



Welcome to the Catholic Parish of Southwell and Calverton

Our Lady of Victories, Southwell and Saint Anthony, Calverton

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



13th May 2021 : Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

15th and 16th May 2021 : Seventh Sunday of Easter

Just as through the season of Lent, so now in Eastertide we have reflections prepared by clergy of Nottingham Diocese to help us reflect on each Sunday's readings.

A few months before Lockdown one I went to see Arthur Miller's stage play 'Death of a Salesman' at the Piccadilly Theatre in London's West End. I'd seen the play before in both theatre and on screen and really enjoyed it and the reviews for this production were super. A sold-out five star "reinvention of a masterpiece" it proclaimed on the poster. The lead character was played by Wendell Pierce whose character I really enjoyed in the TV series 'Suits' (he played the father of Meghan Markle's character). I recognised many of the other actors and their performances were good. Alas, it was less than inspiring that night. For me, the play struggled to capture our imagination that night as evidenced by the dozens of nodding heads, as they fought bravely to stay upright. Many failed, including the young woman sat on my left, whose head ricocheted off my shoulder to her great embarrassment. However, to my absolute amazement at its conclusion, far from a muted round of applause – it received a standing ovation. A standing ovation! Unbelievable, I

muttered, as I marched off to catch the tube. Upon reflection however, maybe I was a tad harsh? The audience, including the woman on my left who shrugged as I sped off, were perhaps showing a kind reverence for both the play and the cast despite the performance that night.



The Disciples Gift of Reverence in John's Gospel The Holy Spirit's gift of 'reverence' is not merely honouring or showing respect, as in the West End audience's response to the play, reverence or piety is a recognition of one's total reliance on God. Pope Francis notes, in a series of talks on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, that it reflects "our belonging to God, our deep bond with him, a relationship that gives meaning to our whole life and keeps us resolute, in communion with him, even during the most difficult and troubled moments." This is expressed by Jesus, in today's Gospel, in the reverence he expresses to his Father but moreover he invites us to share this "so that [we] too may be consecrated in truth."

Goodness as a Fruit of Reverence in Acts In seeking to replace Judas, the apostles were not looking for someone who had dipped in and out of following Christ but someone present the whole time, someone who clearly placed their reliance on their saviour. Saint Paul notes that "to this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfil by his power every good resolve and work of faith" (2 Thessalonians 1:11). By drawing lots, they pray that God will read the heart of the chosen one and thus those gathered know that the newly chosen apostle is truly a good person. This is essential for any Missionary Disciple, worthy of their call, because goodness is not only about occasional good acts but moreover bearing this fruit of the Holy Spirit is about relying each day on God and thus opening others to encounter God's goodness and cast aside a reliance on money, fame or power.

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

Access to a Priest or the Sacraments

Although it can be difficult to get to church Mass is still celebrated every day for the intentions of all the parishioners of Southwell and Calverton, and for the specific intentions requested. If you need to contact Father Simon, please get in touch. **Requiem Masses** and **Funeral Services** can still be held, either in church (for the Mass), or directly at the graveside or in the crematorium. 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. If you know of anyone who **isn't presently coming to Mass** please do let them know that our churches are open and Mass is celebrated. Although some parishioners have good reasons for not coming back to Mass, it would be a travesty if others weren't returning because they didn't know they could do so.

Pentecost – Sunday 23rd May

The nine days between Ascension (forty days after Easter) and Pentecost (fifty days after) are the time of the first Novena: nine days of prayer for the coming of the promised Holy Spirit. This year our Bishops in England and Wales give us two Novenas to pray in these holy days.

A novena is nine days of prayer that usually encourages us to pray for a particular intention as we prepare for a feast day. Praying for an intention, particularly praying for other people, is known as the prayer of intercession. It is a form of prayer that takes us beyond ourselves as we ask our loving Father to bless someone else. 'We can say that God's heart is touched by our intercession, yet in reality he is always there first. What our intercession achieves is that his power, his love and his faithfulness are shown ever more clearly in the midst of the people.'

(Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 283)

In the 19th Century Blessed Elena Guerra, the founder of the Oblates of the Holy Spirit, felt it was important that the Church be renewed to the passion of the first Christians at Pentecost and petitioned Pope Leo XIII in the following manner: 'Pentecost is not over. In fact it is continuously going on in every time and in every place because the Holy Spirit desired to give Himself to all men and all who want Him can always receive Him, so we do not envy the apostles and the first believers; we only have to dispose ourselves like them to receive Him well, and He will come to us as He did to them.'

As a result of her promptings the Pope issued several important documents about the Holy Spirit. He also asked the Church to celebrate a novena (nine days of prayer) every year between the Ascension and Pentecost. We are therefore invited to pray the Pentecost Novena for this fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, especially since it is through the Holy Spirit that a person can encounter Jesus Christ and experience the love of God our Father. Whilst this is something that each of us needs, the novena challenges us to go beyond our own needs by asking for this incredible blessing for others.

