

**St Mary's
Catholic Church
Loughborough**



**Information Handbook
Issue Five - April 2007**

St Mary's Church
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Introduction

This information booklet on the life and activities of St Mary's Parish is the result of repeated requests from the Assembly discussions and follow-up debates that such information is very much needed and long overdue. It has been prepared with the co-operation of most of the groups now active in the Parish and is, to that extent, up-to-date and accurate.

Naturally, there will always be details which change from time to time, and we hope that the users of this booklet will understand the need to constantly update the information provided. The booklet shows that there are very many activities currently operating in the Parish, involving more than one hundred parishioners in one way or another. This is testimony to the fact that this Parish has already adopted the Assembly principle of seeking greater involvement of Laity in the life of the Parish and the recognition that this will need to be a feature of the future Church.

The contents of this booklet will give parishioners, new and old, news of what is going on, where to go for further information and the times, dates and venues of meetings and activities. We hope that this will stimulate more parishioners to greater commitment and involvement and give them the incentive to create other activities according to need and the availability of competent persons.

Of particular importance is the commitment of our young people, and while we realise that many in their late teens will probably be leaving for universities, we hope that our young parishioners will contribute very deeply to the future growth and development of the Community.

I thank those whose technical talents have led to the compilation of this booklet and hope that what it contains may be an inspiration to all parishioners, present and to come.

God bless our Parish,

Fr. Philip

The Diocesan Assembly Prayer

Creator God,
fill our lives with every blessing.
Redeemer Lord,
show us how to love.
Spirit of wisdom, grant us new vision.

We labour in the fields of the world
to reap the harvest you have sown.
You call us to step out of the boat,
to walk upon the waters,
to risk all for your gospel.

May we work together for your kingdom;
Walk together on your pilgrimage of hope.
In what we do and say
may our lives speak to everyone
of your all-embracing love.

Help us to leave behind all that weighs us down;
to carry with us all that lifts us up in hope;
so that your Church in our diocese
will gather in a rich and fruitful
harvest for your kingdom.

Amen.

Mass Times

Saturday and Sunday

Saturday: 9.15 am Mass

Saturday: 6.30 pm Mass with music (First Mass of Sunday)

Sunday: 9.00 am Mass with Music Group

Sunday: 11.00 am Mass with the choir and organ

Sunday: 12.45 pm Polish Mass

Sunday: 4.00 pm Italian Mass

Weekdays Monday to Friday

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday Morning: Mass 9:15 am

Wednesday: 9:15 am Mass and 6:30 pm Mass (except first Wednesday of each month)

Friday: 9:15 am Mass and 7:00 pm Mass

First Friday of each month: 5.30 pm Filipino Mass and Novena

Holydays

Vigil Mass: 7.30 pm

On the Feast day: 9.15 am

On the Feast day: 7.30 pm

Exposition (Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament)

Sunday: 6.30 pm (time subject to change)

Monday to Friday following 9.15 am Mass until 10.30 am

Friday from 6.00 pm until start of the 7.00 pm Mass

Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday from 12.00 noon until 1.00 pm

Please check the weekly newsletter or the Parish website (<http://www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk>) for services on holy days or changes to the times shown above

On-site car parking is available beside the church and in the school playground at the rear of the church at weekends. At other times in local streets and car parks.

A short history of St Mary's

There is evidence that the Leicester based Dominicans were active in Loughborough for at least four years before the advent of a resident priest within the town.

In 1824 a Catholic Priest, Fr Thomas McDonnell, came to Loughborough from Birmingham to meet Ambrose Phillips de Lisle who had expressed a wish to be received into the Church.

Further evidence from an early baptismal certificate shows that a Fr Hopkins administered baptism in Loughborough in 1829 and a note added to this certificate states that "The first meeting place of this body of Christians was in a room over an ironmonger's shop in Mill Street", which is now known as Market Street.

In 1833 Fr Hulme became interested in the spiritual needs of Loughborough and, hearing that an Irish mother had to take her child to Leicester to be baptised, he decided to start a mission in Loughborough.

Amid widespread anti-Catholic feelings in Loughborough Fr Hulme built the first church in 1834 which was 71 feet long and 26 feet in width. This church ran from left to right in what is now the present sanctuary with the altar in those days being against the left hand wall and the entrance via Hastings Street, through the present side door of the day chapel, on the right hand side of the sanctuary. When the project was first mooted both the Gothic and Renaissance building styles were considered with the eventual design being inspired by a Leicester concert hall known as the "Green Room". It was constructed from brick but was covered in cement in imitation of stone. The total cost of the church, church house and site was £5,000 which was provided as a loan from Bishop Walsh.

Despite the feelings against the Church, the abilities of Fr Hulme as a preacher won him some sympathy among members of the established Church as they became the greater part of his congregation. Their support, however, quickly evaporated when the priest sided with the dissenters in opposition to the church rates. As the congregation dwindled Fr Hulme asked the Vicar Apostolic to replace him with a priest who would be more acceptable to the townsfolk. When Fr Hulme left Loughborough in 1839 to join another mission in Cheshire he was able to reflect on the 63 baptisms that are recorded in the registers as being performed during his five years in the town.

