking up in Nottingham, Derby and Leicester, the cost is £595 per person. This price includes coach and ferry travel, overnight stay in Orleans on the way out, full board at the Hotel Irlande in Lourdes, half board in Nevers on the way back; there's an optional excursion to Gavarnie, a ski resort in the Pyrenees. For a booking form, please contact Father John McCay at [jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk) or 0115 981 0320.

## Year of the Word : Day of Prayer : Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May

Come to a **Day of Prayer** hosted by the Diocesan Spirituality Network entitled : **Encounter Jesus and be Missionary Disciples through Saint Matthew's Gospel**, on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May**, in Saint Hugh's hall, Lincoln LN2 5AQ. Arrivals from 9.30am, starting at 10.00am, and closing with a Liturgy at 3.00pm. Refreshments are provided, please bring a packed lunch. All are welcome.

## Marriage Encounter Weekend

From Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> until Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July there is an opportunity for all married couples to enrich their marriage and renew their commitment to one another. A non-residential Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held at Savio House, Bollington, SK10 5RW. Most couples and many priests find this a very rewarding experience. Book now at [www.wwme.org.uk](http://www.wwme.org.uk) or for more information contact Charles and Krysia Golabek on 01625 263627 ([charles.golabek@ntlworld.com](mailto:charles.golabek@ntlworld.com)).

## Standing Order and Gift Aid Forms

Following the presentation of parish finances this Sunday there are standing order forms and gift aid forms available at the back of each church. They're printed on bright yellow paper, so they're hard to miss – please take one and complete it!

## Saint Vincent de Paul Society : Cash for Coins

The SVP is very grateful for the support of the parish and once again we are asking parishioners and friends for any foreign coins that you might have left over from your holiday or business trips. We would also like any redundant British coins such as old £1 coins, old shillings and pence, as well as redundant foreign coins such as French francs, German marks, etc. There is a container for all your old and redundant coins in the narthex of each church. Thank You!

## 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](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/education/recruitment/diocesan-education-service). The closing date for applications is Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

Marriage Care is seeking to appoint a part time Team Leader to head their Appointment Service. The successful applicant will help to support adult relationships through the marriage preparation and relationship counselling services and will support a gifted team of 600 volunteers across England and Wales. For more information please visit [www.marriagecare.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk/get-involved). The closing date for applications is Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

## Some events for Lent

With Lent starting on 26<sup>th</sup> February, Ash Wednesday, here are some of the events which will be taking place during this forthcoming holy season:

**Stations of the Cross** led by the parish Cafod Group, in Our Lady of Victories church, on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February** at 6.30pm.

Wednesday **Soup and Reflection** will be led in Calverton from 12.00 noon until 1.00pm in the following churches:

- ✘ 4<sup>th</sup> March in the Methodist church
- ✘ 11<sup>th</sup> March in Saint Anthony's church
- ✘ 18<sup>th</sup> March in Saint Wilfrid's church
- ✘ 25<sup>th</sup> March in the Baptist church

## Prayers for ...

Please remember in your prayers especially:

- ✘ **Sister Ellen McGrath. RSM**, one of the Sisters of Mercy in Derby, who died on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February. May she rest in peace!
- ✘ **Brian Woodward**, a long-standing member of the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, who died on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February. May he rest in peace!
- ✘ **Canon David Oakley**, a priest of Birmingham diocese, and presently Rector of Oscott Seminary, who has been named by Pope Francis as the next Bishop of Northampton. He will be ordained bishop by Cardinal Nichols on 19<sup>th</sup> March.
- ✘ **Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski**, currently Eparch (Bishop) of New Westminster, Canada, who has been appointed bishop of the Eparch of the Holy Family of London for Ukrainian Greek Catholics in the United Kingdom

## 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](mailto: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.

## From All Saints' Catholic Voluntary Academy

The children at All Saints' celebrate Mass every Friday and would love to extend a warm welcome to you all. We are very proud of our faith community and would love to get to know members of our local parishes better. Although we are big in heart we are limited in seating, so if you would like to join us for any of our services, which begin at 11.00am, please feel free to contact our school lay chaplain, Vicki Mullen. She will happily give you more details and ensure there is ample room for you. Vicki's email address is : [mullen.v@allsaints.notts.sch.uk](mailto:mullen.v@allsaints.notts.sch.uk)

## Sharewear

Clothes are not presently being collected for Sharewear as they are hoping to source their stock in a different way. Thank you for all your previous generous support.