Consider setting a time each day when you will take a moment of prayer, you need only about 10 minutes. Put a reminder on your phone, a note on your fridge or something to prompt you to pray each day!



Pentecost Novena One : *Thy Kingdom Come*

Nine days of intercessory prayer for evangelisation leading towards Pentecost

- ✘ Begin each day by invoking the Holy Spirit using Pope Saint John XXIII's 'invocation' prayer:

Renew your wonders in this our day, as by a new Pentecost.

Grant to your Church that, being of one mind and steadfast in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and following the lead of Blessed Peter, it may advance the reign of our Divine Saviour, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love and peace. Amen.

Come Holy Spirit, in your power and might to renew the face of the earth.

Holy Spirit, awaken the whole human race and help us to build bridges of trust that open our hearts to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

- ✘ Read and meditate on the piece of scripture appointed for each day.
- ✘ Prayer the prayer intention for each day.
- ✘ Conclude with the Pentecost sequence:

Come, Holy Spirit, come, and from your celestial home shed a ray of light divine. Come, Father of the poor, come, source of all our store. Come, within our bosoms shine. You, of all comforters best; you the soul's most welcome guest. Sweet refreshment here below. In our labour, rest most sweet; grateful coolness in the heat; solace in the midst of woe. O most Blessed Light Divine, shine within these hearts of thine, and our inmost being fill. Where you are not, we have naught. Nothing good in deed or thought nothing free from taint of ill. Heal our wounds, our strength renew; on our dryness pour your dew; wash the stains of guilt away. Bend the stubborn heart and will. Melt the frozen, warm the chill. Guide the steps that go astray. On the faithful, who adore. And confess you, evermore. In your sevenfold gift descend. Give us virtue's sure reward. Give us your salvation, Lord. Give us joys that never end. Amen. Alleluia.

Day 1: Intercession for a growth in trust

Scripture: Isaiah 12:2

Prayer Intention: Pray for a growth in trust that enables those we love, those we care about and those we know to open their hearts to the Holy Spirit, who is the first evangeliser.

Day 2: Intercession for the renewal of the Church

Scripture: Joel 2:28-31

Prayer Intention: Pray for the 'Spirituality of Pentecost' to renew the Church throughout the world – especially in your continent, nation, diocese, parish and in your own life.

Day 3: Intercession for the unity of Christianity

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-6

Prayer Intention: Pray for reconciliation, the purification of memories and the healing of the Christian body – in the world, in your nation and in your own life.

Day 4: Intercession for the renewal of society

Scripture: Luke 4:18-19

Prayer Intention: Pray for the coming of the Kingdom and for the Culture of Life born of the Spirit, to penetrate the whole of society; for governments and those in public office in your continent and nation.

Day 5: Intercession for conversion and holiness

Scripture: Romans 8:28-30

Prayer Intention: Pray for the conversion of sinners, for growth in holiness and the revelation of God's glory – in the Church, in the world, in your family and in your life.

Day 6: Intercession for reconciliation and healing

Scripture: Mark 11:25

Prayer Intention: Pray for reconciliation in broken relationships and the healing of life's hurts. May the peace of Christ that has broken down every dividing wall, lead us into unity. Pray for this for your diocese, parish, family and yourself.

Day 7: Intercession for empowerment for evangelisation

Scripture: Acts 1:8

Prayer Intention: Pray for a new empowerment by the Holy Spirit so that we can be effective witnesses and for a new boldness in bringing the Gospel to the whole of creation; for the work of 'New Evangelisation' in the Church.

Day 8: Intercession for the victory of the Holy Cross

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:17-18

Prayer Intention: Pray that the victory of the Holy Cross and its saving power be manifested in our lives and proclaimed over all the earth. 'We adore you O Christ and we bless you; because by your cross you have redeemed the world.'

Day 9: Intercession for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit and his gifts

Scripture: Acts 1:4-5

Prayer Intention: Pray for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit in your life. May the gifts of the Spirit be more fully manifest for building up his body in love and to bring all things in heaven and on earth under his headship.

Pentecost Novena Two : *On the Care of Creation*

The River Does Not Divide Us: Pentecost Novena on the Care of Creation

We invite all Catholics in England and Wales to respond in prayer and action to the urgent climate change issues that we all face. The God Who Speaks team offers this Novena of readings and prayers drawn from the Bible and recent Papal teaching. Between Ascension and Pentecost, the Scriptures tell us: “All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers...” (Acts 1:14) while they awaited to be “clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49). We are invited to pray these nine days reflecting on the account of creation in the book of Genesis. This Novena can be used on its own or to complement the prayers and reflections of the global prayer movement - ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ with the Care of Creation theme.

