

## 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.

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**LENT:** This Wednesday, 14th February is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. It is also a day of **fasting** and **abstinence**. This means Catholics who are 18 years old and up, until their 59th birthday (when you begin your 60th year), are bound to fast (one full meal in the day, and perhaps some food at a couple of points). Just use common sense though. The same applies for Good Friday. As far as abstinence is concerned, Catholics who are 14 years old and older are bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. The spiritual and corporal works of mercy are always good to practice too, and it would be an excellent idea to make a good confession at the start of Lent. Try and have a programme ready for your penances and mortifications during this time. It will be more fruitful if you do.

*Fr Paul*

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**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** This devotion helps us to make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer, through meditating upon the chief scenes of Christ's sufferings and death. We try to perform this devotion in a spirit of **reparation** for the sufferings and insults that Jesus endured during His Passion, an act which was described by Pope John Paul II as "the unceasing effort to stand beside the endless crosses on which the Son of God continues to be crucified". St. Mary's is following this devotion every Friday throughout Lent at 6.30pm.

**BOOKING MASS INTENTIONS:** If you wish to have a Mass said for an intention on a particular day, I recommend booking at least three or four months in advance. For weekends, I would suggest even six months in advance. Even with this notice the preferred date cannot be guaranteed. But requesting a particular date only two or three weeks before will very likely result in disappointment. So please do get in early.

*Fr Paul*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** those preparing for their first Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, and all those being baptised.

**ROSMINI CENTRE**, 433 FOSSE WAY (A46), LE7 4SJ. **Deepening our Faith** with Bishop Robert Barron DVD on **Saturday 17 February**. Mass at 10.00 am followed at 11.00 am by DVD on the *Teachings of Jesus*. Shared table at 1.00 pm with soup and a roll. Please book in advance on 01509 813078 or 243mulls@gmail.com. All are welcome.

### LAST WEEK'S FINANCE

First Collection: £ 533	Kwediboma £482 of which £94 was gift aided
Standing Orders: £ 638	Thank you



## St Mary's Catholic Church

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Web: [www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk](http://www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk)

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

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

## Newsletter for Sunday 11th February 2018 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Psalter week II / week IV

### Come closer

The forty-plus-day season of Lent, which we begin this Wednesday, is the time that we, as Christian disciples, are encouraged to draw closer to God. It is something which Jesus both demonstrates and encourages. As the incarnate Son of God, He comes close to us to heal and rescue us, and in His earthly life He encouraged those in need to come close to Him and receive His healing touch. Just as the leper does in our gospel reading this Sunday.

In many ways it is ironic that on the day (Ash Wednesday) we hear Jesus speak of praying, fasting and almsgiving being done in secret, we participate in what may be the year's most public physical statement of our belief in Him!! We are signed on our foreheads with black ash – a sign of our sorrow, repentance and desire to grow and change. While it's fine to wash it off after Mass, many people keep it on their forehead throughout the day. Often, it becomes a discussion starter and an opportunity to share our faith and encourage others to 'come closer', with us, to God in Christ.

Lent, our Christian Springtime, is our time to grow, grow closer to God, as we make time to pray a little more, exercise self-discipline a little more, care for others a little more and nurture our souls a little more.

There will be lots of opportunities to examine our consciences, repent and confess. Lots of opportunities to pray, walk the Stations of the Cross, adore and receive the Sacrament. Lots of encouragement to fast and abstain, not just from food, sweet things and alcohol but also behaviours – gossip, mean judgements and angry retorts – attitudes that may not save us money but go further in bringing us closer to God. Let's take the opportunities too that enable us to invite others to St Mary's, to come with us and draw closer to Him who is the source of all Life and Life Eternal.

*Jesus reaches out his hand to touch and heal. May we all give Him that opportunity this Lent to draw us closer, by ourselves making time to draw close to Him.*

*Deacon David OLW*

**FROM THE SAINTS:** "Father, I am seeking: I am hesitant and uncertain, but will you, O God, watch over each step of mine and guide me?" St. Augustine