For the next two years the mission in Loughborough was in the care of Fr Norbert Woolfrey of Mount St Bernard's Abbey. Then in 1841 Bishop Walsh handed over the mission to the care of the Fathers of the Institute of Charity (The Rosminians) who have served it to this day.

The mission benefited enormously from the care provided by the Rosminians. The Church was being served by a Community and for some years it was to be the most important centre of the Institute of Charity in this country. Four cottages in Hastings Street were purchased and these served as a Novitiate from 1841 until the transfer to Ratcliffe in 1844.

By 1918 the church had become inadequate for the increased congregation and a building fund was opened. The church authorities insisted that work on the extended church could not start until half of the necessary money had been collected and it took five years to collect this amount. The completed church was opened on 26 August 1925.

The extended part of the church is positioned over the original cemetery, and consists of a nave, built at right angles to the old church, which then became the sanctuary and transepts. The former boundary of the old church can be seen by the position of the square columns on each side of the present nave. Throughout, the Renaissance characteristics of the old church have been preserved and a classical portico makes an imposing frontage on the Ashby Road to this day.

The High Altar (consecrated 22 April 1933) and the altar of Our Lady, Queen of Peace (consecrated 2 July 1941) are the work of Dinelli Figli of Pietrasanta. Their marble and bronze-work is of a richness which is very unusual in a provincial church in this country. St Mary's is now a grade two listed building.

The Parish is bordered to the south by Forest Road where it meets the Sacred Heart Parish, by the M1 to the west and by Derby Road and Belton Road to the north.

This history is believed to be correct but if anyone knows differently please do not hesitate to contact the Parish office.

Parish Priests who have served at St Mary's

Date	Priest	Order	Date of death if known
1833 - 1838	Fr B Hulme		
1838 - 1840	Fr W Norbert	OCR	
1840 - 1841	Fr Moclaire		
1841 - 1842	Fr J Pagani	Inst Ch	
1842 - 1845	Fr A Gentili	Inst Ch	26 Sept 1848
1845 - 1847	Fr A Rinolfi	Inst Ch	20 Feb 1877
1847	Fr M Furlong	Inst Ch	29 Oct 1871
1847 - 1848	Fr P Signini	Inst Ch	
1848 - 1850	Fr E Fordham	Inst Ch	31 Mar 1851
1850 - 1889	Fr A Egan	Inst Ch	4 Mar 1889
1889	Fr M Garelli	Inst Ch	26 Apr 1904
1889 - 1912	Fr A McGuire	Inst Ch	10 May 1912
1912 - 1919	Fr J Hurley	Inst Ch	3 Jan 1953
1919 - 1921	Fr G Elson	Inst Ch	23 Oct 1964
1921 - 1934	Fr J Harrington	Inst Ch	3 May 1934
1934 - 1935	Fr E Cunningham	Inst Ch	14 Mar 1946
1935 - 1944	Fr S Nadale	Inst Ch	2 May 1951
1944 - 1949	Fr J D Cummins	Inst Ch	14 Jan 1949
1949 - 1950	Fr R Huyshe	Inst Ch	6 May 1977
1950 - 1953	Fr D Horgan	Inst Ch	31 Mar 1975
1953	Fr M T Stokes	Inst Ch	29 Sep 1983
- 1977	Fr R Foley	Inst Ch	1977
1977 - 1982	Fr E Cody	Inst Ch	
1982 - 1989	Fr T Maloney	Inst Ch	
1989 - 1992	Fr P Mullen	Inst Ch	
1992 - 2000	Fr C Fuse	Inst Ch	
2000	Fr P E Scanlan	Inst Ch	

Inst Ch = Fathers of the Institute of Charity (Rosminians)

If anyone can fill in the names and dates of the missing priests please speak to Fr. Philip or Fr. Charles

Current Priests at St Mary's



Fr Philip E Scanlan

Born in Cardiff on 5 October 1937, the youngest of three brothers.

Left school at 16 and after two years in an architect's office, entered full-time study at the Welsh School of Architecture in Cardiff.

1960 – Started work with the Welsh Hospitals Board

1961 – Entered Rosminian Novitiate at Wadhurst

1963 – 1969 Priesthood studies at St John's Seminary

4 June 1969 Ordained Priest

1969 – 1970 Assistant Priest, Ratcliffe College

1970 – 1974 Assistant Priest, Grace Dieu Manor School

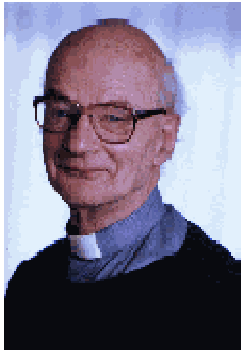
1974 – 1977 Assistant Priest, St Peter's, Cardiff

1977 – 1982 Parish Priest, St Alban's, Cardiff

1982 – 1994 Parish Priest, St Peter's, Cardiff

1994 – 2000 Parish Priest, St Mary's, Newport

2000 – Parish Priest, St Mary's, Loughborough



Fr Charles A Sormany

Born in Jersey on 5 September 1929, only child

Attended de la Salle College.