## Thank You for your Generosity

The main collection, Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February : £176.29

## A reflection from 'Marriage Matters'

### Making the right choices

Choices! How difficult sometimes to make the right choices. What to eat today, how to save money, what clothes to wear, what we or our children need. For Christians, prayer and a set of Christian values influence the choices we make. Why not ask the Lord's help to decide what issue is uppermost for us today and dialogue about it?

### Readings at Masses this week

Monday	James 1:1-11; Psalm 118(119):67-68.71-72.75-76; Mark 8:11-13
Tuesday	James 1:12-18; Psalm 93(94):12-15.18-19; Mark 8:14-21
Wednesday	James 1:19-27; Psalm 14(15):2-5; Mark 8:22-26
Thursday	James 2:1-9; Psalm 33(34):2-7; Mark 8:27-33
Friday	James 2:14-24.26; Psalm 111(112):1-6; Mark 8:34-9:1
Saturday	Peter 5:1-4; Psalm 22(23); Matthew 16:13-19

### Parish Ministries

	<i>This week</i>	<i>Next week</i>
	<b>Sixth Sunday</b>	<b>Seventh Sunday</b>
<i>Welcomers OLV 6pm</i>	Carl Smithson Jenny Smithson	Annabel Kingsbury Marie Baldwin
<i>Welcomers OLV 9am</i>	Anna Davies Valerie Brock	Mary Joyce Michael Joyce
<i>Welcomers StA 10.45am</i>	John Hodgkinson	Bernadette Carter
<i>Readers OLV 6pm</i>	Annabel Kingsbury	Marie Baldwin
<i>Readers OLV 9am</i>	Tom Foley	Theresa Martin
<i>Readers StA 10.45am</i>	Moira Hodgkinson	Gian Luca
<i>Communion OLV 6pm</i>	Cathy Smith	Madeleine Birch
<i>Communion OLV 9am</i>	Theresa Martin	Mike Asker
<i>Coffee OLV 9am</i>	Anna Davies Catherine Cowley	Itai Matumbike Paul Wilkinson
<i>Cleaners OLV</i>	Anna Davies	Moira Back
<i>Counters</i>	Marie Baldwin	Margaret Bell

## Masses and Services this week

*C = Saint Anthony's church, Calverton; S = Our Lady of Victories' church Southwell*

### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February

### Saturday Memorial of Our Lady

*No public morning Mass*

#### SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

S 5.15pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and Confessions

S 6.00pm Vigil Mass Ian Pallister RIP

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February

#### SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

S 9.00am Mass Liam Brennan

C 10.45am Mass Private Intention

S 6.00pm Vespers (Evening Prayer of the Church)

### Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February

#### Feria

*No public Mass today*

### Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February

#### Feria

*No public Mass today*

### Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February

#### Feria

*No public Mass today*

### Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February

#### Feria

*No public Mass today*

### Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February

#### Feria

*No public Mass today*

### Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

#### Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter

*No public morning Mass*

#### SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

S 5.15pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and Confessions

S 6.00pm Vigil Mass Mike Murtagh RIP

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

#### SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

S 9.00am Mass Ana Barreto -Pereira RIP

C 10.45am Mass Priest's intention

S 6.00pm Vespers (Evening Prayer of the Church)

## Pope's Prayer Intentions for February

**Listen to the Migrants' Cries** We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.