✘ Introduction and opening prayer:

Show Mercy to our Common Home Despite our sins and the daunting challenges before us, we never lose heart. “The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us... for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward.” (Laudato Si’, 13; 245). In a particular way, let us pray ... “O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, who are so precious in your eyes... God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth” (ibid., 246), God of mercy, may we receive your forgiveness and convey your mercy throughout our common home. Praise be to you! Amen.

✘ Read and meditate on the pieces of scripture appointed for each day, and the reading from the Papal documents.

✘ Conclude with the Common Prayer for Earth and for Humanity:

Loving God, Creator of Heaven, Earth, and all therein contained. Open our minds and touch our hearts, so that we can be part of Creation, your gift. Be present to those in need in these difficult times, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. Help us to show creative solidarity as we confront the consequences of the global pandemic. Make us courageous in embracing the changes required to seek the common good. Now more than ever, may we all feel interconnected and interdependent. Enable us

to succeed in listening and responding to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor. May their current sufferings become the birth-pangs of a more fraternal and sustainable world. We pray through Christ our Lord, under the loving gaze of Mary, Help of Christians. Amen.

Day 1 – Friday 14th May

Scripture readings: Genesis 1:1-2; Daniel 3:52-56

Papal document: Laudato Si' (Pope Francis, 24th May 2015), number 12

Day 2 – Saturday 15th May

Scripture readings: Genesis 1:3-5; Daniel 3:57-60

Papal document: Sacramentum Caritatis (Pope Benedict XVI, 22nd February 2007), number 92

Day 3 – Sunday 16th May

Scripture readings: Genesis 1:6-8; Daniel 3:61-65

Papal document: Caritas in Veritate (Pope Benedict XVI, 29th June 2009), number 51

Day 4 – Monday 17th May

Scripture readings: Genesis 1:9-13; Daniel 3:66-73

Papal document: Querida Amazonia (Pope Francis, 2nd February 2020), number 45

Day 5 – Tuesday 18th May

Scripture readings: Genesis 1:14-19; Daniel 3:74-78

Papal document: Caritas in Veritate (Pope Benedict XVI, 29th June 2009), number 48

Day 6 – Wednesday 19th May

Scripture readings: Genesis 1:20-23; Daniel 3:79-81

Papal document: Evangelii Gaudium (Pope Francis, 24th November 2013), numbers 215 and 216

Day 7 – Thursday 20th May

Scripture readings: Genesis 1:23-31; Daniel 3:82-87

Papal document: Peace with God the Creator, Peace with of creation (Pope Saint John II, 1st January 1990)

Day 8 – Friday 21st May

Scripture readings: Genesis 2:1-3; Daniel 3:89-90

Papal document: The human person, the heart of peace with all of creation (Pope Benedict XVI, 1st January 2007)

Day 9 – Saturday 22nd May

Scripture readings: Ephesians 1:15-23; Judith 16:13-15

Papal document: Laudato Si' (Pope Francis, 24th May 2015), number 80

Pentecost Day – Sunday 23rd May

Scripture readings: Psalm 104:24-25.27-28.30-31.33-34

Papal document: Laudato Si' (Pope Francis, 24th May 2015), numbers 13, 245, 87

Coming to Mass

In the current partial lockdown public Mass is available on Saturday in Southwell at 6.00pm and on Sunday in Calverton at 10.45am. Currently we are precluded from any social interaction in church (outside of our bubble), and in groups of no more than six outside of church. 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 8.30am Monday morning until 4.30pm Friday afternoon; 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; the mask should be worn so as to fully and snugly cover the wearer's mouth and nose;
- ✘ 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;
- ✘ 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 some 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 groups of more than six, please ensure that you don't linger too long, or with too many others, in the car park after Mass, tempting as it is to chat with fellow parishioners!
- ✘ As the weather is cooler please dress appropriately for the weather and temperature.

NHS Covid-19 App and the QR Code in Church

If you have a smart-phone please scan the QR code as you come in to either church, 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!

Covid Precautions : A Reminder

- ✘ An effective vaccine is the best way to protect people from coronavirus and will save thousands of lives.
- ✘ Following extensive safety trials and authorisation by the independent medicines' regulator, the MHRA, effective COVID-19 vaccines are available in the UK for free.
- ✘ It is essential that everyone continues to stay at home if possible to protect the NHS and save lives. Follow the link to make a vaccine booking:

https://www.swiftqueue.co.uk/nottinghamc19vpatient.php?fbclid=IwAR0nHe0lfONdVaFT8vwQIdjb5UQJ0_DQbEjxdLAKEdqdeGIHHATF35ENOEI

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

A **Livestream from the Grotto in Lourdes** can be followed each day, with Mass broadcast in English at 9.00am (8.00am our time) each morning, and the Rosary, together with other prayers and devotions, in various languages, during the day:

- <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:

- <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>

For children of primary school age the **Mark 10 Mission** gives a reflection for each Sunday's Gospel, and a challenge for the week ahead:

- <https://www.themark10mission.co.uk/series-five-jesus-is-alive>

Pope's Prayer Intention for May

The world of finance.

