

Maintenance of the Church and Presbytery

A progress report on the maintenance of the Church and Presbytery was last given at the AGM in October. Since then further progress has been made on the main tasks that the Parish Council and Finance Committee had agreed for the current year.

Firstly, the roof tiles on the Presbytery have been replaced, and improved water-proofing and insulation for the building have been included in this project. Secondly, the replacement of the two gas boilers has been approved by the Diocese and the local authority, although a new mains gas supply, a meter and a new connection to the hot water tank, have been included in the scope of the work to reflect the fact that the buildings are Grade 2 listed. The first of the new gas boilers has now been installed in the Presbytery and the second, to provide heating for the main part of the Church, will be installed on the 6th and 7th January 2015. The total cost of this work (including the VAT which should be recoverable) will be £30,053. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners, and the hard work of many fundraisers, a sum of £17,401 has been raised. Additionally, an unexpected legacy of £11,468 has been directed towards the gas boiler costs.

Thirdly, the Diocese has now approved in principle the case for a new sound system, and it is hoped that the installation of this system will begin in late January 2015. The best of the quotes received is £14,991 (including VAT). Thanks to the generosity of parishioners and fundraisers, an amount of £8,899 has been raised towards the costs of this project.

Finally, minor work to construct a cupboard in the Sacristy, to repair some damaged kneelers, and to improve the confessionals will be undertaken in the forthcoming Spring months.
Kieron Shaw

EXITING SAFELY BY CAR FROM ST. MARY'S:

Due to some "near misses" as drivers have turned right out of the church drive, narrowly missing pedestrians crossing the road, please take note:

DRIVERS MUST EXERCISE GREAT CAUTION WHEN EXITING THE CHURCH DRIVE AND TURNING RIGHT. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DRIVE OVER THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING WHEN THE PEDESTRIAN LIGHTS ARE GREEN.

KIEROWCO! ZACHOWAJ OSTROZNOSC WLACZAJAC SIE DO RUCHU. PRZY SKRECIE W PRAWO, NIE PRZEJEZDZAJ PRZEZ PRZEJSCIE DLA PIESZYCH, GDY PIESI MAJA ZIELONE SWIATLO.

CHRISTMAS CLERGY OFFERING: By tradition the Christmas collection is for the priests of the parish. Next weekend we will be enclosing BLUE Gift Aid envelopes in the Newsletter.

LAST WEEK'S FINANCE	RECENT FINANCE & FUNDRAISING
First collection: £732	Christmas Raffle: £208 so far!
Standing orders: £523	Thank you

The Diocese has asked all parishes to hold a **second collection** this weekend in support of "Poor and Needy Parishes".



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Served by the Rosminians:

Fr Philip Sainter, Fr Charles Sormany, Fr Simon Giles

Newsletter for Sunday 14th December 2014

GAUDETE SUNDAY

Psalter Week 3

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Hope!

'Advent is a time of Hope', the Pope told pilgrims in Rome last Sunday. Sadness and fear give way to joy, said Pope Francis, because the Lord himself leads his people to a path of liberation and salvation. Quoting from the book of Isaiah, the Pope said 'Comfort, give comfort to my people'. He went on to say that we cannot comfort others if we do not feel loved and comforted by Him ourselves. Read the Gospel, he urged, and carry a small edition in your pocket.

Hope gives us confidence in the future. 'Do not quench the Spirit' St Paul tells us in the second reading this weekend. We can help others to keep up their spirits, even in tough times. And you will recognise that it is often the little things that bring comfort: a smile, a hug, a thank you, a card, a promise to pray or light a candle. In times of illness the body gives a gravitational pull towards hope. It's the doctor's secret weapon. A hidden ingredient in any prescription. Let hope heal and comfort you and yours this Advent.

'Life with Christ is an endless hope, without Him a hopeless end'.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 13th 9.15am Private thanksgiving and special intention
9.45-12 Special Advent Adoration and Confessions
5.30-6pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request*

Vigil Mass for 3rd Sunday of Advent

6.00pm Catherine Connolly RIP

Sun Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday

14th 9.00am Evelyn Woodhouse RIP (Anniversary)
10.30-11 Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request
11.00am All Parishioners and
Baby Dominika Horvathova RIP
12.45pm Polish Mass
2.30pm Christingle Service
4.00pm Italian Mass
6.00pm Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction

Mon 15th 9.15am Beryl and Terry Ward RIP
Tues 16th 9.15am Anne and Jack Queen - Intentions
Wed 17th 9.15am John Bilson RIP
Thurs 18th 9.15am Private Intention
Fri 19th 6.00pm Marion Scrivens RIP
7.00pm Reconciliation Service and Confessions
Sat 20th 9.15am Dorothy Ginns RIP
9.45-12 Special Advent Adoration and Confessions

