

Volunteers – The Choir

What can I say about the **Choir**? We are the people who sing at the 11:00 Mass on Sundays. The same people have been singing for years because we love it so much and want to give to God in this way.

I am also part of St Mary's singers who practise on Thursday evenings. The **singing** is very good and we have excellent leaders - some very good voices too - although they attend different Masses and some even go to different churches! It would be wonderful if we could all sing at the same Mass. On Thursdays when we get together to sing, it's a good evening, and we are getting to know one another. Fancy joining us? It's not too late. Come and sing carols for Christmas!

Pauline Hallam

ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS FAIR: Despite a poor turn-out this year, the Christmas Fair still managed to raise £1,675 last weekend. Huge thanks to all the stall-holders, food-sellers, supporters, purchasers and particularly the ladies of the UCM who worked so hard. The Great British Bake-off could not have surpassed the quality of the cakes on sale. Thanks also to the children's choir and their teachers from St Mary's for a fine selection of songs from their Christmas musical. There are a few unclaimed prizes waiting to be collected –ticket nos. purple 395, pink 921, purple 461, purple 874 and purple 917. When calling in to collect your prize, please remember to bring your ticket with you! We hope that parishioners will turn out to support Mother Mary on the 20th. Your parish needs you to help us raise funds for good causes. All these events help to bring us together as a community.

GET MORE NEWS ABOUT ST. MARY'S and highlights from Catholic websites.

St. Mary's weekly email bulletins will resume this week. Email enews@stmarysloughborough.org.uk and you will get St Mary's news, as well as a digest of interesting items from other Catholic websites. Previous subscribers need to do this too. It also means that if anything urgent occurs in the week we can notify you by email. More information can also be provided on things such as the Vatican questionnaire and the Pope's new Exhortation, which was published last week and is now in book format – “The Joy of the Gospel” (Evangelii Gaudium) and is available from Redemptorist Publications for £6.99 plus postage. This could be your Advent reading.

Baptism Classes always take place on the **first Saturday** of each month. For more information and to apply for **Baptism**, please see Fr Philip.

First Holy Communion Classes: Wednesdays 4.00pm - 5.00pm in the Hall unless otherwise advised.

ST. MARY'S SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION: This will be held on **Friday, 13th December** at **6.00pm**. Mass on that day will be celebrated at **9.15am**

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE IN CHURCH: Sunday, **15th December** at 3.30pm

MEDJUGORJE 2014: A parish pilgrimage will be going from East Midlands to Medjugorje on **28th May 2014** for one week. The cost is £499 for 7 nights HB. SPECIAL OFFER: Arranged by St. Anne's Church, Radcliffe on Trent, places are still available and we are invited to join them. For more information or a booking form, please telephone Fr. Anthony Franey on 0115 933 2738 or Aileen Birch on 0115 933 3225

MINIBUS DRIVER NEEDED once a month to chauffeur our Senior Citizens. Please help Fr. Sainter in this wonderful work of charity. Tel: 01509 262123.

PHILIPPINES COLLECTION currently stands at £1927 of which £580 was gift aided.



St. Mary's Catholic Church

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Served by the Rosminians:

Fr Philip Sainter, Fr Charles Sormany, Fr Simon Giles

Newsletter for Sunday, 8th December 2013

2nd Sunday in Advent - Psalter Week 2

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

Prepare a way for the Lord.

Personal renewal and rejuvenation is contagious! Cheerful, prayerful and positive people are the ones who will have an impact on society.

But this presumes repentance (- preparing a way for the Lord to come into our lives in a new and dynamic way.)

That process of repentance starts with:

Self-knowledge, self-acceptance and a yearning to be washed clean in the spiritual waters of the confessional ... and to hear those graceful words, “I absolve you ...”. Then we become renewed, Spirit-filled people.

Let us listen to and act upon what God is saying to us today:

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

Prepare a way for the Lord.

Fr Philip Sainter

Thank you!

Our appreciation and thanks go to all who worked so hard preparing for the annual Christmas Fair in the parish hall last Saturday. The same loyal parishioners also enthusiastically manned the stalls and were most effective in their fund-raising: £1675!! Congratulations and Thank You!

Fr. Philip

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS 7th- 14th December 2013

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| <u>Sat</u> | <u>Second Sunday of Advent</u> | 5.30 – 6pm | Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request |
| | | 6.00pm | Catherine Connolly RIP |
| <u>Sun</u> | 8 th | 9.00am | Venancio Castillo Jr. RIP |
| | | 10.30-11am | Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request |
| | | 11.00am | Carmine, Giulia & Antonio Palmieri RIP |
| | | 12.45pm | Polish Mass |
| | | 2.00pm | Baptism of Summer Berzins |
| | | 4.00pm | Italian Mass |
| | | 6.00pm | Eucharistic Adoration |
| <u>Mon</u> | <u>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception</u> | | |
| | 9 th | 9.15am | All Parishioners |
| | | 6.00pm | Ron Hesketh RIP |
| <u>Tues</u> | 10 th | 9.15am | Giuseppe, Stanislavo & Giovanna Sparano RIP |
| <u>Wed</u> | 11 th | 9.15am | Maria Romano RIP |
| <u>Thurs</u> | 12 th | 9.15am | Lia Flood RIP |
| <u>Fri</u> | 13 th | 9.15am | Ron Hesketh RIP |
| | | 6.00pm | Advent Service of Reconciliation |
| <u>Sat</u> | 14 th | 9.15am | John Cuff RIP |
| | | 6.00pm | Evelyn Woodhouse |

