



Christ is Risen! Alleluia!



*Welcome to the Catholic Parish of Southwell and Calverton*

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

Our Lady of Victories : Halam Road, Southwell, Nottinghamshire NG25 0AD

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

Parish Priest: **Father Simon Gillespie** Mobile: **07760 372105** Email: [simon@nottinghamcatholic.com](mailto:simon@nottinghamcatholic.com)

The Presbytery, Halam Road, Southwell, Nottinghamshire NG25 0AD Telephone: (01636) 812686

Parish Secretary: **Justine Stoddart** Telephone: **(01636) 812686** Email: [olv.rcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:olv.rcchurch@gmail.com)

Parish Website: [www.olvrcchurch.com](http://www.olvrcchurch.com)

Part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Nottingham Diocesan Website: [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk)

Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Company Number: 7151646 Charity Number: 1134449



**12<sup>th</sup> April 2020 : E A S T E R D A Y : A L L E L U I A**

**This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!**

The Easter story is so familiar to us, and yet always remains tantalisingly obscure: there are no actual witnesses to the resurrection, very little of it is actually recorded in the four canonical gospels, the cloths are left behind (with the angels) but Jesus isn't at the tomb himself. We are left in little doubt of the veracity of the resurrection if we have eyes of faith . . . but if we are sceptical (as were those Jews who asked Pilate for a guard at the tomb) then we have an excellent excuse for not believing the story.

As with everything in our faith, indeed everything that God does, we are invited to believe, not forced to know. God's revelation of God's self happens slowly and carefully; we hear it through the pages of sacred scripture, and in a sense we live it out as we journey through life. Little by little we come to know God better, or perhaps we might say that God reveals God's self to us as we mature and so are able to perceive God. God doesn't ever force us, he respects our free will to believe or not, and belief in the resurrection, that single, most incredible miracle that ever happened, tests our belief in God to the limit.

For those who have faith the resurrection is at the heart of all that we believe. This is the event in all of history that makes sense of our lives, because it's the event that reunites us once and for all with our creator God. No longer are we mere creatures of a loving Father, but we are now united with God who has united his divinity and eternal life to our humanity and limited life through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

**We have to be witnesses to the resurrection in our own time and place.**

The world is full of sceptics, of people who doubt, who don't (yet) know Jesus, who haven't allowed him to enter into their lives. This year more than ever, the world is filled with fear, with uncertainty of what the future will bring. As we celebrate Easter, even as we celebrate in isolation, let us make a promise to God that we'll spread his truth, and allow others to share in the glories of Jesus' resurrection which are revealed to us and which we celebrate today.

**The Lord is risen. Alleluia. He is truly risen. Alleluia!**

## Prayer during the Coronavirus Pandemic

*In these days when our churches must stay closed it's a comfort to know that God is close to us and that he holds each of us in the palm of his hand. We are encouraged to use the Holy Father's prayer, to Our Lady, as we seek Divine protection:*

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,

to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself,

and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross,

to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test

and deliver us from every danger,

O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

## Access to a Priest or the Sacraments

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

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

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

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

## Ways to continue to participate in the life of the Church

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

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

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

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

The link to the televised Mass is here:

- [http://www.stbarnabascathedral.org.uk/01\\_Community/livestream.html](http://www.stbarnabascathedral.org.uk/01_Community/livestream.html)

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

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

**Sunday Mass**, celebrated by Bishop Patrick, will be broadcast from his chapel at Bishop's House each Sunday at 10am:

- [www.youtube.com/channel/UCaf7upUMsn3Kl8GD79FotjQ/featured?fbclid=IwAR1JRpqkdO0rHZY98bsnSC\\_N9TKbvSKXv0L5bT4yVCcMTHaVmAwaW4g-rAk](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaf7upUMsn3Kl8GD79FotjQ/featured?fbclid=IwAR1JRpqkdO0rHZY98bsnSC_N9TKbvSKXv0L5bT4yVCcMTHaVmAwaW4g-rAk)

Bishop Patrick is also celebrating other liturgies. Check the Bishop's YouTube channel (using the link above) for each day's schedule.