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

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.

An Appeal from Bishop Patrick

Dear Brothers and Sisters in our diocese of Nottingham,

I am deeply saddened to read of the worsening situation in India following the alarming outbreak of covid-19. There are many people living and working within Nottingham Diocese who are from India and who I know have loved ones living there today. Be assured that I hold your friends, family and the country which you love, in my prayers at this devastating time.

Today I also appeal to the faithful of the Diocese to offer up their usual Friday penance for those who are suffering in India-the sick, the dying, the bereaved and all those who courageously care for them. I recently read of a local bishop who is taking seriously ill priests to hospital, due to the fact there is a shortage of ambulances and no guarantee that a hospital bed can even be found. It was devastating to learn that the Diocese of Dumka has lost five priests to covid-19 in the space of ten days.

May God grant them and all those who have lost their lives, eternal rest and may our Blessed Mother comfort the sick and the dying in this time of terrible trial and sorrow.

Bishop Patrick McKinney



Pope Francis' Message for World Communications Day 2021

“Come and See” (John 1:46) – **Communicating by Encountering People as They Are**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The invitation to “come and see”, which was part of those first moving encounters of Jesus with the disciples, is also the method for all authentic human communication. In order to tell the truth of life that becomes history (cf. Message for the 54th World Communications Day, 24 January 2020), it is necessary to move beyond the complacent attitude that we “already know” certain things. Instead, we need to go to see them for ourselves, to spend time with people, to listen to their stories and to confront reality, which always in some way surprises us. “Open your eyes with wonder to what you see, let your hands touch the freshness and vitality of things, so that when others read what you write, they too can touch first-hand the vibrant miracle of life”. This was the advice that Blessed Manuel Lozano Garrido [Spanish journalist (1920-1971), beatified

in 2010] offered to his fellow journalists.

This year, then, I would like to devote this Message to the invitation to “come and see”, which can serve as an inspiration for all communication that strives to be clear and honest, in the press, on the internet, in the Church’s daily preaching and in political or social communication. “Come and see!” This has always been the way that the Christian faith has been communicated, from the time of those first encounters on the banks of the River Jordan and on the Sea of Galilee.

Hitting the streets. Let us look first at the great issue of news reporting. Insightful voices have long expressed concern about the risk that original investigative reporting in newspapers and television, radio and web newscasts is being replaced by a reportage that adheres to a standard, often tendentious narrative. This approach is less and less capable of grasping the truth of things and the concrete lives of people, much less the more serious social phenomena or positive movements at the grass roots level.

The crisis of the publishing industry risks leading to a reportage created in newsrooms, in front of personal or company computers and on social networks, without ever “hitting the streets”, meeting people face to face to research stories or to verify certain situations first hand. Unless we open ourselves to this kind of encounter, we remain mere spectators, for all the technical innovations that enable us to feel immersed in a larger and more immediate reality. Any instrument proves useful and valuable only to the extent that it motivates us to go out and see things that otherwise we would not know about, to post on the internet news that would not be available elsewhere, to allow for encounters that otherwise would never happen.

The Gospels as news stories. “Come and see” were the first words that Jesus spoke to the disciples who were curious about him following his baptism in the Jordan river (John 1:39). He invited them to enter into a relationship with him. More than half a century later, when John, now an old man, wrote his Gospel, he recalled several ‘newsworthy’ details that reveal that he was personally present at the events he reports and demonstrate the impact that the experience had on his life. “It was about the tenth hour”, he noted, that is, about four in the afternoon (cf. v. 39). The next day – John also tells us – Philip told Nathaniel about his encounter with the Messiah. His friend is sceptical and asks: “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip does not try to win him over with good reasons, but simply tells him: “Come and see” (cf. vv. 45-46). Nathaniel did go and see, and from that moment his life was changed. That is how Christian faith begins, and how it is communicated: as direct knowledge, born of experience, and not of hearsay. “It is no longer because of your

words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves”. So the townspeople told the Samaritan woman, after Jesus stayed in their village (cf. John 4:39-42). “Come and see” is the simplest method to get to know a situation. It is the most honest test of every message, because, in order to know, we need to encounter, to let the person in front of me speak, to let his or her testimony reach me.

Thanks to the courage of many journalists. Journalism too, as an account of reality, calls for an ability to go where no one else thinks of going: a readiness to set out and a desire to see. Curiosity, openness, passion. We owe a word of gratitude for the courage and commitment of all those professionals – journalists, camera operators, editors, directors – who often risk their lives in carrying out their work. Thanks to their efforts, we now know, for example, about the hardships endured by persecuted minorities in various parts of the world, numerous cases of oppression and injustice inflicted on the poor and on the environment, and many wars that otherwise would be overlooked. It would be a loss not only for news reporting, but for society and for democracy as a whole, were those voices to fade away. Our entire human family would be impoverished.