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S**

<b>Sat</b>	10 <sup>th</sup>	5.30-5.55pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request
		<b>6.00pm</b>	Maria Paciolla RIP
<b>Sun</b>	11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>9.00am</b>	For the Parish
		10.30-10.55am	Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request
		<b>11.00am</b>	Joseph Frankow RIP
		12.45pm	Polish Mass
		4.00pm	Italian Mass
		5.15pm	Reception of Clarissa Ryder RIP
<b>Mon</b>	12 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Sr Rose of the Sacred Heart, Hoye - Intention
		11.30am	Requiem Mass for Clarissa Ryder RIP
		4.30pm	Reception of Christina O'Sullivan RIP
<b>Tues</b>	13 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Reginald Granger and Ambrosine Faulks RIP
		1.15pm	Funeral Service of Christina O'Sullivan RIP
<b>Weds</b>	14 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>Ash Wednesday</u></b>	
		9.15am	Christina O'Sullivan RIP
		7.00pm	Denis Thurland RIP
<b>Thurs</b>	15 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Gerry O'Rourke RIP
<b>Fri</b>	16 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	For the Parish
		12 noon	Funeral Service for Amelia Blake RIP
		6.00pm	Malcolm Scanlan RIP
		<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross</b> (following 6.00pm Mass)
<b>Sat</b>	17 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Vittorio Giorgio RIP
		10.00-11.00am	Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharistic Adoration
		<b>6.00pm</b>	Antonio Benincasa RIP
<b>Sun</b>	18 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>First Sunday in Lent</u></b>	
		<b>9.00am</b>	For the Parish
		<b>11.00am</b>	Cliff Brookes RIP (Anniversary)

**THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S**

<b>Tues</b>	13 <sup>th</sup>	6.45-7.15pm	Rosary – Church
		7.30-8.30pm	NO Scripture & Tradition
<b>Weds</b>	14 <sup>th</sup>	2.00-4.00pm	Senior Citizens – Church hall
		7.30pm	Union of Catholic Mothers – Library
<b>Sat</b>	17 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am	Baptism Class – Church (by arrangement)
<b>Sat/ Sun</b>	17/ 18 <sup>th</sup>	After all Masses	Lourdes Sale – Church hall

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**MARIST LOURDES PILGRIMAGE:** Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Cost £499 includes full insurance and full board in Lourdes. Further details and booking forms from Vera Hurry 01509 231282

**LOURDES FUND SALE** after all Masses on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February. Donations of cakes, bottles and gifts needed - please hand in to the presbytery or leave in the library, clearly marked. Help with the sale would also be appreciated. *Bernie Mc Enery*

**SALE OF DELICIOUS HOMEMADE CAKES,** marmalades, lemon curd, jams and chutneys in the church hall after all Masses this Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup>, in aid of Missio, the Catholic Church's official Charity for Overseas Missions, bringing the hope of the Gospel where there is turmoil, poverty and uncertainty in the world.

**LOUGHBOROUGH TOWN OF SANCTUARY:** Ceilidh at Fearon Hal, Rectory Road LE11 1PL. Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.30-10.30. Tickets £8 and £5(unwaged and children) available from Fearon Hall 01509 230629

**PARISH VOICE:** The Spring Issue of the 'Parish Voice' is now being prepared. If you have any items of interest for the Spring Issue, they would be very welcome. Articles, photographs, opinions, poems, recipes etc from any age group can be emailed to the Parish Office office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk or handed in to the Parish Office. Copy Deadline: **Tuesday February 27<sup>th</sup>**

**CHECK OUT the 'Be Merciful' Website.** This has been updated and has events and resources for Faith Formation in the Diocese of Nottingham: <https://www.bemerciful.co.uk/>

**HEAD TEACHER REQUIRED FOR AUGUST 2018:** The Diocese of Nottingham is looking to appoint a Head Teacher to lead **De Lisle College**. Full details are on the noticeboard at the back of church. Application Form and further details available from [www.delisle.org.uk](http://www.delisle.org.uk). Alternatively email [jennie.oreilly@delisle.leics.sch.uk](mailto:jennie.oreilly@delisle.leics.sch.uk) or call 01509 268739. Closing date: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 12.00 Noon. Interview date: w/c Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

**SEE NOTICEBOARD ALSO for news of the following:** RE teacher vacancy in Leicester (19<sup>th</sup> February), CAFOD evening in East Leake (22<sup>nd</sup> February); Bach Mass in B Minor at Nottingham Cathedral (10<sup>th</sup> March), Spring Ceilidh (Saturday 10th March)

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**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, 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, 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, Alan & Judith Creighton, the Tucker family and Geraldine Paul.

**For those for who have recently died:** Clarissa Ryder, Christina O'Sullivan, David Allen, Matthew Galvin, Amelia Blake and Charles Spicer. **May they rest in peace**

**And for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Hilda Harvey, Frederico Buccheri, Michael Bradley, Josephine Brown, Harold Main, Christopher Whittingham, Peter Smith, Samuel Reid, Maria Richardson, Peter Rose, Jamila Dawood, Cliff Brookes, Helena Lawrynovicz, Matti Bazi, Cliff Brookes and Ellen Spurr.