

## 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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**I will be away from the parish for the next two weeks or so. I shall be attending the funeral of my late 92 year old aunt and godmother in Sweden, and Fr Provincial has told me I must also take some time out, since I have not had a break since my father's death last November. However, I also have to clear out his house by the middle of March. Fr Ted Mullen will be helping out this weekend and then Fr David Tobin will be staying with Fr Simon in the presbytery for the next two weeks.**

*Fr Paul*

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**CHILDREN MAKING THEIR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** should remain in church for the whole of Mass and not join the Children's Liturgy group. Thank you.

*Fr Paul*

**ITALIAN MASS – SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH** – Please note the change of time. This will be celebrated at 3.00pm instead of the usual 4.00pm.

**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

**WITHDRAWAL OF OLD £10 NOTES FROM CIRCULATION:** The old "Darwin" £10 notes cease to be legal tender on 1<sup>st</sup> March. With over £2 billion worth still in circulation we will be happy to receive them (all!) in future collections! Banks will continue to receive them for the foreseeable future.

*Geoff Mercer*

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**PLEASE PRAY for those for who have recently died: May they rest in peace**

**and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Pat Murphy, Barbara Herbert, Audrey Wilbram, Stephen Scott, Carmella Lallo, Valerie Roberts, Linas Linkevicius, Michael Warltire, John Wisniewski, Gerald Cunningham, Eddie Weightman, Antonietta Sacchetta and Anna Corbinzolu

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**Today's Second Collection** is for **Bishop Patrick's Charitable Purposes – NRCDT**  
**CAFOD Family Fast Day envelopes** will be collected at the end of Masses this weekend.

### LAST WEEK'S FINANCE

First Collection: £ 861	Lourdes Fund: £ 428
Standing Orders: £ 642	<i>Thank you</i>



## St Mary's Catholic Church

97 Ashby Road, Loughborough LE11 3AB

Tel: 01509 262123

Email: [newsletter@stmarysloughborough.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@stmarysloughborough.org.uk)

[office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk](mailto:office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk)

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 25th February 2018

### SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Psalter week 2

## Where is the Lamb?

In last Sunday's Gospel, Our Lord was tested in the desert by being tempted by Satan. This week we hear how **Abraham** was tested by God, when God told him to sacrifice his only son **Isaac**. This might seem like the worst kind of barbarism towards children, but when we look at the text, it is *Isaac* who carries the wood up the mountain for the sacrifice. The wood would have been extremely heavy, so Isaac certainly wasn't a small child. Rather he was a strong, albeit young man. But still, this is an extraordinary test of Abraham's **faith** and **obedience**. As Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac, Isaac asked his father, "Where is the lamb?" "God Himself will provide the lamb" replied Abraham. Suddenly an Angel appeared and prevented Abraham from sacrificing his son, and Abraham looked up and saw a **ram** (a male sheep), caught in the thorns of a bush by its horns, and *this* was to be the offering in sacrifice. Many of the Fathers of the Church see the ram as a *prefiguring* of Christ. Just as the ram is caught by its horns in a thorn bush, so Christ wears a crown of thorns. And just as the ram is the substitute for Isaac, so Christ is the substitute who will lay down His life so that the *world* may be saved. He is the *true Lamb of God* who takes away the sins of the world.

It is significant that Abraham is told to sacrifice Isaac on **Mount Moriah**, the same location where Solomon was to build the Temple, and which was also within the sight of **Mount Calvary** where Our Lord was crucified.

In today's Second Reading, St Paul reminds us that while God spared Abraham's son, He did not hesitate to sacrifice His own. Sacrificing Christ proves that there is nothing God will not do to save us – such is His love for us. In the Gospel account of the **Transfiguration**, JESUS shows Himself in all His glory to Peter, James and John to help prepare them for His upcoming Passion and Death, thus strengthening their faith. So there is a *balance* then between the **Cross** and the **Resurrection**, and so God gives us crosses as well as joys. But whatever crosses we are asked to carry, Christ will help us carry them. Let us ask Him to help us do the same for those suffering around us, and thus we become His instruments.

*Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

**FROM THE SAINTS:** "There is nothing the devil fears so much, or so much tries to hinder, as prayer" (*St Philip Neri, 1515-1595*).

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

<b>Sat</b>	24 <sup>th</sup>	5.30-5.55pm	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation (+ on request)</i>
		<b>6.00pm</b>	Ann Checketts RIP
<b>Sun</b>	25 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>First Sunday of Lent</u></b>	
		<b>9.00am</b>	Anne Thompson RIP
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request</i>
		<b>11.00am</b>	For the Parish
		12.45pm	Polish Mass
		2.15pm	<i>Baptism of Harry &amp; Molly Adamski</i>
		4.00pm	Italian Mass
<b>Mon</b>	26 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Michael Kilbane RIP
		11.00am	<i>Confessions – Year 5 St. Mary's School</i>
<b>Tues</b>	27 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Mary Cochrane (née Rooney) RIP
<b>Weds</b>	28 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Margaret Dawson RIP
<b>Thurs</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	<b><u>St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales (FEAST)</u></b>	
		9.15am	Brian Stack RIP
<b>Fri</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.15am	<i>First Friday of the Month</i> – Rita Preston RIP
		<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>For our deceased relatives &amp; friends</b>
		<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross</b> (following 6.00pm Mass)
<b>Sat</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.15am	Mary Meredith RIP
		10.00-11.00am	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation (+ on request) and Eucharistic Adoration</i>
			<i>Devotion of the Five First Saturdays</i>
		<b>6.00pm</b>	Anna Corbinzolu RIP

## THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

<b>Sat</b>	24 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	<b>First Holy Communion Class (3)</b> – Church Hall
<b>Tues</b>	27 <sup>th</sup>	6.45-7.15pm	Rosary – Church
		7.30-8.30pm	Scripture & Tradition – Library
<b>Weds</b>	28 <sup>th</sup>	2.00-4.00pm	Senior Citizens – Church Hall
		7.30pm	Union of Catholic Mothers – Library
<b>Sat</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	11.15am	<b>First Holy Communion Class (4)</b> – Church Hall

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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, Lee and Louise Raven, Justin Johns, Kevin and Olive Chapman, Rowena Orton, Vera Cunningham, Kerry Berry & family, Crispin Castillo, Reuben Farrant, Jack Murray, 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.

**LET'S HELP THE HOMELESS:** Following on from my brief talk last week these are the names of some of the organisations involved in helping the homeless: Shelter, Crisis, St Martin in the Fields, Centre Point, The Big Issue Foundation, St Mungo's and, here in Loughborough, The Bridge, Exaireo and the Falcon Centre. *Frank Fay*

**MANY THANKS** to all those who contributed to the **Lourdes Fund Sale**. The total amount raised was £528. People were very generous and many gave donations. This fund has been running now for years and Please God let's hope for many more to come. If you know of anyone who would like to go to Lourdes but who needs a little help with funding, please speak to Fr Paul. This will be very confidentially dealt with. Many thanks. *Bernie*

**MUSICIANS WANTED** Keyboard player wanted to join our St. Mary's music group - any ability from beginner / improver upwards. We play once a week in Loughborough on Wednesdays 7.00 – 8.30pm and there is a keyboard in house. The music we play is mainly traditional / country / folksy. Our group presently consists of guitars, ukuleles and violin but would happily welcome more players of any instrument. No stress - we play for fun! Free tuition if required. £1 per session. John Clark telephone no. 01509 554337 or [john.clark463@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.clark463@ntlworld.com)

**PARISH VOICE:** The Spring Issue 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 [office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk](mailto:office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk) or handed in to the Parish Office. Copy Deadline: **Tuesday February 27<sup>th</sup>**.

**SPRING CEILIDH: Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March** at Rosebery St Peter's Community Centre (see poster on noticeboard). From 7pm. Live band. Tickets £8 adults, £6 under 10s, available after 11am Mass this Sunday and after weekend Masses on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Alternatively contact Rebecca Offiler-Russell: email [bec\\_offiler@msn.com](mailto:bec_offiler@msn.com) / 07525 214333. *Friends of Sacred Heart Academy*

**THE NEXT KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA QUIZ** will be at 7.30pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March in Sacred Heart church hall. Details on the noticeboard at the back of church.

**LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** is proposing to close two **Sure Start** centres in the Cobden and Hastings areas of Loughborough. They provide vital services to families in the town where child poverty in Hastings is 45.7% (617 children). See last week's Echo on the findings of a study carried out by End Child Poverty coalition of charities, faith groups and unions. A 12 week consultation has been set up and you can register your opposition to these closures and any other views at [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/earlyhelp](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/earlyhelp). **The Parish Catholic Social Action Group** is reviewing what more we can do as a parish to support vulnerable children & their families.

**HEAD TEACHER SOUGHT FOR DE LISLE COLLEGE:** Full details are on the noticeboard at the back of church. Closing date for applications: Monday **26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018**.

**ANNUAL MASS FOR THE LOSS OF CHILDREN - Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 at 10am - A** Mass will be held at Our Lady & St Joseph Church, Matlock, celebrated by Fr Robbie O'Callaghan. This Mass will be offered in memory of children who have died at whatever age or however long ago; it is hoped that this will be a source of hope and grace to all. **ALL** are welcome to attend this Mass and Ceremony of Light – If you cannot attend but wish to submit a prayer for a loved one in the Mass, please forward it to: Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Church, The Presbytery, 1 St Joseph Street, Matlock, DE4 3NG or email: [info@matlockcatholicchurch.org.uk](mailto:info@matlockcatholicchurch.org.uk) (*please do not send money, as this is not required, thank you*).

**SEE NOTICEBOARD** for **head teacher vacancies in Leicester:** at St Thomas More and St Paul's Schools. **Plus** Bach Mass in B Minor at Nottingham Cathedral (**10 March**); Spring Ceilidhs at Fearon Hall (**3 March**) and Rosebery St Peter's Community Centre (**10 March**).