Was on Jersey during the German occupation 1940 to 1945 and after the war ended, continued schooling at Ratcliffe College.

1948 – 1950 Novitiate

1950 – 1954 Cambridge (Physical Sciences)

1954 – 1964 Taught (mainly) Chemistry at Ratcliffe

1964 – 1987 Taught (mainly) Physics and Chemistry at

Rosmini College, Takapuna, New Zealand

1988 Returned to UK as Pastoral assistant at St

Michael's Newport

1989 – 1991 St John's Seminary, Womersley, studying for Priesthood

1991 – 1996 Our Lady of Lourdes, Townhill, Swansea

1992 Ordained Priest at the above Parish

1996 – St Mary's, Loughborough

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) was introduced by Fr Chris Fuse in May 1994 following a format that was common throughout the Diocese.

The PPC represents everyone in our worshipping community and it aims to bring the people of St Mary's closer to God and to each other, making each one feel welcomed and valued. This is done by discovering their needs and supporting and encouraging their gifts within a structure of good communications in which parishioners feel that they can contribute to the wellbeing of their community. Besides encouraging communications between individuals and groups within our own Parish it also reaches out to the neighbouring Parish of The Sacred Heart.

A full PPC consists of 12 parishioners, our priests and a secretary. The PPC has a written constitution which is reviewed annually. The purpose of the PPC is to be a collaborative ministry working and serving together, co-ordinating the various groups and activities within the church. This is a rather different "philosophy" or "mind-set" to just assisting the priests in the running of St Mary's.

Details of current members of the Parish Pastoral Council can be found on the notice board at the back of the church.

A schedule of meeting dates, at approximately six-week intervals, is established after the open Parish Annual General Meeting which takes place in October.

Meetings take place in the library or church hall and parishioners may attend to observe if they wish.

As a number of PPC members have to retire from office each year, or apply for re-election, there is a continuing need for parishioners to volunteer their services as replacements. Nomination forms are available at the back of the church two months before the Parish Annual General Meeting.

Anyone wishing to bring something to the attention of the PPC can do so by leaving a signed, written note in the church suggestion box which is located at the back of the church, or by direct contact with any of the current members of the PPC or one of the priests.

Groups within St Mary's

St Mary's Roman Catholic Church is a living organism that thrives on the actions and reactions of its congregation. Without a congregation St Mary's would be no more than an empty shell. The people are the church.

Just as in life a family has many interests and duties towards other members of the family so it is with St Mary's. A large number of people give their time to organise and run more than 37 different groups or activities that enrich your membership of St Mary's.

The groups range from CAFOD to the Welcomers, from St Mary's Tots Group to the Youth Group. If you look at the current issue of the contact list there are 36 names against groups or activities but of that 36 there are only 27 individual names. Several people are involved in more than one group!

As the saying goes, *many hands make light work*, so please look through the following pages and see if you can help to support the life of the church. It may only take an hour of your time once a week, once a month or once a year if we all take part.

Besides the groups described in the following pages there are also many parishioners involved in the Parish website, finance, child protection, collectors and vergers, church cleaning, floral decorations, publishing the weekly newsletter and the Parish rota/calendar.

"An important aspect of communion is the promotion of groups and associations which continue to give the Church a vitality that is God's gift and a true springtime of the Spirit."

Pope John Paul II

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

We have twenty-five parishioners who have been commissioned by the Bishop to assist the ordinary ministers (priests) to distribute Holy Communion during Mass. Their duties also extend to taking Holy Communion to the sick and housebound. They are also able to lead Liturgies of the Word and Holy Communion (previously called Eucharistic Services) when a priest is not available to say Mass.

The Parish Priest chooses parishioners to train as Extraordinary Ministers as the need arises. Their training takes place during an intensive Formation Weekend at the Briars Diocesan Youth Centre at Crich in Derbyshire.

The Bishop expects every minister to continue this formation by attending a Day of Renewal once a year and to renew their commitment during Mass on Holy Thursday in front of the Parish congregation.

The Days of Renewal and other activities are organised on a county by county basis.

Meetings for the Extraordinary Ministers occur when called by the Parish Priest.

Details of our Parish contact with the county group can be found at the back of the church.

The Lourdes Fund

The fund is run by a small group of individuals who raise money to help send sick or housebound people to Lourdes. They depend heavily on the response of parishioners, from each of the weekend Masses, to attend and support our sales.

Over the years they have enabled between 20 and 30 sick pilgrims to visit Lourdes at a cost of £350-400 per pilgrim – which is quite a lot of money!

The group raises money by holding sales of nearly-new goods and unwanted Christmas and birthday gifts. Occasionally they are handed donations for which they are genuinely very grateful.

The group needs new members and new ideas to help to keep the money coming in.

If you think you would like to help by holding a “bring and buy”, a coffee morning, or if you have some good ideas about fund raising then please get in touch with the group contact, whose details can be found at the back of the church.

