

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

- LEADER:** Please kneel for our prayer for vocations. Let us ask God to give worthy Priests to His Holy Church and Brothers and Sisters to Religious Orders.
- ALL:** O God, we earnestly beseech You to bless this diocese with many priests, brothers and sisters, who will gladly spend their entire lives serving Your Church and making You known and loved.
- LEADER:** Bless our families. Bless our children.
- ALL:** Choose from our homes those who are needed for Your work.
- LEADER:** Mary, Queen of the Clergy!
- ALL:** Pray for us. Pray for our priests and religious. Obtain for us many more. Amen.

CHRISTMAS MASS OBLIGATION: A number of people have asked for clarification of the following. With Christmas Day being on a Monday this year, to fulfil the obligation, one should attend Mass both for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (Masses at 6pm [Saturday], 9am and 11am as usual), and then again for Christmas (6pm on Sunday evening, Midnight Mass or 10.30am on Christmas Day). The Vigil Mass of Christmas on Sunday 24th December at 6pm **doesn't** fulfil the obligation for the Fourth Sunday of Advent since this will be the First Mass of Christmas and not of the Sunday.

Fr Paul

DO YOU SUPPORT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND THE RIGHT OF CATHOLICS TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO THEM? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it. Now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

EXAIREO THANKS: The workers and residents of Exaireo, the charity supporting the homeless, would like to thank us for the hugely generous donation of £670, proceeds from a recent second collection. This money will go a long way towards providing a Christmas lunch and small gifts for residents and their children. St Mary's is a key supporter of Exaireo.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT COLLECTION: The retiring collection at the end of the carol concert will be for the Loughborough Town of Sanctuary. The volunteers at Loughborough Town of Sanctuary welcome asylum seekers and refugees who report to the Home Office Reporting Centre in town. Any money collected will contribute towards providing food and drink from the café at John Storer House and also towards the purchase of hats, scarves and gloves and some small presents for the children. The asylum seekers, in particular, are amongst the most vulnerable people in our society and have to manage on a Home Office allowance of £37 per week. If you are interested in volunteering please visit Loughborough Town of Sanctuary's website or Facebook page or speak with Frank Fay or Jane Monaghan.

FINANCE

First Collection: **£ 598**

Poor Parishes: **£ 170**

Standing Orders: **£ 622**

Thank you



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Served by the Rosminians: Fr Paul Gillham, Parish Priest;

Rev David Jones, Deacon. In community: Fr Simon Giles

Newsletter for Sunday 17th December 2017

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

Gaudete

Psalter week 3

JESUS is the True Messiah

As I wrote last week, in the Liturgy during Advent we hear a lot from the prophets about the One who is to come. Some of these prophets are Isaiah, Jeremiah, Malachi and finally the greatest of the prophets, John the Baptist from whom we hear again in this week's Gospel. And when we read through these prophecies we realise that for over a thousand years before His coming, the prophets were able to foretell the actual events of Our Lord's life with such accuracy and precision, so that when He finally came we would be able to recognise JESUS as the One sent by God.

So Our Lord's coming was pre-announced. The prophets were able to foretell these future events simply because God had revealed it to them by the Holy Spirit. And I think it's very good for us to reflect upon the fact that this fulfilment of messianic prophecy is something which is totally unique to Christianity. History is full of people who claimed they were sent by God or who said they had a special message from God, but without a jot of evidence to back it up. But God gave the world all the evidence it needed to recognise the True Messiah. The *true* prophets all point to our Lord JESUS Christ - the one true Lord and Saviour of the world. In Him alone are all the prophecies concerning the Messiah in the Old Testament brought to fulfilment. JESUS is the promised One who would come to save us from our sins. There is salvation under no other name. "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but might have eternal life*" (John 3:16).

Fr Paul Gillham IC

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	16 th	1730-1755	Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request
		1800	Evelyn Woodhouse RIP
Sun	17 th	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - GAUDETE	
		0900	For the Parish
		1030-1055	Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request
		1100	James O'Rourke
		1245	Polish Mass
		1500	Italian Mass
		1630	Carols by Candlelight
Mon	18 th	0915	Sr Christina Keane - Intentions
Tues	19 th	0915	Sr Catherine Walsh - Intentions
		1100	Requiem Mass for Cyril Dale RIP
Weds	20 th	0915	NO MASS - Dorothy and John Ginns RIP
Thurs	21 st	0915	NO MASS - Kay Parrish. Both intentions will be honoured
		1630	Christingle Service
Fri	22 nd	0915	Whole School End of Term Mass
			Giovanni Brunetti RIP (Anniversary)
Sat	23 rd	0915	Sr Catherine Higgins - Intention
		0945-1100	Eucharistic Adoration
		1800	Vivincia Castillo RIP (Anniversary)
Sun	24 th	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVE	
		0900	For the Parish
		1030-1055	Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request
		1100	Sally Clemerson RIP
		1800	Family Vigil Mass
		2130	Polish Mass
		1130	Carols followed by Midnight Mass
Mon	25 th	CHRISTMAS DAY	
		1030	Hollingsworth Family Intention
			*** ONE MASS ONLY TODAY ***