Vigil Mass for 4th Sunday of Advent

6.00pm All Parishioners and
Anne Boyer

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

Sun 14th 12-2.30 Children's Christmas Party followed directly by
Christingle Service

Tues 16th 7.25pm NO Scripture & Tradition Group
Wed 17th 6-9.30pm Scouts – Church Hall
Fri 19th 6.45-7.45 Small Christian Community Group Meetings – Front
Room (Presbytery). Do come!
7.00pm Reconciliation Service and Confessions

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PLEASE PRAY FOR those who are sick: Rosinah, Frank Chatonda, Gerry O'Rourke, baby Jack Lowry, Beverly Tomlin, Simon Ewing, David Hart, Alan and Judith Creighton, Eileen Sutton, Jane Moss, Mark, Stephen Coultas, Margaret Woodhouse, Moyna McGlynn, Margaret Pascall, Freddy Hess, Pasqualina Genco, Michael Smith, Eric Deakin, Dom Neal, John, Anne Hickman, James Wilson and Holly Jones

those who have recently died: Bill Flatley, Margaret Kilbride, Margaret A. Sheaf **RIP**

those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Evelyn Woodhouse, Teresa Crescenzo, David Hatley, Peter Stonehouse, Hryhori Westyn, Gertrude Tyler, Rita Message, Wilfred Styles, Elizabeth Jordan, Veronica Burton, Alojzy Panna, Carmel Berridge, Virginia Stocks.

EXAIREO: Would you like to give an Argos voucher, or money to buy one, so that Exaireo residents can give a gift to their children? There are 7 children aged from one to eight. If so please leave your donation in an envelope in the presbytery, give it to Catherine Brady or give it straight to Exaireo (near the library). Thank you. *Dettie Wallington*

PARISH VOICE MAGAZINE: The Winter Issue is now available at the back of the church, after all Masses. Suggested donation £1 to help with printing costs.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TICKETS: Please give your raffle tickets stubs and money to the designated collectors at the back of church this weekend or hand them in to the Presbytery no later than **19th December**. The draw will be at the Carol Concert on **21st December**.

OUR LADY'S CONVENT - AFTERNOON TEA: The mature adults of Sacred Heart Church and the senior citizens from St Mary's would like to express their thanks to the pupils of Our Lady's Convent for a very entertaining afternoon on Wednesday 3rd December, including afternoon tea, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. *Theresa Carroll*

“AIM HIGH” – PARISH TO COMMEMORATE CHRISTMAS TRUCE – A special play written by Fr. Frank Daly to mark the 100th anniversary of the Christmas Truce will be performed by St Peter's Players in the field behind St Peter's Catholic Church, Hinckley, on **21st and 22nd December** at 7.30pm. For details, see noticeboard or ring 01455 634443.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2015: If parents wish their child to attend St. Mary's School from September 2015, please complete a School Admissions Application form which can be collected from the school or the school's website: www.stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk. A First Time Admissions form from Leics. Local Authority MUST also be completed online at www.leics.gov.uk. Parents are welcome to visit the school at any time. Please call the Headteacher, Mrs. Annette Jones, on 01509 212621 to make an appointment.

DRIVER(S) NEEDED to chauffeur elderly parishioner from Westfield Drive to 11am Mass on Sundays and back home afterwards. Please give your name to the Parish Office or telephone 01509 262123.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS' LISTS: Our parish records need updating. Would all Eucharistic Ministers please draw up a list of the full names, addresses (incl. postcodes) and telephone numbers of all those to whom they regularly take Holy Communion and hand it in to the office as soon as possible. Thank you.

POLISH COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS EVENTS: (All to be held in Polish Community House, True Lovers Walk, Loughborough, LE11 3DB). **20th December** at **1pm** – Confession. **28th December** at **2.30pm** – Oplatek: Christmas community meeting with Nativity play (free entrance but each family is asked to bring food and drink). **31st December** from **8pm - 2am** – New Years Eve Party for adults and children. Tickets: £15/adult, £5/child available from the Polish shop and Polish Parish Council members.

PARISH CAROL SERVICE will take place on **Sun 21st December** at 4.00pm. This is a wonderful way to begin our Christmas celebrations. Do join us afterwards in the Parish Hall for mulled wine and mince pies where you will be serenaded by the St. Mary's Singers. Looking forward to seeing you there. *Jane Monaghan*

TRAIDCRAFT SALE after all Masses next weekend (**20th/21st December**).