6.30 pm (Saturday) Music Group

This small group of parishioners prepares and leads the music for the Vigil Mass on Saturday evenings. Music is chosen to reflect the themes of the Liturgy and, hopefully, their efforts encourage the congregation to celebrate and sing, thus enhancing their own praise and worship. After all, Saint Augustine said, “Bis orat qui cantat” – “He who sings prays twice”.

The group consists of several singers, most of whom, at present, are children. When all of the instrumentalists are in attendance, we have a clarinettist, four flautists and a pianist.

The group is always hoping that new members will join them. If you play the piano or any other instrument or just enjoy singing, please join them.

For further details about the group and rehearsal times please contact the group organiser, whose details can be found at the back of the church

The 9 am Sunday Mass Music Group

We consist of a small group of singers and instrumentalists who provide the music ministry at the 9 am Sunday Mass. The music chosen includes both modern and traditional styles.

We meet regularly to select music based on the forthcoming Sunday readings, to practise and to learn new music.

Anyone who wishes to join us is warmly invited to contact the group organiser whose details can be found at the back of the church.

The 11 am Sunday Mass Choir

The choir aims to support the singing at this Mass, which tends to be more traditional in terms of musical repertoire, although they also use modern music from time to time.

The choir has five members and is looking for more to join them so that they can take on more ambitious pieces of music involving part singing.

The group meets a few times a year in order to prepare for major feasts within the liturgical calendar. If they were able to increase the size of their group they would meet to practise more regularly.

If you would like to join the choir or require more information, then please speak to one of the priests or the organist whose details can be found at the back of the church.

The Visiting Group

Members of the group visit the sick at home and in hospital. They also visit the recently bereaved, young and old who, after a few months, might need to talk, to help cope with their loss.

The lonely, the housebound and students away from home all fall within their remit. Reasons for a visit vary from just being able to talk to someone outside the family to providing support when caring for a sick relative.

Visits can be weekly or monthly, depending on the needs of the person and the time that the group member is able to give. One visit a month even for just an hour can mean a great deal.

The Group meets in the front room of the Presbytery at 7.30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month. Guidance is offered to new members, if needed.

There are currently seven active members and if you would like to join the group or want somebody to visit you, please get in touch with the group contact, whose details can be found at the back of the church. You will be made very welcome

Gift Aid

As the Nottingham Diocese is a registered charity, the Parish is able to reclaim from the HM Revenue and Customs any basic rate tax paid by donors on contributions that they make to the church collections, as long as they have signed a Gift Aid declaration. The Gift Aid scheme replaced the old covenant system in April 2000.

There are around 90 Gift Aiders who allow St Mary's to reclaim approximately £9,000 per annum, with another £17,000 per annum being collected outside the scheme.

The Gift Aid Organiser prepares the quarterly returns, which after being signed off by the Parish Priest are sent to the Diocesan Finance Office who deal directly with the HM Revenue and Customs. The organiser also assists the Parish Finance Group when needed and estimates the refund that St Mary's is likely to receive in the new Tax year.

If you would like further details about Gift Aid please contact the Gift Aid organiser, whose details can be found at the back of the church. Gift Aid forms and explanatory notes can also be found at the back of the church.

The Welcomers

The first opportunity to demonstrate a welcoming Parish occurs at the front door of the church. Regular parishioners are glad to see a familiar face on entering, and visitors often appreciate a friendly greeting and perhaps a little guidance in their new surroundings. The Welcomers fulfil this role by arriving at church at least 30 minutes before the start of the service to sort out hymn books, mass books, newsletters and so on. They also clear up after the service sometimes with the help of children who speed this job along.

They do not generally meet as a group but they always ensure that they are represented at planning meetings for special occasions.

The group has approximately 20 members which is barely enough to spread the load across the main services. So if you would like a very good way to get to know your fellow Mass attendees why not join the group?

For further information about the role of a Welcomer please contact the group organiser whose details can be found at the back of the church.

The Readers

Sharing the words of the Bible with fellow Christians is a privilege. The challenge to a reader is in bringing alive the Word of God in the present day – not in flawless speech, but in guiding the words on the page to the hearts of everyone listening.

Being a reader is a very visible way in which parishioners can help to share the preparation and conduct of the Mass. A strict rota system is maintained to ensure that their duties are always covered

The readers do not generally meet as a group other than in church at the annual (re)commissioning, which is conducted by the Parish Priest.

Attendance at rehearsals is required especially for the longer/major services to liaise with the music groups and ensure that microphones are working and in the correct position.

Readers are generally invited by the Parish Priest to consider joining the group. There are approximately 20 commissioned readers, across the full age range, who conduct the readings at our main weekend services.

For further information about the role of a Reader please contact the group organiser whose details can be found at the back of the church.

Christian Aid

St Mary's has a Christian Aid representative on the Loughborough Committee of Christian Aid, the Ecumenical Overseas Development Charity. The aim of our representative is to facilitate the involvement of St Mary's parishioners with Christian Aid activities in Loughborough and to help promote good ecumenical relationships within the town.

There are two main fundraising events. St Mary's is responsible for the collection of donations from about 20 streets around the church during the annual Christian Aid Week house-to-house collection in May, and once a year we also host the simple monthly lunch that rotates from church to church.

