

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.

This week, from Monday 5th to Thursday 8th February, Fr Paul and Fr Simon will be at a conference of the Rosminians in Dublin. Therefore there will be no Mass on those days but rest assured that all Mass intentions will be honoured on the day. Deacon David, however, will celebrate a Service of Holy Communion on Wednesday and Thursday at 9.15am and Masses will resume as usual on Friday 9th February.

HEALING SERVICE at the Rosmini Centre led by Fr Ted Mullen on **Friday 9th February**, starting with Mass at 7.00 pm.

ABUNDANT GRACE Catholic Conference & Healing Service on Saturday 17th February 2018, 9.30am to 4.30pm, led by International Catholic Evangelist John Hesketh, Canon Jonathan Cotton & Fr John Martin at Our Lady's RC Church, Brooklyn Road, Bulwell, Nottingham NG6 9ES Please bring your own lunch, drinks provided. Organised by Diocesan Service Team for Renewal. More info 07506810177.

DIOCESAN YOUTH SINGING DAY: Saturday 10th February 2018, 10.30am - 5pm. An exciting opportunity for children and young people aged 8 - 18 from across our Diocese to come together and sing for a day at Nottingham Cathedral.

LENTEN RETREAT FOR WOMEN at The Briars in the beautiful Derbyshire countryside from **Friday 2nd – Sunday 4th March 2018** cost £70 (inclusive). For further information and to book in contact: bookings@ndcys.com

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/>

Today's Second Collection is for the **Kwediboma Mission**

LAST WEEK'S FINANCE

First Collection: £ 696

Standing Orders: £ 638

Thank you



St Mary's Catholic Church

97 Ashby Road, Loughborough LE11 3AB

Tel: 01509 262123

Email: newsletter@stmarysloughborough.org.uk

office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk

Web: 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 4th February 2018 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Psalter week I

Difficulties in Prayer?

In today's Gospel, we are told that after JESUS had cured Simon Peter's mother-in-law, He went off to a lonely place to **pray**. Perhaps it might seem amazing to us that in spite of JESUS being the Divine Son of God, through Whom all things were made and Who was perfect and sinless, that He should have this need to go off alone and pray to the Father. But Our Lord *always* prayed and He *needed* to in order to fulfil His mission – winning our eternal salvation. So if He Who was perfect and sinless needed to pray, what does this mean for us?

Difficulties in prayer can put us off, but we are in good company because many of the saints struggled with it too, so difficulties need not be an obstacle to our spiritual growth. St Thérèse of Lisieux, even after she had become a nun found community prayer and the Rosary difficult. St Bernard wrote that he was so overrun by life's anxieties and cares that he could barely find time to pray! So often prayer can seem very unsatisfying.

We all suffer from distractions in prayer, but so long as they displease us and we do what we can to re-focus our mind, our prayer doesn't stop being pleasing to God. The important thing is to persevere even if things become difficult. Giving up accomplishes nothing and we may be depriving ourselves of many spiritual benefits without even realising it. St Thérèse of Lisieux also said, "*I have many distractions, but as soon as I am aware of them, I pray for those people, the thought of whom is diverting my attention. In this way, they reap the benefit of my distractions.*"

So let us be reassured – difficulties, dryness and distractions in prayer are quite normal for those who seek God. And personal prayer is not the *only* aspect of our spiritual lives. We also have communal prayer, the sacraments, the reading of the Bible and other spiritual books, or we may find the Liturgy moving and inspiring. God can and does speak to us in many ways.

Fr Paul Gillham IC

FROM THE SAINTS: "*To believe in Jesus is to accept what He says, even when it runs contrary to what others are saying*" (Pope St John Paul II, 1978-2005).