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Sun	17 th	1730 (approx)	Refreshments after 4.30pm Carols by Candlelight & Raffle prize draw - Hall
Tues	19 th	1145-1400	Reception after Requiem Mass for Cyril Dale RIP - Hall
		1845-1915	Rosary
		1930-2030	NO Scripture & Tradition
Weds	20 th	1200	Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch – Lynroy's
Thurs	21 st	1700	Christingle Party for Children – Hall

Please pray for those who have recently died: Cyril Dale **May he rest in peace**

Forthcoming Second Collection:

Christmas Day – For the Priests of the Parish

PARISH VOICE MAGAZINE: The Winter Issue of Parish Voice will be available at the back of church this weekend. This larger issue covers leaving events for Frs. Philip and Charles, welcoming of Fr Paul our new Parish Priest and Deacon David, the UCM 50th Celebrations and the Flower Festival, Pilgrimages, Briars Article from Lydia, Sheila's artwork and many more items. Suggested Donation £1.

CARPENTER'S ARMS AND JOSEPH'S STOREHOUSE: As in previous years we would like to take up the baton of the World day of the Poor by giving our practical support to the Carpenter's Arms and Joseph's Storehouse. Joseph's Storehouse provides food parcels to a wide range of homeless and disadvantaged people in Loughborough. There are almost 600 people receiving this vital support and around 90 of these are families. Please donate mince pies or cakes (with a long date), biscuits, selection boxes, tinned fruit and cream, toiletries and really anything that makes our own Christmas table special. NO alcohol or fresh foods though please. Thank you for your continued and generous support.

MISSIO: All members are requested to return their red boxes as soon as possible, as the monies raised need to be sent off before Christmas. Thank you.

PRIZE DRAW: This will take place after the Carol Service **this afternoon**. Hope to see you all there for mince pies and mulled wine. Thank you. *Bernie*

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH SERVICE: The Diocese seeks to appoint a professionally qualified Director of Youth Service who combines a deep personal commitment to their Catholic faith with a vibrant and enthusiastic passion for Catholic youth ministry and retreat provision among young people. This full-time post will be based at The Briars Youth Retreat Centre in Crich. For further information contact **Teresa Clark on 01773 852044** or **bookings@ndcys.com** **Closing date for all applications: 3rd January.**

CHRISTINGLE: Everyone is warmly invited to the Christingle service in church at 4.30pm on **Thursday 21st December** followed by the Children's party in the parish hall. Please bring a plate of food for a shared table and £1 donation towards a small gift from Santa.

FROM THE SAINTS: Christianity has died many times and risen again; for it had a God who knew His way out of the grave (*G K Chesterton, 1874-1936, Catholic Apologist*).

PLEASE PRAY for those who are sick: Valentino Castillo Snr, Leonardo Lopez Wain, Teresa Frankow, Margaret Barson, Ethel Dale, Sam Putres, Margaret Jackson, Andrew Belton, Garry Clarke, Robert Onions, Tendai Mufute, David Allen, Arcenia Solohaga, Jim Moreland, Olga Maker, Hazel, Barbara Finch, Frank Chatonda, Brian Smith, Rosinah, Justin Johns, Kevin and Olive Chapman, Rowena Orton, Vera Cunningham, Kerry Berry & family, Crispin Castillo, Reuben Farrant, Jack Murray, Margaret Stanford, Brenda Schuler, Andrew Spicer, Christina Mortell, Clelia Paciolla, Freddie Hess, Margaret Woodhouse, Pauline Davey, Danilo Salvador, Christopher Browne, David and Claire Potter, Jamie, Mark, Stephen Coultas, Jane Moss, Eddie Hamilton, Hannah Bechler, Val Wells, Dennis Nolan, James, Alan & Judith Creighton, the Tucker family and Geraldine Paul.

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Gertrude Tyler, Rita Message, Wilfred Styles, Elizabeth Jordan, Veronica Burton, Alojgy Panna, Carmel Berridge, Peter Robinson, Minnie Mee, Virginia Stocks, Francis Boyne, Lily O'Neil, Anthony Field, Dorothy Ginns, Rita Sivaguru, Edouardo Romaniello, Mary Black, Denise Carnell, Christopher Hubbard, Doreen Wesseldine, Giovanni Brunetti, John McGeechan, John Moore and Vivincia Castillo