

OPEN PARISH MEETING: The Parish Priest and the Parish Council have called an open meeting to be held at 7pm on 28th January 2016 in the parish hall. The purpose is to meet one another in a friendly and open manner, to listen to one another, to ask questions, air any concerns and thoughts and most importantly, to discuss what we might do for the Year of Mercy. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - 27th DECEMBER: There will be no Children's Liturgy next Sunday. The children will have to stay with their parents.

ASCRIBED MEETING at St Mary's Rugby - **Wednesday 23rd December** at 2pm.

CHILDREN DUE TO START AT ST. MARY'S for the first time next **September 2016:** Applications are invited from parents and families of any child due to start school for the first time in September 2016. A form needs to be completed for the Local Authority via their website: www.leics.gov.uk and a school application form needs to be completed and sent back to school. The final date for applications is 16th January 2016. If parents know of any children due to start school next September 2016, please urge them to complete all the forms in good time and return them to the local authority and to the school. ***I would strongly urge parents to complete the Local Authority form on-line.*** Thank you. Please contact the school on 01509 212621 to visit the school or for any further queries.

A BIG THANK YOU to the Filipino community for the recent donations of £300 to the church and £600 to support Brother Wilhard Shayo in his training as a Rosminian priest.

PLEASE PRAY for those who are sick: Joan Slevin, Mary Merwick, John Casey, Ann Checketts, Joseph Argent, Vera Hurry, Caroline Hillyer, Leonardo Lopez Wain, Jamie, Richard Palan, Mark, Stephen Coultas, Jane Moss, Brian Smith, Jean Hooper, John Newman, Mr. Ball, David Hart, Eddie Hamilton, Arthur Clarke, Katie Mercer, Hannah Bechler, Rosinah, Alan and Judith Creighton, Moyna McGlynn, Anne Hickman, John Tucker, Maria Carecci and Val Wells

THE SECOND COLLECTION this weekend is for The Exaireo Trust

LAST WEEK'S FINANCE	
First collection: £ 707	
Standing orders: £ 591	<i>Thank you</i>



St. Mary's Catholic Church

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Served by the Rosminians:

Fr Philip Sainter, Parish Priest; Fr Paul Gillham, Assistant Priest

In community: Fr Charles Sormany and Fr Simon Giles

Newsletter for Sunday 20th December 2015

Psalter Week 3

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

As '*Be not afraid!*' was for John Paul II, and '*Faith and Reason*' was for Benedict XVI, so, seemingly, '*the Culture of Encounter*' has become the catchphrase of Pope Francis.

The idea of 'encounter' is central to the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, because it corresponds to its primary intention of encouraging "all communities to devote the necessary efforts to advancing along the path of a pastoral and missionary conversion which cannot leave things as they presently are ... **let us be permanently in a state of mission**" (No. 25), the Pope writes.

On another occasion, two years ago, Pope Francis said, "**You're in a position to promote the culture of encounter ... and how important is this service!**" Why? Because 'encounter' is in some ways, a proxy for 'mercy'. According to Cardinal Francis George, the 'culture of encounter' is a cornerstone to Pope Francis' worldview. He writes, Pope Francis "... **wants all of us to be part of this culture of encounter — encountering Christ and therefore encountering those that Christ loves.**" It is so important to start with a personal relationship with Christ and then to share that experience with others.

Today, the liturgy of the Word is encouraging us! The Pope is encouraging us! Let us respond by making a special effort to encounter the Lord, to come to know and love him and, with him abiding in our hearts and minds, to "go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole of creation" (Mark 16:15) by the way we speak and smile, and in what we do and say – as did Mary when she went to Elizabeth!