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	3 rd	5.30-5.55pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request
		6.00pm	Mary Johns RIP (Anniversary)
Sun	4 th	9.00am	Dennis Thurland RIP
		10.30-10.55am	Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request
		11.00am	Cliff Brookes RIP
		12.45pm	Polish Mass
		2.15pm	Baptism of Joseph Rogers and Alexander Phillips
		4.00pm	Italian Mass
Mon	5 th	9.15am	NO MASS - Eamonn Johnston RIP
Tues	6 th	9.15am	NO MASS - Susan Moreland RIP
Weds	7 th	9.15am	Holy Communion - Brian Smith (GE)
		1.00pm	Funeral Service for Velia Capasso
Thurs	8 th	9.15am	Holy Communion - Sr Teresa Bernadette Fallon – Int.
Fri	9 th	9.15am	Vito Caruso RIP
Sat	10 th	9.15am	May Hollingsworth RIP
		10.00-11.00am	Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharistic Adoration
		6.00pm	Maria Paciolla (RIP)
Sun	11 th	9.00am	For the Parish
		11.00am	Joseph Frankow RIP

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Mon	5 th	1.30pm	History Group
Tues	6 th	6.45-7.15pm	Rosary - Church
		7.30-8.30pm	Scripture & Tradition – Library

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 who have recently died: Mary Murphy (Michael's mother), David Allen, Matthew Galvin, Velia Capasso and Amelia Blake **May they rest in peace**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary Johns, Paul Rose, Gladys Orton, Marta Rebaz, Patrick Doyle, Anna King, Mary O'Neill, Winifred Styles, Bridget Potter, Jim O'Flynn and Mary Bilby.

*** PRAYER VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED! '40 DAYS FOR LIFE' ***

This is a Christian campaign group whose purpose is to save the lives of unborn children through prayer, fasting and community outreach. With the support of Pope Francis, and the encouragement Bishop Patrick, we are running a campaign in Nottingham during Lent 2018. The aim of our prayers is to bring an end to abortion. But we also offer moral and practical support to women who may be under pressure to have an abortion which they do not want, and which they may come to regret. **Our vigil is prayerful, peaceful and non-judgmental.** We need volunteers to pray with us during Lent at the Treatment Centre on the QMC campus, where many abortions take place. Please sign up to pray with us on our webpage www.40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/Nottingham or email 40daysforlifefenotts@gmail.com. If you would like to know more before committing, we are holding an information event on **WEDNESDAY 7th FEBRUARY at 7.30pm**, in the social centre behind St Barnabas' cathedral, at which you can put questions to people who have done the vigil before. Come along and find out more!

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*

KWEDIBOMA SECOND COLLECTION: This weekend at all Masses there will be a second collection for the Kwediboma Health Centre. The Sisters want to make the Maternity Block larger to meet the increased demand from women needing their help. If you can give a donation you will know without doubt that your money will be used to help those less fortunate than us. Thank you. *Terry Spicer*

LOURDES FUND SALE after all Masses on **Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th 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*

HELP END HOMELESSNESS: Buy a 'Big Issue' tea towel on sale at the Repository for £5. The target is to raise £5 million. Don't forget to buy 'The Big Issue' every week!

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN finding out about Mission India, please try the following ways - 07584 551581 or email mission@missionindia.org.uk

LACY Band (Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth) are looking for a lead singer/singers to join their Youth Band. IS THIS YOU? They are also looking for other members - can you play a musical instrument (eg bass/drums/guitar/violin/flute, etc.)? Our practises are on the first Monday of every month in preparation for up and coming Events/Masses. Interested? Then contact Brendan Johnson - brendanjohnson2011@gmail.com. We will be practising this coming Monday, **5th February 2018**. In St. Mary's Church, Countesthorpe Road, South Wigston, Leicestershire, from 7pm - 8pm We would love to see young people come and join us. All abilities welcome!

SEE NOTICEBOARD FOR NEWS OF: Head Teacher vacancies in Grantham and Nottingham (**9th February**), RE teacher in Leicester (**19th February**), CAFOD evening in East Leake (**22nd February**); and Bach Mass in B Minor at Nottingham Cathedral (**10th March**).