

30th November 2014 heralded the start of **A YEAR DEDICATED TO CONSECRATED LIFE**. This will continue throughout 2015, and end on **2nd February 2016**. Lay people, religious sisters and brothers and priests are all called to **'WAKE UP THE WORLD'** with their testimony of faith, holiness and hope. Please pray for vocations to Religious Life.

"O God, throughout the ages you have called women and men to pursue lives of perfect charity through the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience. During this Year of Consecrated Life, we give you thanks for these courageous witnesses of Faith and models of inspiration. Their pursuit of holy lives teaches us to make a more perfect offering of ourselves to you. Continue to enrich your Church by calling forth sons and daughters who, having found the pearl of great price, treasure the Kingdom of Heaven above all things. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Advent Prayer by Henri Nouwen

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness,
 send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
 We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.
 We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.
 We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
 We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
 We are your people,
 walking in darkness,
 yet seeking the light.
 To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

ROSMINI CENTRE, RATCLIFFE LE7 4SJ: Saturday 13th December: A prophet for today, **OSCAR ROMERO**: 11.00am – 2.00pm, presented by Fr. Ted Mullen; shared lunch. Mass available at 10.00am. Please telephone 01509 813078 or email rosminicentreinfo@gmail.com. Donations appreciated to cover costs and stipends.

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTINGLE SERVICE will follow their Christmas Party celebrations at 2.30pm on **14th December**.

LAST WEEK'S FINANCE	RECENT FINANCE & FUNDRAISING
First collection: £811	Kwediboma: £100 donation
Standing orders: £523	Thank you

The Diocese has asked all parishes to hold a **second collection** on the weekend of 13/14 December 2014 in support of "Poor and Needy Parishes".



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 7th December 2014 Psalter Week 2

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prepare!

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths'. Luke 3:4-5

Christmas preparations seem to start earlier each year- at least they do in the commercial world. Whilst anticipating the events, the visitors, the gifts, the feasts, let's not get so caught up in 'festive busy-ness' that we neglect our Christian preparation.

The season of Advent is a time for the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Christ Child. Consider what you could do:

- Attend an extra Mass during the week
- Sign up for Adoration on Saturday morning
- Follow your own Advent calendar. See the Irish Bishops' novel online Advent calendar at www.catholicbishops.ie/advent-calendar. It includes Mass readings, video, prayers, music and other resources
- Do some spiritual reading
- Give to charity, a food bank, offer your time.

'Let us seek to live in a way that is always worthy of our Christian vocation'
 Papal tweet 20 November 2014

Fr Philip Sainter

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

<u>Sat</u>	6 th	9.15am	Allen Junio RIP
		12noon	<i>First Sacrament of Reconciliation for our Children – in Church (for First Holy Communion Candidates)</i>
		5.30-6pm	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request</i>
		<u>Vigil Mass for 2nd Sunday of Advent</u>	
		6.00pm	Evelyn Woodhouse (Anniversary)
<u>Sun</u>		<u>Second Sunday of Advent</u>	
	7 th	9.00am	Antonino Lanzo RIP
		10.30-11	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request</i>
		11.00am	Venancio Castillo Jr. (Anniversary)
		12.45pm	Polish Mass
		4.00pm	Italian Mass
	6.00pm	Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction	
<u>Mon</u>		<u>Immaculate Conception of Our Lady, Patron of our diocese (Solemnity)</u>	
	8 th	9.15am	All Parishioners
		7.00pm	Emily Houston RIP
<u>Tues</u>	9 th	9.15am	Intentions of Frank Belt
<u>Wed</u>	10 th	9.15am	Giuseppe, Stanislavo & Giovanna Sparano RIP
<u>Thurs</u>	11 th	9.15am	Maria Grazia Paciolla RIP and Carmine Paciolla RIP
		6.00pm	Joseph W. N. Tamenang RIP
<u>Fri</u>	12 th	6.00pm	Joseph W. N. Tamenang RIP
<u>Sat</u>	13 th	9.15am	Private thanksgiving and special intention
		<u>Vigil Mass for 3rd Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday</u>	
		6.00pm	Catherine Connolly RIP

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

<u>Tues</u>	9 th	7.25pm	NO Scripture & Tradition Group
	<u>Wed</u>	10 th	2-4pm
		6-9.30pm	Scouts – Church Hall
		7.30-9pm	PPC Meeting - Library
<u>Thurs</u>	11 th	7.30pm	St. Mary's Singers – Church Hall
<u>Fri</u>	12 th	6.45-7.45	Small Christian Community Group Meetings – Front Room (Presbytery). Do come!

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 and Holly Jones.

those who have recently died: Emily Houston **may she rest in peace**

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

SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY GROUP MEETINGS led by Andrew Kellighan are taking place in the **Front Room** of the Presbytery from **6.45pm to 7.45pm** and will continue throughout Advent. There is a warm welcome waiting for you and a cup of tea afterwards. *Do come!* Andrew can be contacted on 07926 581603.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY! – SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER straight after 11.00am Mass, 12–2.30pm approx. Please come! *There will be a special visitor* and lots of prizes. Shared table, no charge!

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS HAMPERS NEEDED BY THE CARPENTER'S ARMS for needy families. Your support is much appreciated. Please contribute an item or two if you can. A list of goods needed is on the noticeboard. Donations can be left at the back of church or in the presbytery no later than **Sunday 14th December**. Any queries, please phone Kath Howell on 01509 235190.

PARISH VOICE MAGAZINE: The Winter Issue will be available from the weekend of **December 13/14th**. Suggested donation £1 to help with printing costs.

APF BOXES: Last request for these to be returned to the repository or the library as soon as possible. *Marie Brookes*

“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 **Sunday 21st and Monday 22nd December** at 7.30pm. For details, see noticeboard or ring 01455 634443.

L.C.P. CHRISTMAS STAR SERVICE: For those spending Christmas with a sense of loss, an opportunity to place a star on a memorial Christmas tree, as an act of remembrance - **today** at 4.00pm in the Market Place. See noticeboard for more details.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2015: Please see the noticeboard.

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 01270 522487.

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.

POLISH COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS EVENTS: (All to be held in Polish Community House, True Lovers Walk, Loughborough, LE113DB). **20/12, 1pm** – Confession. **28/12, 2.30pm** – Oplatek: Christmas community meeting with Nativity play (free entrance but each family is asked to bring food and drink). **31/12, 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.

There will be a progress report in next week's newsletter on the Parish Major Projects for this year and the funds which have been raised.