

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.

LENT FAMILY FAST DAY: Friday 23rd February is Family Fast Day. The proceeds go to CAFOD who this year are working to combat malnutrition in Zimbabwe. Envelopes are at the back of the church this weekend. The government will match all the funds raised which means your donations will be doubled!
Fr. Paul

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

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

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

LECTIO DIVINA - At the Rosmini Centre (on A46 half a mile north of Ratcliffe College entrance) on Saturday 24 February at 3.00pm.
All are welcome.

PLEASE PRAY for those for who have recently died: Brenda Schuler, David Allen, Matthew Galvin, and Charles Spicer. **May they rest in peace**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: David Collins, Nina Juszkiwicz, Wanda Wajzert, Sheila Jarvis, Filomena Paoella, Francis Brooks, Colubrio Buttarazzi, Terry Cleverly, Emily Mingay, Sean Lynch, Richard Hönl, Susan Baagnell, Jan Skowronski, Paul Want, Les Prentice and, Cliff Brookes

Next Second Collection - 25th February for Bishop Patrick's Charitable Purposes - NRCDT

LAST WEEK'S FINANCE	
First Collection: revised 4/2/18 £860 : 11/2/18 £697	Kwediboma £674 (£274 Gift Aided)
Standing Orders: £ 642	<i>Thank you</i>



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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 18th February 2018

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – Psalter week 1

What Can I Do For Lent?

I can hardly believe that we are now already in Lent, but with Easter fast approaching, we need to draw our spiritual battle lines now, otherwise we may find we have arrived at Easter and have made no spiritual progress. The reality is, although this is not said as often as it should be, we are engaged in a **spiritual battle** for our souls and so we need to take up **spiritual weapons**. The Collect for Ash Wednesday made this clear: "*Grant, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting this campaign of Christian service, so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils, we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint.*" So the Church recommends we take up with even greater vigour than usual the spiritual weapons of **prayer, fasting and almsgiving** during Lent. Do you have your plan of action ready? If not, here are a few suggestions:

- Try to go to a daily Mass at least once a week.
- Make the Stations of the Cross each Friday. (There is a 6pm Mass followed by the Stations at 6.30pm every Friday in Lent).
- Try to do some spiritual reading each day; either the Bible or some other spiritual book or the life of a saint. There is a lot of good material on the CTS rack at the back of the church
- Choose one of your bad habits and try with renewed vigour and God's help to overcome it. But don't expect instant success. The spiritual life is the work of a lifetime.
- Recite an extra Rosary each day, or say the Divine Mercy Chaplet.
- Go out of your way to perform a kind deed for someone each day.
- Cut back on the computer, especially things like Facebook.
- Give up something you enjoy and donate the money saved to your favourite charity.

Of course there are many other things one can do, but it's a good idea to have a plan. **Confession** or **Penance** is always good for our spiritual progress and all Catholics are bound to confess their sins *at least* once a year. All of us have something to confess whether it be impatience, anger, a lack of charity, distractions while praying, neglecting our religious duties, not attending Sunday Mass and so on. It is sometimes difficult to remember all our sins exactly, so an examination of conscience is available at the back of the church should you need some help. Remember, JESUS is the "Doctor" of our Souls, and sometimes the sacrament of Penance is just what the Doctor ordered! I hope you all have a good Lent. Let us pray for each other.

Fr. Paul

FROM THE SAINTS: "As the captain of a vessel is tried in the storm, as the wrestler is tried in the ring, the soldier in the battle, and the hero in adversity, so is the Christian tried in temptation" (*St Basil the Great, 330-379*).

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	17 th	5.30-5.55pm	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation (+ on request) and Eucharistic Adoration</i>
		6.00pm	Antonio Benincasa RIP
Sun	18 th	<u>First Sunday of Lent</u>	
		9.00am	For the Parish
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request</i>
		11.00am	Cliff Brookes (Anniversary)
		12.45pm	Polish Mass
		4.00pm	Italian Mass
Mon	19 th	9.15am	Michael Gilroy (GE)
		11.00am	<i>Confessions – Year 4 St. Mary's School</i>
Tues	20 th	9.15am	John and Dorothy Ginns RIP
Weds	21 st	9.15am	Michele & Filomena Paolella RIP (Anniversary)
Thurs	22 nd	<u>The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle (FEAST)</u>	
		9.15am	John McEnery RIP
		7.30pm	<i>Men's Holy League</i>
Fri	23 rd	9.15am	Josephine & Mickie Friel – 50 th Wedding Anniversary
		11.30am	<i>Requiem Mass for Matthew Galvin RIP</i>
		6.00pm	Malcolm Scanlan RIP
		6.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat	24 th	9.15am	Vincenzo Caruso RIP
		10.00-11.00am	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation (+ on request) and Eucharistic Adoration</i>
		6.00pm	Ann Checketts RIP

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Mon	19 th	1.30pm	History Group – Hall
Tues	20 th	6.45-7.15pm	Rosary – Church
		7.30-8.30pm	Scripture & Tradition
Weds	21 st	7-9.00pm	Catholic Social Group – Library
Sat	24 th	11.15am	Baptism Class – Church (by arrangement)

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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.

LOURDES FUND SALE after all Masses **this weekend.**

THANK YOU to all who supported Marie Brookes' cake sale last weekend, which raised the sum of £70 for Missio.

THE PARISH EVENTS TEAM is organising a summer ball to be held at the Convent on **Friday 22nd June.** Details to be confirmed so watch this space!

MASS ROTAS for Welcomers, Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for March, April, May and June 2018 are ready for collection from the Repository. Please note that rotas for the 6pm Saturday Vigil Mass, and 9am & 11am Sunday Masses now each have a *separate* sheet.

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@stmaryloughborough.org.uk or handed in to the Parish Office. Copy Deadline: **Tuesday February 27th**

MEN'S HOLY LEAGUE: The next meeting of St Mary's Holy League, open to all men of the parish, will be held at 7.30pm on **Thursday 22nd February** for approximately an hour of prayer including Eucharistic Adoration. As always there will be an opportunity afterwards to meet for a drink and a chat. Please come and support this great tradition of prayer and friendship. For further details please contact Terry 0782 878 5771 or Greg 07921 587 901.

APPROVED MINUTES from the latest Finance Committee Meeting are available at the back of church.

101 CLUB UNCLAIMED PRIZES: Winners for January (no. **16**) and February (no. **58**) - Please see Ann at the repository desk after Mass.

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

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. Alternatively email jennie.oreilly@delisle.leics.sch.uk or call 01509 268739. Closing date: **Monday 26th February 2018** at 12.00 Noon. Interview date: w/c **Monday 5th March 2018.**

HEAD TEACHER VACANCY IN LEICESTER: The governors of St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy, Leicester are seeking to appoint a new head teacher. For further details call Mrs C O'Halloran on 0116 2706365 or visit www.thomasmoreprimary.org.uk. Closing date: **Monday 12th March 2018**

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 reporting 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. The Parish Catholic Social Action Group is reviewing what more we can do as a parish to support vulnerable children and their families.

SEE NOTICEBOARD for more news of School Vacancies: plus CAFOD evening - East Leake **22 Feb;** Bach Mass in B Minor at Nottingham Cathedral **10 March;** Spring Ceilidh **10 March.**