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

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

**Resources for children and young people** can be found via the Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Service's (NDCYS) website, where Father Simon will be a guest on 'Friday Night Live' this week, on Friday at 6.00pm:

- <https://ndcys.com>

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

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

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

## Prayer for the Year of the Word

Living God, you walk alongside us and speak to us throughout the Scriptures.

Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears  
and shows us how to live for one another.

Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds  
so that we may be your witnesses throughout the world. Amen.

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

Our Lady of the Annunciation : Pray for us.

Saint Matthew : Pray for us.

Saint Jerome : Pray for us.

## Prayers for ...

Please remember in your prayers especially:

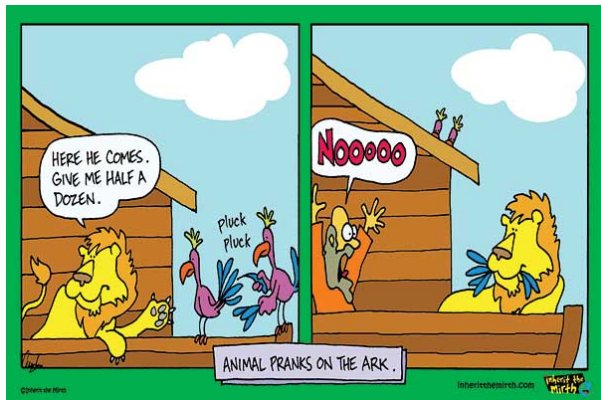
- ✠ **All those affected by the coronavirus outbreak** – those infected, those caring for them, those who have died, and those who mourn
- ✠ **Yuen Lam Li**, father of Canon Lee in Derby, who died on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April. May he rest in peace!
- ✠ **Julia Smith**, who died recently, and whose burial will be on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April. May she rest in peace!
- ✠ **Bernadette McBride**, who died on 31<sup>st</sup> March, and whose burial will be on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April. May she rest in peace!
- ✠ **Clergy of our diocese who are sick at this time**: Monsignor Jonathan Moore, Fathers John Cairns, Tony Colebrook, Hugh Doherty, James Hannigan, Peter Harvey, Slawomir Hermanowicz, Chris Hogan, Michael Horrax, Jim Lynch, Joe McGovern, Frank McLaughlin, Robert Rutledge, Michael Tutchter; Deacons Stephen Doona, and Bill Hutchinson.

## A reflection from 'Marriage Matters'

### Love our spouse just as they are

The different behaviour patterns of Jesus' friends are well illustrated in these Scriptures. Jesus loved each of them exactly as they were, just as he loves each of us. Our challenge is to really love our spouse, just as they are, with all the differences that we have. It's a lifelong journey, but like Jesus' friends, our understanding can grow.

## Easter Humour



## Wandering in the Desert

Q: Why did Moses wander in the desert for 40 years?

A: Even then men wouldn't ask for directions!





## Pope Francis' Blessing *Urbi et Orbi* : To the City and to the World

*On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March Pope Francis gave a blessing to the whole world from the portico of Saint Peter's Basilica. The usually-crowded piazza was empty, but his moving address challenges us to consider whether we truly believe.*

"When evening had come" (Mark 4:35). The Gospel passage we have just heard begins like this. For weeks now it has been evening. Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void, that stops everything as it passes by; we feel it in the air, we notice in people's gestures, their glances give them away. We find ourselves afraid and lost. Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying "We are perishing" (v. 38), so we too have realized that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this.

It is easy to recognize ourselves in this story. What is harder to understand is Jesus' attitude.