Many situations in our world, even more so in this time of pandemic, are inviting the communications media to “come and see”. We can risk reporting the pandemic, and indeed every crisis, only through the lens of the richer nations, of “keeping two sets of books”. For example, there is the question of vaccines, and medical care in general, which risks excluding the poorer peoples. Who would keep us informed about the long wait for treatment in the poverty-stricken villages of Asia, Latin America and Africa?

Social and economic differences on the global level risk dictating the order of distribution of anti-Covid vaccines, with the poor always at the end of the line and the right to universal health care affirmed in principle, but stripped of real effect. Yet even in the world of the more fortunate, the social tragedy of families rapidly slipping into poverty remains largely hidden; people who are no longer ashamed to wait in line before charitable organizations in order to receive a package of provisions do not tend to make news.

Opportunities and hidden dangers on the web. The internet, with its countless social media expressions, can increase the capacity for reporting and sharing, with many more eyes on the world and a constant flood of images and testimonies. Digital technology gives us the possibility of timely first-hand information that is often quite useful. We can think of certain emergency situations where the internet was the first to report the news and communicate official notices. It is a powerful tool, which demands that all of us be responsible as users and consumers.

Potentially we can all become witnesses to events that otherwise would be overlooked by the traditional media, offer a contribution to society and highlight more stories, including positive ones. Thanks to the internet we have the opportunity to report what we see, what is taking place before our eyes, and to share it with others.

At the same time, the risk of misinformation being spread on social media has become evident to everyone. We have known for some time that news and even images can be easily manipulated, for any number of reasons, at times simply for sheer narcissism. Being critical in this regard is not about demonizing the internet, but is rather an incentive to greater discernment and responsibility for contents both sent and received. All of us are responsible for the communications we make, for the information we share, for the control that we can exert over fake news by exposing it. All of us are to be witnesses of the truth: to go, to see and to share.

Nothing replaces seeing things at first hand. In communications, nothing can ever completely replace seeing things in person. Some things can only be learned through first-hand experience. We do not communicate merely with words, but with our eyes, the tone of our voice and our gestures. Jesus' attractiveness to those who met him depended on the truth of his preaching; yet the effectiveness of what he said was inseparable from how he looked at others, from how he acted towards them, and even from his silence. The disciples not only listened to his words; they watched him speak. Indeed in him, the incarnate Logos, the Word took on a face; the invisible God let himself be seen, heard and touched, as John himself tells us (cf. 1 John 1:1-3). The word is effective only if it is "seen", only if it engages us in experience, in dialogue. For this reason, the invitation to "come and see" was, and continues to be, essential.

We think of how much empty rhetoric abounds, even in our time, in all areas of public life, in business as well as politics. This or that one "speaks an infinite deal of nothing... His reasons are as two grains of wheat hid in two bushels of chaff: you shall seek all day ere you find them, and when you have them, they are not worth the search [William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*, Act 1, Scene 1]. The blistering words of the English playwright also apply to us as Christian communicators. The Good News of the Gospel spread throughout the world as a result of person-to-person, heart-to-heart encounters with men and women who accepted the invitation to "come and see", and were struck by the "surplus" of humanity that shone through the gaze, the speech and the gestures of those who bore witness to Jesus Christ. Every tool has its value, and that great communicator who was Paul of Tarsus would certainly have made use of email and social messaging. Yet it was his faith, hope and charity that impressed those of his contemporaries who heard him preach or had the good

fortune to spend time with him, to see him during an assembly or in individual conversation. Watching him in action wherever he was, they saw for themselves how true and fruitful for their lives was the message of salvation that, by God's grace, he had come to preach. Even where this servant of God could not be encountered personally, the disciples whom he sent bore witness to his way of life in Christ (cf. 1 Corinthians 4:17).

"We have books in our hands, but the facts before our eyes", said Saint Augustine [Sermo 360/B, 20] in speaking of fulfilment of the prophecies found in sacred Scripture. So too, the Gospel comes alive in our own day, whenever we accept the compelling witness of people whose lives have been changed by their encounter with Jesus. For two millennia, a chain of such encounters has communicated the attractiveness of the Christian adventure. The challenge that awaits us, then, is to communicate by encountering people, where they are and as they are.

Prayer

Lord, teach us to move beyond ourselves, and to set out in search of truth.