Fr Philip Sainter

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

<u>Sat</u>	19 th	1730-1800	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request</i>
			<u>Vigil Mass for the fourth Sunday of Advent</u>
		1600	Filipino Mass
		1800	Giovanni Brunetti RIP (Anniversary)
<u>Sun</u>	20 th		<u>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</u>
		0900	All parishioners
		1100	Dorothy Ginns RIP (Anniversary)
		1245	Polish Mass
		1415	<i>Baptism of William He and Godmi Kyezu</i>
		1600	<i>Carols by Candlelight</i>
			NO Italian Mass
<u>Mon</u>	21 st	0915	Holy Souls
<u>Tues</u>	22 nd	0915	Hallam & Faulks families RIP
<u>Wed</u>	23 rd	0915	Vivincia Castillo RIP (Anniversary)
<u>Thurs</u>	24 th		<u>Christmas Eve - Christmas Day Vigil Masses</u>
		1800	Family Vigil Mass - Derrick Baxter RIP
		1130	Carols, followed by silent prayer
		1200	Midnight Mass
<u>Fri</u>	25 th		<u>CHRISTMAS DAY - The Nativity of Our Lord</u>
		0900	Hollingsworth family intentions
		1100	All parishioners
		1245	Polish Mass
<u>Sat</u>	26 th		<u>St Stephen's Day, Proto-Martyr (Feast)</u>
		0915	Henry Welton
		1800	Evelyn Woodhouse RIP

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

<u>Sun</u>	20 th	1600	Carols by Candlelight in Church followed by refreshments and Christmas raffle draw in the Hall.
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PLEASE PRAY for those who have recently died: Josie Whelband. May she rest in peace.

for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Virginia Stocks, Francis Boyne, Lily O'Neil, Anthony Field, Dorothy Ginns, Rita Sivaguru, Edouardo Romaniello, Mary Black, Doreen Wesseldine, Giovanni Brunetti, John McGeechan, Maria Calabrese, Mary Wade, Liz Prentice, Wladyslaw Moson, Anne America, Cynthia Kilyon and Vivincia Castillo

PARISH VOICE will be available after all Masses and after the Carol Service today. Suggested donation £1 to cover printing costs.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT: TODAY at 4.00pm followed by refreshments in the hall, where the draw for the Grand Christmas Raffle will take place. All Welcome! Bring along your families and friends.

THANK YOU SO MUCH to all parishioners who gave so generously to the Christmas hampers for needy families in Loughborough.

KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA: There will be an Epiphany liturgy at Sacred Heart Church at 4.00pm on **Sunday 3rd January 2016**, led by the young adults of the two Loughborough parishes. Would all students in Years 6 to 13 and undergraduates willing to participate in this please contact Richard Mitchell (rmitchell@constructivebusiness.com or 07812-997847). There will be refreshments in the church hall afterwards.

LEICESTER CCE – Annual Buffet Ceili **16th January 2016** 8pm until late, St Patricks Parish Centre, Beaumont Leys Lane, Leicester LE4 2BD. Dancing to the Ivy Leaf Ceili Band. Ticket: Adults £8, Under-16s Free. Contacts for tickets: David 0792 929 6493 Giotto 0780 806 0312 Emma 0796 906 9534

CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR THE HOMELESS: Our local Christian charity, **Exaireo**, which accommodates the homeless, provides a Christmas lunch each year for their residents and gives Argos vouchers for them to give to their children. If you are willing to support this, please place a donation or Argos voucher in an envelope marked 'Exaireo' and give it to one of our priests or me. Alternatively donate online to Exaireo.org., making the purpose of the donation clear. Thank you.
Catherine Brady, PPC Chair

KWEDIBOMA HEALTH CENTRE: Through your generosity in support of the Health Centre we were able to send £1,100.00 on Thursday 10th December 2015 to Kwediboma to help with the building of the new wards. Everyone at Kwediboma sends you all their thanks and blessings for Christmas.

HELP NEEDED

TO CLEAN YOUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS: Starting 10.30am, Tuesday 22nd December. Everyone welcome. Equipment will be provided.

TO PUT UP DECORATIONS ON THE CONFESSIONALS AND PILLARS: After 9.15am Mass on Wednesday 23rd December.