It should be noted that these fund raising events are complementary to, rather than in competition with, fund raising for CAFOD, because they draw mainly on giving by non-parishioners.

There are no set group sizes or regular meetings, but instead there will be a request for volunteers to help with the house-to-house collections in May. There is always a shortage of volunteers, so please consider offering your help for one or two hours each year.

For further information about how you can help with this important activity please contact our representative whose details can be found at the back of the church.

Parish Archivist

St Mary's has an Archivist who is responsible for the collection and preparation of the Parish records. A great deal of material about the history of the church and the role of the Roman Catholic faith within Loughborough has been collected.

Further information, anecdotes about St Mary's, literature containing references about St Mary's and the faith are always welcome. Please consider contributing anything that you may have, before it is lost or misplaced. Contact details for the Archivist can be found at the back of the church.

The Tuesday House Group

This group meets at a parishioner's house fortnightly on a Tuesday evening during school term time, to discuss the next Sunday's Gospel reading, followed by a cup of tea and a chance to socialise. The aim of the group is to build a sense of community within the church.

For further information about meeting times and dates please contact the organiser whose details can be found at the back of the church.

The Rosminian Kwediboma Mission in Tanzania

St Mary's is twinned with the Kwediboma Mission to provide it with medical supplies, baby clothes, baby blankets, soft toys and anything else that they require.

This activity does not have a defined group of supporters.

There is a fund raising/distribution coordinator. The Union of Catholic Mothers provides the main means of support, by raising funds from raffles, sales of items on market stalls, and other events throughout the year.

Contributions can also be given to the coordinator or placed in the collection box located near the Repository marked "Kwediboma".

Funds are never sufficient to cover all the needs of the mission so if you are able or want to assist with this very important work please contact the coordinator whose details can be found at the back of the church.

St Mary's Tots Group

St Mary's Tots Group was formed to offer a meeting place within the Parish for parents and other carers of pre-school age children.

Adults can sit and chat over tea, coffee and biscuits whilst their children play.

The group is open and informal and anyone who cares for young children is welcome to come along.

The group meets in the Parish hall between 1.30 pm and 3.00 pm every Tuesday during school term time

For further information about the group please contact the organiser whose details can be found at the back of the church.

Filipino Mass

The population of Loughborough includes a large number of Filipinos. Most are nurses and care workers in nursing homes throughout the area. Many of them are Catholics and regularly attend Mass at St Mary's. There is a special Filipino Mass and Novena held at 5.30 pm on the first Friday of each month. Periodic social events are also organised. Further information is available from the contact name listed on the church notice board at the back of the church.

St Mary's Parish Contact Group

The aim of this group is to offer an invitation to those who are new to the area/Parish or who have been involved in Sacramental preparation in the past six months to attend an open information meeting in the Parish hall. The meetings take place twice a year on a Sunday afternoon.

Members of the group act in a coordination role. They ensure that representatives of all of the different activities that take place at St Mary's, together with established parishioners, are present to welcome and talk to the new members of the congregation.

It is hoped that, at the end of these open afternoons, parishioners will have some understanding as to how the Parish functions, what sources of help and support are available, and what opportunities are available to become involved in the life of St Mary's.

The group does not have regular meetings but as the date for each gathering draws near the coordinators will canvass support from the congregation.

Newly arrived members of the Parish should automatically receive an invitation to one of the meetings, but if you wish to attend or offer any assistance please contact the coordinator whose details can be found at the back of the church.

Faith-Sharing at St Mary's

This group for women, (widowed, single or married) meets to discuss their faith and how it relates to their lives.

Every week a theme such as "This is our faith, these are our gifts" is examined and discussed. Each meeting starts with a related Gospel reading, a period of silence and then discussion. The intention is to listen to and receive what each person says, but equally there is no pressure to speak if people prefer to remain silent.

Members believe that these meetings provide people with a 'sacred place' that can help refresh them before they return to their busy lives.

Meetings, which last about an hour and a half, take place each Saturday in one of the group member's homes.

If you would like to join the group or receive advice about starting your own group, please contact the organiser whose details can be found at the back of the church.

Preparation for Baptism Group

The aim of this group is to explain to parents and Godparents the meaning of the sacrament of Baptism and of the child's and their own entry into the full life of the Church, both sacramentally and in the community.

The group discusses in detail all aspects of the ceremony of Baptism and the practicalities of the ceremony.

Most importantly the group encourages the parents to look at their own attitudes to their faith, and to reassure them that they can ask any questions and discuss any point of faith if they so wish. This is so that they enter this undertaking knowing what is asked of them, realising the importance of the promises they will be making.

The size of the group varies from time to time depending on the number of people asking for Baptism for their child or children.

Meetings (there are two) normally last one and a half hours and are usually held at the home of one of the two catechists who help in this preparation, or in the church side chapel if this is more convenient.

This group becomes involved after the application forms for Baptism, which are available at the back of the church, have been completed and handed to one of the priests.

Senior Citizens' Group

St Mary's Senior Citizens meet every other Wednesday afternoon in the Parish Hall.