While his disciples are quite naturally alarmed and desperate, he stands in the stern, in the part of the boat that sinks first. And what does he do? In spite of the tempest, he sleeps on soundly, trusting in the Father; this is the only time in the Gospels we see Jesus sleeping. When he wakes up, after calming the wind and the waters, he turns to the disciples in a reproaching voice: "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" (v. 40). Let us try to understand. In what does the lack of the disciples' faith consist, as contrasted with Jesus' trust? They had not stopped believing in him; in fact, they called on him. But we see how they call on him: "Teacher, do you not care if we perish?" (v. 38). Do you not care: they think that Jesus is not interested in them, does not care about them. One of the things that hurts us and our families most when we hear it said is: "Do you not care about me?" It is a phrase that wounds and unleashes storms in our hearts. It would have shaken Jesus too. Because he, more than anyone, cares about us. Indeed, once they have called on him, he saves his disciples from their discouragement.

The storm exposes our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities. It shows us how we have allowed to become dull and feeble the very things that nourish, sustain and strengthen our lives and our communities. The tempest lays bare all our pre-packaged ideas and forgetfulness of what nourishes our people's souls; all those attempts that anesthetize us with ways of thinking and acting that supposedly "save" us, but instead prove incapable of putting us in touch with our roots and keeping alive the memory of those who have gone before us. We deprive ourselves of the antibodies we need to confront adversity. In this storm, the façade of those stereotypes with which we camouflaged our egos, always worrying about our image, has fallen away, uncovering once more that (blessed) common belonging, of which we cannot be deprived: our belonging as brothers and sisters.

"Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" Lord, your word this evening strikes us and regards us, all of us. In this world, that you love more than we do, we have gone ahead at breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything. Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things, and lured away by haste. We did not stop at your reproach to us, we were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick. Now that we are in a stormy sea, we implore you: "Wake up, Lord!".

"Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" Lord, you are calling to us, calling us to faith. Which is not so much believing that you exist, but coming to you and trusting in you. This Lent your call reverberates urgently: "Be converted!", "Return to me with all your heart" (Joel 2:12). You are calling on us to seize this time of trial as a time of choosing. It is not the time of your judgement, but of our



judgement: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others. We can look to so many exemplary companions for the journey, who, even though fearful, have reacted by giving their lives. This is the force of the Spirit poured out and fashioned in courageous and generous self-denial. It is the life in the Spirit that can redeem, value and demonstrate how our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people – often forgotten people – who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines nor on the grand catwalks of the latest show, but who without any doubt are in these very days writing the decisive events of our time: doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, religious men and women and so very many others who have understood that no one reaches salvation by themselves. In the face of so much suffering, where the authentic development of our peoples is assessed, we experience the priestly prayer of Jesus: “That they may all be one” (John 17:21). How many people every day are exercising patience and offering hope, taking care to sow not panic but a shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday gestures, how to face up to and navigate a crisis by adjusting their routines, lifting their gaze and fostering prayer. How many are praying, offering and interceding for the good of all. Prayer and quiet service: these are our victorious weapons.

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith”? Faith begins when we realise we are in need of salvation. We are not self-sufficient; by ourselves we flounder: we need the Lord, like ancient navigators needed the stars. Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives. Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them. Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God’s strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies.

The Lord asks us and, in the midst of our tempest, invites us to reawaken and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering. The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith. We have an anchor: by his cross we have been saved. We have a rudder: by his cross we have been redeemed. We have a hope: by his cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from his redeeming love. In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side. The Lord asks us from his cross to rediscover the life that awaits us, to look towards those who look to us, to strengthen, recognize and foster the grace that lives within us. Let us not quench the wavering flame (cf. Isaiah 42:3) that never falters, and let us allow hope to be rekindled.

Embracing his cross means finding the courage to embrace all the hardships of the present time, abandoning for a moment our eagerness for power and possessions in order to make room for the creativity that only the Spirit is capable of inspiring. It means finding the courage to create spaces where everyone can recognize that they are called, and to allow new forms of hospitality, fraternity and solidarity. By his cross we have been saved in order to embrace hope and let it strengthen and sustain all measures and all possible avenues for helping us protect ourselves and others. Embracing the Lord in order to embrace hope: that is the strength of faith, which frees us from fear and gives us hope.