WHAT'S ON AT ST. MARY'S

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| <u>Tues</u> | 10 th | 7.30pm | Scripture & Tradition Group in the Library |
| | | 7-9pm | Parish Pastoral Council in the Front Room |
| <u>Wed</u> | 11 th | 12-3pm | Senior Citizens' Christmas lunch at Lynroy's |
| | | 6.30-8.30pm | Scouts in the Hall |
| <u>Thurs</u> | 12 th | 7.30pm | Meeting of the Ascribed Rosminians |

PLEASE PRAY FOR those who are sick: Margaret Stanford, Peter Darlaston, David Allen, David Nevin, Freddy Hess, Ruby Campbell, Gerry O'Rourke, Stan Trojan, David Hart, Mark, Jane Moss, Ellen Wakefield, Cluchreur Caror, Marie Ward, Michael Smith, Stephanie Offiler, Andrew Clark, Pat Donnelly, Louise and Lee Raven, Valerie, Holly Jones, Chris, Rosinah, Anne Wade, Gervais Duffy, Dave Cudvil, Lena Borisevic, David Smith, Pat Kidger, Anne Checketts, Julie Priddy, Ross Allen, Janice Riddle, June Hargadon, Sean Walker, June Camish, Mary Wain and Sr. Mary Angela.

Those who have recently died: Ron Hesketh, **may he rest in peace**

those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Venancio Castillo Jr., Evelyn Woodhouse, Arthur Makey, Christina Johnstone, Rose Arulmuthu, Peter Davis, Vera Savage, Rev. Sr. Mary Dominic Thomas, Rev. Fr. Kit Cunningham, Lawrence Rayburn, Teresa Crescenzo, Josephine Brown and David Hately.

ADVENT REFLECTION: As we continue our Advent preparation Pope Francis reminds us of the poor in our midst. Are we too caught up with planning gifts and celebrations to focus on the real meaning of Christmas?

Please pray for the people of Syria and the other war-torn countries that they may experience peace and harmony.

COME AND SING ABBA SONGS (with new words) FOR CHRISTMAS:

'Mother Mary', a production of St Peter's Players, Hinckley, is coming to St Mary's. Organised by Father Frank Daly and presented in previous years to huge acclaim, the show will be presented by a group of 70 people on Friday, **20th December**, at 7.30pm in our church. All proceeds to go to the Philippines Disaster Fund. Please put the date in your diary and look out for more details later. Tickets on sale after all Masses this weekend: adults £4, concessions £3, children £2, family ticket £10.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL APPLICATIONS 2014: Parents of children due to start school next September 2014 are very welcome to apply for a school place. A form needs to be completed for the Local Authority on their website (www.leics.gov.uk) and a school application form needs to be completed and sent back to school which can be collected from the school office (tel: 01509 212621) or downloaded from the school website: www.stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk The final date for applications is 14th January 2014.

DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT THIS YEAR: Kwediboma Christmas Gift Cards are now on sale at the Repository. They come in four different designs and two prices. £3.00 will buy a mosquito net and £1.50 will buy a chicken to lay eggs for a family to eat or sell. Why not send more than just Christmas Greetings? Buy a gift that could change somebody's life!

PARISH CAROL SERVICE: This will take place on Sunday **22nd December** at 6.00pm. Do come and join in with the St. Mary's Singers to sing your favourite carols and listen to readings from the Old and New Testaments.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FOR FAMILIES IN NEED: Every day people in the UK struggle to feed themselves and their families due to redundancy, illness, benefit delay, domestic violence, debt, family break-down and the cost of winter fuel. Today is the last day for handing in your contributions for hampers for those in need, so that they may receive them in time for Christmas. Please would you leave your donated items either in the boxes at the back of the church or hand them in to the Presbytery. I understand that the need for food parcels is greater than ever this year. If there are any problems or queries, please phone Kath Howell on 01509 235190. Thank you.

"Open my eyes, to look out for those who struggle to cope.

Open my ears, to hear the cries of the poor and the needy.

Open my heart, to respond in love"

PLEASE HELP EXAIREO: Exaireo has a new house in Loughborough for people made homeless and needs various items: a washing machine; cooker; beds; chests of drawers; lamps and other basic necessities. The number of people made homeless, often through no fault of their own, is increasing. Please note that Exaireo will be coming to St Mary's on Sunday, **5th January** and speaking at both Masses. Please help to make them feel welcome. Call Catherine on 235119 or Dettie on 266422 or dettie@exaireo.org.

PARISH VOICE: The Winter issue of Parish Voice magazine is due out next weekend **14th/15th December** and will be available at the back of Church after all Masses. Suggested donation £1 to help with printing costs.

SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS COFFEE MORNING raised £550 which was sent to the following charities: £180 to The Little Way Association (of St Thérèse); £180 to Tearfund; £180 to Médecins sans Frontières, all operating in Syria. £10 came in too late to send. The distributions represented the background and interests of the givers, many of whom were not Catholics. Thank you to all who contributed in any way. Arthur Clarke