The group has 38 members ranging in age from 60 to 96. Their activities are wide ranging from holidays and shows to sing-a-longs.

New members are always welcome to join the group, so come along for a chat and a cup of tea.

Offers of assistance or transport are always needed so that as many members of the group as possible can join in with the activities.

To find out how you can become a member of the group, obtain details of the group's activities, or to offer assistance, please get in touch with the group contact, whose details can be found at the back of the church.

The Walking Group (Walk, Talk and Fork)

New friends and more exercise - this group offers this and much more.

The group organises a four to five mile local walk on the first Sunday of each month normally starting about 11 am.

'Walk, talk and fork' explains exactly what happens, first you walk, then you talk with a drink and a bite to eat to finish!

If you are new to the Parish or town these walks will provide you with a pleasant opportunity to explore the area and make new friends.

If you would like to join the group which is always looking for new members, or if you require more information, then please speak to the group organiser whose details can be found at the back of the church.

The Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) – St Mary’s Loughborough Foundation

The St Mary’s Foundation was formed 35 years ago and has been involved in all aspects of Parish life since that time.

The aim of the UCM is to promote Christian family values and to offer a helping hand to those in difficulty. Prayers and a pilgrimage to Walsingham each July enrich their spiritual lives and at the same time they share camaraderie and the support of their colleagues in time of trouble.

The St Mary’s group also enjoy the fellowship of other foundations in the Nottingham Diocese by sharing social and spiritual occasions.

Besides helping with fund raising events for the Kwediboma Mission, providing refreshments at various spiritual and social church events, the St Mary’s group also monitors several political initiatives which they consider of serious moral concern and organise petitions and action.

The group has six active members and meets once a fortnight on a Wednesday evening between 7.30 pm and 9.30 pm at the Presbytery. See the weekly newsletter for details of the next meeting.

If you would like to join the group or require more information, then please speak to the organiser whose details can be found at the back of the church.

Traidcraft

The aim of Traidcraft, a faith based Christian organisation set up in 1979, is to combat poverty through trade. Its policy is to sell fairly traded goods and gifts to help people in the Third World to receive a fair wage for their work and to raise awareness of trade issues.

The group run a stall once a month throughout the year with extra sales every weekend during Advent. On sale are a range of chocolate bars, sweets, handicrafts and other goods. In 2004 more than £2,000 worth of fairly traded goods were sold.

There are no formal group meetings.

The congregation is forewarned the week before a stall is due to be run by the placement of a notice in the newsletter.

There are only 3 to 4 members in the group and they are looking for additional help. So if you can assist or require more information, then please speak to the organiser whose details can be found at the back of the church. If you cannot assist in person please remember to spend some money on the stall when it is open.

Youth Group [St Mary’s, Sacred Heart and Shepshed (St Winifride’s) Youth Group known as SMASH]

There are two groups, Juniors (school years 4 to 6) and Seniors (school years 7 and above). The group is about having fun together, with an element of faith sharing. There is always time for prayer at the end.

The groups meet usually in the Church Hall on alternate Sunday evenings from 7 – 8.30 pm during term time. Occasionally the groups join together, meet at St Winifrides in Shepshed, or have an outing.

Attendance costs £1.00 per week and there is a really good tuck shop!

There are currently about 20 members with room for a lot more. They are also looking for additional helpers.

Details of the group activities are published in the newsletter, usually with information about what will be happening that night. If you want to join or find out more about SMASH just turn up or speak to the organiser whose details can be found at the back of the church.

Knights of St Columba (Council 197)

In the years following the First World War all kinds of men's clubs were very popular. The Knights of St Columba not only provided a valuable service to the Parish of St Mary's but also afforded an opportunity for Catholic men to socialise and discuss the wider social issues of the day. Welfare had always been a key activity within the organisation and it became increasingly more so with the advent of the Depression.

The order is still very active. Members have served on school governing bodies, provided stewards for religious assemblies, supported widows, organised various social events and maintained a global dimension in terms of fund raising. A lot of effort is put into youth group activities, particularly during Lent and Advent, and also to encourage participation in international youth assemblies.

The group welcomes the commitment of new members who can learn more by speaking to the organiser whose details can be found at the back of the church.

Catenian Association (Loughborough Circle 173)

The Catenian Association was established in 1908. It is now an international brotherhood of over 10,000 Catholic men, formed into small groups, known as "Circles".

The Association is open to laymen over the age of 21 who are, and must remain, practising members of the Church. It is non-political and is not a fund-raising agent or Catholic Action pressure group. It provides the opportunity for Catholic men, their wives (whether Catholic or not) and their families to meet socially and enjoy the company of others with similar beliefs, views and values.

In addition to developing social bonds, the Association assists Brothers and their families in time of need, maintains and administers benevolent funds and operates a bursary fund to assist young people in their development. Widows of deceased Brothers remain of on-going concern for each circle and the bonds of friendship and support continue. Catenians are often active in the service of the Church and their local civic community. Prospective members must be sponsored by one or more existing Catenians.