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith”? Dear brothers and sisters, from this place that tells of Peter’s rock-solid faith, I would like this evening to entrust all of you to the Lord, through the intercession of Mary, Health of the People and Star of the stormy Sea. From this colonnade that embraces Rome and the whole world, may God’s blessing come down upon you as a consoling embrace. Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: “Do not be afraid” (Matthew 28:5). And we, together with Peter, “cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us” (cf. 1 Peter 5:7).

## Readings at Masses and Services this week

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

<b>Easter Day</b>	Acts 10:33-43; Psalm 117(118):1-2.16-17.22-23; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9
Monday	Acts 2:14.22-33; Psalm 15(16):1-11; Matthew 28:8-15
Tuesday	Acts 2:36-41; Psalm 32(33):4-5.18-20.22; John 20:11-18
Wednesday	Acts 3:1-10; Psalm 104(105):1-4.6-9; Luke 24:13-35
Thursday	Acts 3:11-26; Psalm 8:2.5-9; Luke 24:35-48
Friday	Acts 4:1-12; Psalm 117(118):1-2.4.22-27; John 21:1-14
Saturday	Acts 4:13-21; Psalm 117(118):14-21; Mark 16:9-15

## Divine Mercy Novena – started on Good Friday

The traditional Novena to the Divine Mercy began on Good Friday and runs until the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday, the Sunday after Easter. For those not familiar with the Novena, and the promise made by Jesus to Saint Faustina, more information can be found here: <https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/novena>

## Some practical points

Although Masses won't be celebrated publicly for the foreseeable future, if you wish to have a Mass offered for a particular intention simply put a Mass envelope with the details through the presbytery letterbox, or email Father Simon directly. The daily Mass intentions will continue to be published in the newsletter.

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

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

**Many thanks to all our parishioners for your continuing generosity!**

## **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. In these coming days when it isn't possible for parishioners to get to Mass it would be very helpful to have parishioners' written consent (via email is fine) to send out the newsletter, and possibly other urgent messages, via email.

## **Parish Census**

During these times when it's not possible for parishioners to come to Mass and participate in the life of the parish as usual it's even more important that the parish office has contact details for parishioners so that we're able to keep in touch. The last census was undertaken when the new law on data protection was introduced in 2018, but it seems that not all parishioners completed a form at that time. Father Simon has sent Easter cards to all the parishioners for whom details are held. If you've not received one please consider completing the parish census form, available on the website, and returning it to Father Simon. All the details are held in accordance with the diocesan data protection policy and only used for legitimate parish and diocesan communications.

## **Supporting the vulnerable during the Covid-19 pandemic**

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

## **Join the 'Fight Infections in Africa' Appeal**

Many thanks to the parishioner who made a donation to this appeal. Some parish funds have been used to augment the amount, and a donation of £100 has been made on behalf of the parish.

## Masses and Services this week

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

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April

### E A S T E R D A Y - A L L E L U I A

4.30am Vigil and First Mass Pro Populo (people of the parish)

9.00am Mass Canon John Berry RIP

### Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April

### SOLEMNITY OF EASTER ,MONDAY

Mass Sabina May Crosse RIP

### Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April

### SOLEMNITY OF EASTER TUESDAY

Mass Mike Murtagh RIP

### Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April

### SOLEMNITY OF EASTER WEDNESDAY

Mass Raymond Ganner RIP

### Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April

### SOLEMNITY OF EASTER THURSDAY

Mass Sister Elizabeth Carr – birthday prayers

Funeral Service Julia Smith

### Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April

### SOLEMNITY OF EASTER FRIDAY

Mass Sherlock Family number 2

Funeral Service Bernadette McBride

### Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April

### SOLEMNITY OF EASTER SATURDAY

Mass Tricia O'Hare

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April

### SOLEMNITY OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

### DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Mass Pro Populo (people of the parish)

## Pope's Prayer Intentions

### Freedom from Addiction

We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.