**Teach us to go out and see, teach us to listen,
not to entertain prejudices or draw hasty conclusions.**

**Teach us to go where no one else will go,
to take the time needed to understand,
to pay attention to the essentials, not to be distracted by the superfluous,
to distinguish deceptive appearances from the truth.**

**Grant us the grace to recognize your dwelling places in our world
and the honesty needed to tell others what we have seen. Amen**

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 23 January 2021, Vigil of the Memorial of Saint Francis de Sales

FRANCISCUS

Forthcoming Events in our parish and wider community

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer wave between the solemnities of **Ascension (13th May)** and **Pentecost (23rd May)**. It is a time when Christians around the world are invited to pray for more people to know Jesus and answer the call to be his disciple. There are a collection of Catholic resources you can use on your own or with others in this time including: morning and evening prayer, praying with Our Lady resources, live streamed night prayer, resources to pray for those you know who aren't followers of Christ, and more! Further information is at:

www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/resources-catholic-church

Resources for children and families are at:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/cheekypandas>

Pope Francis and the Culture of Encounter: on **Saturday 15th May** from 11.00am until 12.30pm Dr Austen Ivereigh, biographer of Pope Francis, will lead a Gidea Park live stream study day on the theme ‘The Culture of Encounter: Can Pope Francis’ vision of fraternity counter the politicization of faith?’ Dr Ivereigh will explore the importance of the Abu Dhabi declaration, the Amazon Synod, the recent encyclical on fraternity *Fratelli Tutti*, and the March 2021 visit of Pope Francis to Iraq. To access this free live stream event simply go to: <https://www.whatgoodnews.org> and follow the instructions found there.

Pax Christi’s **Pilgrimage for Peace** is being celebrated during the week of **15th – 21st May**. “Set yourself a challenge, get sponsored for it, and raise vital funds to support this work for peace that we all value.”

Fausta is having a dance-a-thon, Bruce is delivering a peace message to foreign embassies in London, Matt is cycling 50 miles visiting peace sites, Pat is going on a walk from Victoria to the Peace Pagoda in Battersea Park, Rachel will be cycling for 75 miles, to celebrate Pax Christi’s 75th anniversary.

More fundraisers are joining the fun. Visit their website www.paxchristi.org.uk/register-you-interest/ to sponsor them, and for more details visit: tinyurl.com/Pilgrimage4Peace

You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. This is how prayer works. – Pope Francis. **Churches Together in Swallowcliffe** are busy supporting Christian Aid Week (until 16th May) and have set up a Prayer Wall in The Minster Cathedral (12.00 noon - 3.00pm). They hope parishioners can take a few quiet moments in the Minster to join Christian Aid in giving thanks for the progress that has already been made in tackling poverty and climate justice, and also to reflect on how much further we must go, and what our role is in building God’s Kingdom. Please add your own reflections on the past and hopes for the future. Taking the time to do this allows us to place these hopes in God’s hands, commit to be part of the transformation to bring justice and know that we are standing in solidarity with people everywhere who are working to bring God’s kingdom.

A Neophytes’ Celebration. Normally on the Seventh Sunday of Easter those who have been received into the Church at Easter (Neophytes) are invited to a Mass of thanksgiving at the Cathedral with Bishop Patrick. This year Bishop Patrick will lead a half-hour online service of celebration for Neophytes; please join him at 3:00pm on **Sunday 16th May** on his YouTube Channel:

www.youtube.com/BishopPatrickMcKinney

More Forthcoming Events in our parish and wider community

The Word and the Common Good: Join Catholics from around the Diocese of Nottingham for an interactive online course over six Monday evenings from 7th June at 7.00pm. As life starts afresh after lockdown:

- ✘ Discover how Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching can help us seize this moment and build a society that reflects God's Kingdom;
- ✘ Build bridges following a year of social distancing and foster a new 'culture of encounter';
- ✘ Form new friendships, renew old ones, and help to build our parish communities for mission.

All are welcome to drop in and find out more at an open evening on **Monday 17th May**. Visit dioceseofnottingham.uk/here-now-us for further details.

Father John Deehan is offering a series of five evening talks on the Old Testament entitled: **The Old Testament, A Guide for the Perplexed**, each **Tuesday until 18th May** at 7.00pm. These are being run by the Agency for Evangelisation, Diocese of Westminster, free of charge. To register for the talks, click on the following Eventbrite link: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-old-testament-a-guide-for-the-perplexed-fr-john-deehan-series-tickets-147585890371

Being a Missionary Disciple we are offered a further talk via Zoom on 'being a Missionary Disciple': '*Pentecost and Mission*' will be given by Pippa Baker on **Wednesday 19th May** at 7.00pm. This talk will examine the significance of Pentecost for us and how the Holy Spirit equips us for mission in our everyday lives. To register visit: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk

On **Friday 21st May**, the Vigil of Saint Rita, we are asked to pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this country. On this month's Day of Prayer and Fasting for Life, we are especially asked to fast and pray for the end of DIY abortions at home. Please join in and invite others to join as well. For more information see <https://www.facebook.com/events/886441852198421/>

Pro-life Chain: Saturday 22nd May from 10.00am to 12.00noon at Trent Bridge. SPUC invites you to mark the 53rd anniversary of the Abortion Act coming into force in 1968, by joining their Pro-Life Chain. This is a peaceful, silent roadside vigil in solidarity with unborn children, their mothers and anyone suffering from the effects of abortion. They will be following Government guidance on covid-secure requirements. For more information, contact John 07757 815 625, Caroline (01623) 795 062, or email people@spucnottingham.org.uk

Pax Christi AGM will be held on **Saturday 22nd May** at 10.15am (for a 10.30am start). Please register (by 20th May) via <https://bit.ly/2Qb6nyx> or visit the website for more information: www.paxchristi.org.uk

Kindle the fire: Pentecost online prayer on **Saturday 22nd May** at 4.00pm. Saint Luke records Jesus saying: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor." (Luke 4: 18). Join online prayer for the eve of Pentecost with Bishop Patrick, parishioners and Caritas volunteers from around the Diocese of Nottingham. We'll be marking the



launch of Caritas, the new ministry supporting charitable service in parishes in Nottingham diocese, and justice, peace and care for creation in the wider world. Meet fellow Catholics and find out how Caritas can help you live the Gospel: book your place at dioceseofnottingham.uk/kindlethefire

Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth extends a warm invitation to all young people, their families and friends to share with them a **Celebration on the Feast of Pentecost, Sunday 23rd May**, via Zoom at 7.00pm. Father Simon Gillespie will lead us in the celebration. Perhaps you are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation and would like to join together to share more thoughts about the Holy Spirit giving the disciples the power to proclaim God's wonderful word? An opportunity to hear young people's thoughts, connecting and sharing discipleship through energy and enthusiasm as we recognise that Youth is a flame! Youth is a fire! Interactive discussion, prayers, readings, reflection and music will take place. For link-in details contact claudiacoxon@googlemail.com All young people under the age of 18 present on Zoom should be accompanied by an adult.

The Vocations Team are holding their next café for those interested in finding out more about their calling on **Monday 24th May** at 7.00pm. This month Father Wilfred, parish priest of Corpus Christi parish, Nottingham, and a member of the Religious congregation Sacred Heart Fathers will speak about: **How He Lives His Call Today**. Contact Diane at the Vocations Team (vocationsadmin@dioceseofnottingham.uk) for the Zoom link, or telephone the Vocations Centre on 0115 950 1064 for more information. A warm welcome awaits you.

More Forthcoming Events in our parish and wider community

Open with Care, resuming parish life in the 'new normal'. In late June the Government hopes to relax the restrictions that have prevented most parish activities taking place. It will be the moment when many parish facilities and groups can start up again. Open with Care on **Wednesday 2nd June** at 3.30pm until 5.00pm will help ensure that church premises and the things that happen in it are as safe and healthy as possible, and fulfil the government guidance. We'll be joined by Catherine Scholes from the diocesan property office. Having guided us through lockdown, she'll now be helping make plans to re-open. The link for the event can be found at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScsYjmNkwmFie0FSmFbaoeil6G8B0kKoDdzV0VVr-7Opltu0A/viewform>

May Rosary Mission

The National Shrine and Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham is leading a May Rosary Mission under the title **Rosary Stronghold with the Holy Family**:

- ✘ Protecting our families and the family of nations, in this Year of Saint Joseph;
- ✘ A deepening of faith, hope and love and the protection of life;
- ✘ Peace in the world;
- ✘ Deliverance from coronavirus; for those working for a cure; for those who have died; for those who are suffering and those who care for them.

Each night at 8.00pm there will be a foundational Rosary prayed to Jesus through Mary, led from a different parish / shrine. This will lead into three important National Days of Prayer:

- ✘ **Monday May 24th – Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church** – the National Shrine invites all people within England, Wales and Scotland to join with them in prayer for all our young people – to pray and intercede for the Mission and Intentions of all Catholic Schools, Youth Associations / Groups and projects, and for all families.
- ✘ **Sunday May 30th – Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity** – National Rosary Rally relay throughout the Dioceses of England, Wales and Scotland in intercession for the Rosary Mission intentions and for the needs of our own particular diocese. Our diocese has been allocated 10.00am – 11.00am on this day.
- ✘ **Monday May 31st – Feast of the Visitation** – Bishop John Keenan (Scotland) will host a crowning Rosary on line at 8.00pm, in thanksgiving for the graces received from the Lord Jesus through the powerful intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary during the May 2021 Rosary Mission.

For more details, and to follow this initiative, visit <http://www.walsingham.org.uk/>

Parish Newsletter by email

To receive the parish newsletter electronically ask to be added to the mailing list by emailing Father Simon at olvsouthwell.stacalverton@dioceseofnottingham.uk. Parishioners' consent is needed to email the newsletter and other messages.

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, and if you can the details are:

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

Many thanks to all our parishioners for your continuing generosity!

Supporting Newark Foodbank

The following items are especially needed in May:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| ☒ Tinned fish (not tuna) | ☒ Jam |
| ☒ Sponge puddings
(tinned or microwavable) | ☒ Toilet rolls |
| | ☒ Shampoo and deodorant |

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

How has covid-19 affected you and your faith?

The Diocese of Nottingham has launched a short survey in order to deepen its understanding of covid-19's impact on all Catholics across the diocese. Please visit

<https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/whats-on/news/share-your-story-how-has-covid-19-affected-you-and-your-faith>

Encourage other parishioners to do so too. The deadline is Sunday 4th July.

A reflection from 'Marriage Matters'

Strive for unity Since even before we married, we have worked to bring about unity in our love relationship. Today we are reminded that by loving one another; *"God will live in us and His love will be complete in us"*. Let's take a moment to hold hands, look at each other and say "you are my beloved 'till the end of time'".

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.

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.**

Prayer Intentions for Eastertide

Although we can't pray the Universal Prayer (bidding prayers) at Mass presently, Bishop Patrick gives us some suggestions for our prayers during each week of Easter.

Full of joy and confidence in the Lord who abides with us always, let us present our petitions to the Father:

- ✠ For the Church, that as Christ passed through the darkness of death into the light of glory, we may support each other on our journey to the Kingdom of Light. Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.
- ✠ For the leaders of the Church; that they may be authentic witnesses to the Resurrection of Christ. Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.
- ✠ We give thanks for our parish and school volunteers, and pray that the Lord will reward them for the time which they offer up on behalf of the Church's mission of spreading the Gospel. Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.
- ✠ For families suffering from discord and division, that the risen Lord may grant them his peace. Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.
- ✠ For those who shared in the Eucharistic banquet in this life; that the Lord would

fulfil his promise and raise them up on the last day. Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

✘ May Our Lady, Mother of the Church, intercede for us with her Son as we pray:
Hail Mary...

Heavenly Father, accept our petitions and grant them for the glory and praise of your name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A prayer for life

We pray for all women going through unexpected pregnancies, that they would experience peace and support in this circumstance, and recognise the many blessings that motherhood brings. Lord hear 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.
- ✘ **Monsignor Tony Duffy**, a priest of the archdiocese of Edinburgh and Saint Andrews, and its Lourdes Pilgrimage Director, who died on Wednesday 12th May. May he rest in peace!
- ✘ **Father Jeeva Kumar**, brother of Father Bosco Darsi, chaplain to the English-language community in Leuven, who died on Thursday 6th May . May he rest in peace!
- ✘ **Douglas Flint**, who died on Saturday 24th April, and whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 26th May. May he rest in peace.
- ✘ **Jessica Hanvey** (known to many in the parish as Auntie Jessie), who died on Saturday 17th April aged 97, and for whom a Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Monday 17th May. May she rest in peace!
- ✘ **Father Michael Dolman**, a priest of the archdiocese of Birmingham, who has been named as the next **Rector of Saint Mary's College, Oscott**, the seminary in Birmingham in which many of our priests have studied.
- ✘ **Joan Hyde**, a parishioner in Calverton.
- ✘ **Clergy of our diocese who are sick at this time**: Monsignor Jonathan Moore, Canon Michael Moore, Fathers John Cairns, John Daley IC, Hugh Doherty, Kevin Gradwell, James Hannigan, Peter Harvey, Christopher Hogan, James Lynch, Frank McLaughlin, Robert Rutledge, Michael Tutcher; Deacons Tom Berrie, Stephen Doona, William Hutchinson.

Masses and Services this week and next week

Saturday 15th May **Easter Feria**

No morning Mass

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Diocesan Safeguarding Sunday

Collection for World Communications Sunday
--

S 6.00pm Mass

Mike Murtagh RIP (anniversary)

Sunday 16th May

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

C 10.45am Mass

Kevin Freeman RIP (birthday)

Monday 17th May

Easter Feria

S 10.00am Mass

Requiem Mass for Jessica Hanvey RIP

Tuesday 18th May

Easter Feria

Mass

Patrick Hodgkinson RIP (nniversary)

Wednesday 19th May

Easter Feria

Mass

John Ochalek – good health

Thursday 20th May

Easter Feria

Mass

Auntie Jessie RIP

Friday 21st May

Easter Feria

Mass

Gerard Law RIP

Saturday 22nd May

Easter Feria

No morning Mass

SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

Collection for World Communications Sunday
--

S 6.00pm Mass

Pro Populo (people of the parish)

Sunday 23rd May

SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

C 10.45am Mass

Pro Populo (people of the parish)

Readings at Masses this week

Sunday Acts 1:15-17.20-26; Psalm 102(103):1-2.11-12.19-20; 1 John 4:11-16;
John 17:11-19

Monday Acts 19:1-8; Psalm 67(68):2-7; John 16:29-33

Tuesday Acts 20:17-27; Psalm 67(68):10-11.20-21; John 17:1-11

Wednesday Acts 20:28-38; Psalm 67(68):29-30.33-36; John 17:11-19

Thursday Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Psalm 15(16):1-2.5.7-11; John 17:20-26

Friday Acts 25:13-21; Psalm 102(103):1-2.11-12.19-20; John 21:15-19

Saturday Acts 28:16-20.30-31; Psalm 10(11):4-5.7; John 21:20-25