A number of Catenians from St Mary's and other parishes in the district belong to the Loughborough Circle which meets on the second Monday of each month. Further information is available from the contact name listed on the Church notice board which is located at the back of the church.

RCIA

Many people ask the question "What is RCIA?" RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Are you still none the wiser?

The Second Vatican Council promoted the RCIA as their last reform, by inviting the church to take stock of itself and to unleash afresh new energy into its way of life. The primary focus of RCIA is on the would-be Catholic. It encourages the community within the Parish to share and support the enquirers and to accompany them on their faith journey.

For some, the journey may have started many years before they even realised it. RCIA helps the enquirer to see where God is in their lives.

RCIA consists of a series of small and friendly group meetings which normally start in the autumn. There is never any pressure on anyone to share or talk if they do not want to. The meetings normally start with a talk from one of the priests after which discussion groups form to discuss the topic of the talk and how it may impact on the everyday life of a Catholic. Over a cup of tea the group then re-forms to discuss their findings.

If you want to learn more about RCIA then please speak to one of the priests or the organiser whose details can be found at the back of the church.

CAFOD

CAFOD had its beginnings in 1961, when the National Board of Catholic Women organised a Family Fast Day in response to a request from the people of the Caribbean Island of Dominica for help with a mother-and-baby health-care programme. A year later, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales officially set up the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development, or CAFOD. The aim was to provide a focus for all the small-scale charitable efforts which were already taking place.

More than forty years later, CAFOD is still bringing about change as a result of the immense commitment and generosity of the Catholic communities of England and Wales.

It is inspired by Scripture (“to bring good news to the poor,” Luke 4:18), by Catholic Social Teaching and by the experiences and hopes of the poor, marginalised and often oppressed communities it supports.

If you want to join the St Mary’s CAFOD group please speak to one of the priests or the organiser whose details can be found at the back of the church.

Guild of St Stephen - Altar Servers

The object of the Guild is the sanctification of Altar Servers by teaching them to serve in the sanctuary. This great religious privilege is conferred by instructing the Altar Servers in the observance of the rites and ceremonies of the Church according to the rubrics and decrees of the Congregation for Divine Worship. Encouragement is given to help them understand the meaning and purpose of the ceremonies in which they take part.

The Guild was founded in 1904 by Fr Hamilton McDonald when he formed a Society of Altar Servers at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in London. Their official website can be found at www.guildofststephen.org.uk.

St Mary’s Altar Servers were first affiliated to the Guild in May 1952 by Fr Tom Stockham. Of the original four servers who were enrolled in the Guild one is still serving.

If any boys or girls (of any age) who have already made their first Holy Communion are interested in becoming Altar Servers they should contact the priests or the organiser whose details can be found at the back of the church.

St Mary’s Website - <http://www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk>

Besides providing a number of links to other Catholic organisations, the St Mary’s website also has details about the Parish, Parish Pastoral Council, Activity groups, Lourdes, the Kwediboma Mission, local Catholic schools and churches and various publications.

Each week it also publishes a copy of the weekly Newsletter.

There are plans to improve the website, and volunteers, especially those with website design experience, are always most welcome. If you would like to assist in the design of the website or in the day to day administration of the website please contact the Parish Office or the Website Organiser whose details can be found at the back of the church.

Not so much a Group as a reminder

If Parishioners have a relative or friend in hospital who wishes to see a Priest, please ask the Ward Sister to ensure that they are visited by the Catholic Priest during their stay in hospital. This is very important and necessary if the patient wishes to receive the Sacrament of the Sick or Confession, which can only a Priest can administer.

Loughborough Group for People with Disabilities

The group was founded in 1979 to provide opportunities for people with disabilities to join in the usual activities of society. The group provides support to both the disabled and their families, especially those from the Catholic faith, but also welcomes anyone from other denominations or with no religious beliefs at all.

The basis of the group activities is regular contact between individual volunteer helpers and a particular family. This results in long friendships, which leads to a friendly family atmosphere during group activities.

The group currently has about 60 members. Typical group activities are the monthly club night which is held on the first or second Tuesday of each month in the Church Hall, swimming, discos, day and weekend outings, holidays, trips to Lourdes and many other additional events.

Additional volunteer helpers, especially males, are always welcome, as is anyone who is interested in helping the group to raise funds.

If you want further details about the group or would like to volunteer, please contact the Parish Office or the organiser whose details can be found at the back of the church.

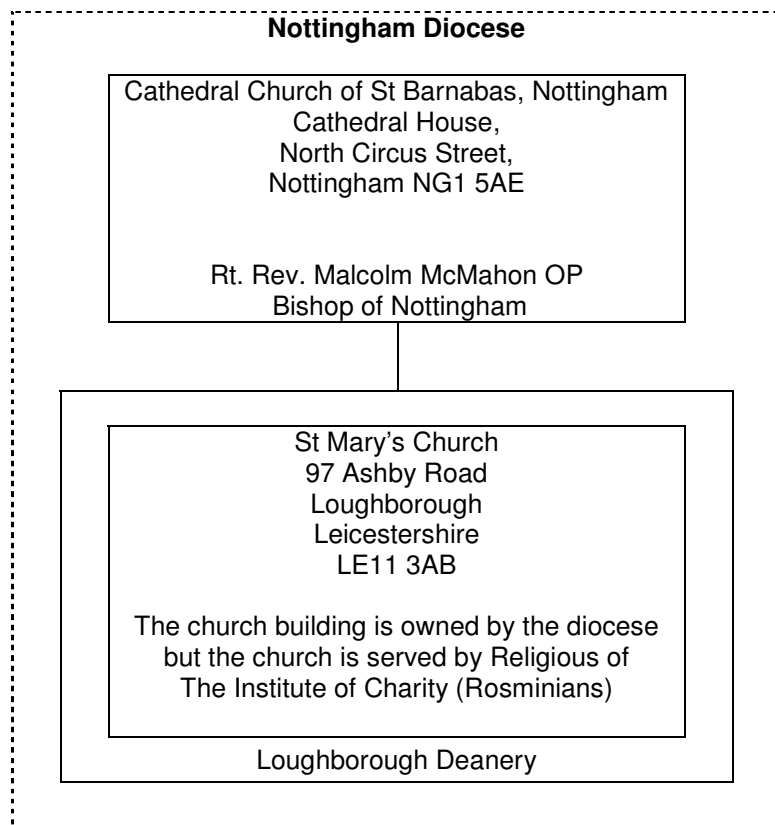
Children's Liturgy

A team of parishioners endeavours, for most weeks throughout the year, to help the children, separately from the main congregation, to understand what the Mass is all about and to praise God in their own special way. This facility is available at all three weekend Masses.

Team members work from books that have been specially put together for the younger children and a separate set of books for the older ones. Activity sheets are provided for both groups. The work of the 9am Mass team copes with a weekly average of 25 children. It is planned and organised through a co-ordinator with the aim of making their liturgy as much fun as possible while they are still learning about their religion.

New members are always welcome whether they are children joining in and making new friends or adults joining the team and getting to know one another. Children are usually ready to come along at about 3 ½ years of age although younger ones are welcome if accompanied by an adult carer. Contact details for the organiser can be found at the back of the church.

Where do we fit into the Diocese



Calls for the Priests

If you wish to seek advice or information about any of the following or any other aspect of the Church, please speak to the Priests or telephone the Parish Office on 01509 262123:

- Baptism
- First Holy Communion
- Confirmation
- Marriage
- Requiem Mass
- Home visits

Roman Catholic Schools connected with the Parish

State Schools	
<p>Boys and Girls aged 4 to 11</p> <p>St Mary's (Primary School) Hasting Street Loughborough Leicestershire LE11 2GB</p> <p>tel: 01509 212621 http://www.grasshopper-hosting.co.uk/stmarys</p>	<p>Boys and Girls aged 11 to 19</p> <p>De Lisle Catholic Science College Thorpe Hill Loughborough Leicestershire LE11 4SQ</p> <p>tel: 01509 268739 http://www.delisle.leics.sch.uk</p>

Independent Schools	
<p>Boys and girls aged 3 to 13 years</p> <p>Grace Dieu Manor School Grace Dieu Thringstone Leicestershire LE67 5UG</p> <p>tel: 01530 222276 http://www.gracedieu.com</p>	<p>Boys and girls aged 3 to 18 years</p> <p>Ratcliffe College Fosse Way Ratcliffe on the Wreake Leicestershire LE7 4SG</p> <p>tel: 01509 817000 http://www.ratcliffe-college.co.uk</p>
<p>Girls aged 3 to 18 and boys aged 3 to 5</p> <p>Our Lady's Convent School Burton Street Loughborough Leics. LE11 2DT</p> <p>tel: 01509 263901 http://www.olcs.leics.sch.uk</p>	

Repository

This facility (on the right as you enter the main church doors) was initiated by Fr. Tim Maloney in 1987. It gives those attending Mass the opportunity to purchase items of religious interest at a reasonable price. The range includes cards, rosary beads, crucifixes, statuettes, Catholic publications, candles and other seasonal items. The running of the Repository is organised by members of the Union of Catholic Mothers. As a point of interest, it is situated on the site previously occupied by a rather splendid stone baptismal font, surrounded by iron railings. Mother, baby and priest only were able to stand within due to the lack of space.

Weekly Newsletter

Two A4 pages of information on parish and diocesan events are prepared and updated every Friday, ready for printing and collating with any additional material on Saturday in time for distribution at the weekend services.

Parishioners wishing to add any relevant notices to a future issue(s) of the newsletter can leave messages at the parish office. This provides plenty of opportunity to communicate notice of events for people to include in their diaries.

The newsletter is also available on our Website.

Facilities for those with disabilities

Permanent ramps provide access from the car park and school playground into the hall at the rear of the church and directly into the side entrance of the church itself. There is similar access on the opposite side of the church into the Day Chapel. The hall has toilet facilities for the disabled.

The church is equipped with a loop system for people using hearing aids.

Library

We have an extensive library, with an interesting range of books – not all of a religious nature. It is situated through the Sacristy, behind the Sacred Heart altar. Parishioners may borrow books without charge.

For your notes: