

**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.

FROM THE SAINTS: “Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light” (*St Paul to the Romans, 13:11-12*).

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL: Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all the wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. *Amen*

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: Next Saturday, 8th December, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. This feast celebrates that from the first moment of her conception she was kept free from every stain of Original Sin because she was to be the Mother of God. As a result of this privilege, she had no attraction to sin. It was not fitting that she who would crush the head of the serpent (Satan) should be for one moment under his power. Mass at 9.15am as usual. There will be an extra Latin Mass at 11.30am and a Maltese Mass at 2pm. It is *not* a day of obligation.

VESPERS AND BENEDICTION: Following the success of last Sunday's Vespers and Benediction for Christ the King, a repeat has been requested by a number of parishioners. Therefore we will do the same again for the **Second Sunday of Advent, 9th December** at 6pm. If enough people support this, we can do it on a monthly basis. *Fr Paul*

KNEELING FOR HOLY COMMUNION: A number of parishioners over a long period of time have been asking for the possibility of being able to *kneel* to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion. So far as the Church is concerned this always remains a possibility. I would like to give people the option. Therefore, as an experiment, from this **Sunday 2nd December** at the **11am Mass**, if people could form a line in front of the communion rail, you are free to kneel or stand and receive either on the tongue or on the hand. The chalice will continue to be administered at the side. We'll see how it goes. *Fr Paul*

LAST WEEK'S FINANCE

First collection: £ 748

ACN £ 866.46

Standing Orders: £ 669 @ 31.10

Thank you



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

On attachment: Fr David Jones OLW. In community: Fr Simon Giles

Newsletter for Sunday 2 December 2018

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Psalter week 1

Advent – An Opportunity to Prepare

Today is the **First Sunday of Advent** and the beginning of the **new Liturgical Year**. We tend to think of Advent as a preparation for the **First Coming** of Our Lord at **Christmas** which is the promise in today's First Reading from the prophet Jeremiah. But it is much more than that. It really points to His **Second Coming** at the end of the world, which is what today's Gospel is about. We don't know when that will be, so the message is to *always* be ready. This means having a personal relationship or **encounter** with JESUS. This was the theme of **Bishop Patrick's recent Pastoral Letter**. He has asked for the following quote from the 'General Directory for Catechesis' to be included in this week's newsletter:

"The Christian faith is, above all, conversion to JESUS Christ, full and sincere adherence to His person and the decision to walk in His footsteps. Faith is a personal encounter with JESUS Christ making of oneself a disciple of Him. This demands a permanent commitment to think like Him, to judge like Him and to live as He lived. In this way the believer unites himself to the community of disciples and appropriates the faith of the Church. This "Yes" to JESUS Christ, Who is the fullness of the revelation of the Father is twofold: a trustful abandonment to God and a loving assent to all that He has revealed to us. This is possible only by means of the action of the Holy Spirit." (General Directory for Catechesis, 53,54).

So there are a number of **resolutions** one can make to help us grow in our relationship with Our Lord this Advent. **Prayer** is always a good start. Our Lord says in today's Gospel, "*Stay awake praying at all times.*" Decide that you are going to pray EVERY day for 15 minutes and stick to it. Work or studies permitting, come to **Mass** at least once during the week. We receive JESUS Himself in the Eucharist. What better way to get to know Him? Make an effort to come to **Adoration** on Saturday mornings and then **confess your sins** to help ensure you are always in a state of grace. You never know when God will call you from this life. It may "*be sprung on you suddenly like a trap.*" If you haven't been to Confession in a long while, **now** is the time. Is there someone *you* need to forgive? Perhaps read the **Gospel** or some **spiritual book** – there are plenty of choices available on the CTS rack at the back of the church. Say the **Rosary** or part of it every day. There are so many things we can do.

At a time and on a day unknown to us, Our Lord *is* coming again - and our efforts to be prepared for that **encounter** with Him will almost certainly be numbered among the most important things we have ever done. Let us not waste time. Stay awake and be prepared!

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

MASS TIMES AT ST MARY'S

Sat	1 st	6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	2 nd	<u>First Sunday of Advent</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation (+ on request)</i>
		11.00am	Parish Mass
		12.45am	Polish Mass
		4.00pm	Italian Mass
Mon	3 rd	9.15am	St Francis Xavier
Tues	4 th	9.15am	St John Damascene
Weds	5 th	9.15am	Advent Feria
Thurs	6 th	9.15am	St Nicholas
Fri	7 th	9.15am	<i>First Friday of the Month</i> (St Ambrose) For our deceased relatives and friends
Sat	8 th	9.15am	Immaculate Conception of Our Lady (Solemnity)
		10.00-11.00am	<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession</i>
		11.30am	Latin Mass (old rite)
		2.00pm	Maltese Mass
		5.30-5.55pm	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i>
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	9 th	<u>Second Sunday of Advent</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation (+ on request)</i>
		11.00am	Parish Mass

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Sat	1 st	11.00am-2.00pm	Christmas Fair – Hall
Mon	3 rd	1.30pm	History Group – Hall
Tues	4 th	6.45-7.15pm	Rosary – Church
		7.30-8.30pm	Scripture & Tradition – Library
Weds	5 th	2.00pm-4.00pm	Senior Citizens – Hall (Flower arranging demonstration)
		7.00pm	Extraordinary Ministers' Meeting – Library
Thurs	6 th	7.00pm	Catholic Social Action Meeting – Hall
		7.00pm	RCIA – Library
Fri	7 th	1.00-3.00pm	Crochet class – Hall (3)

NB: Due to the new government regulations regarding personal data (GDPR), we are only able to publicise the Mass intentions in the printed edition of the newsletter.

ST JOSEPH'S STOREHOUSE: Please remember them in your preparations for Christmas. Items for food parcels (tinned goods, seasonal items, sweets for children) would be welcomed.

PARENTS WITH SMALL CHILDREN: In so far as is possible, would parents please try to avoid allowing their children to rush out to the toilet or re-enter the church during the Consecration of the Mass. It is the most sacred part of the Mass and we all need to be really concentrated and prayerful. Thank you
Fr Paul

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED: Heather Ward, who made the appeal on behalf of ACN last month, has written to thank you for your very generous response, which after all was taken into account, amounted to **£866.46**. Thank you very much.
Fr Paul

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION WITH INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS: Wednesday 12th December at 7pm.

CHRISTINGLE: Everyone is warmly invited to the Christingle service in church at 3.30pm on **Sunday 16th 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.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION GROUP: Meeting Thursday at 7pm in the parish hall. Everyone welcome. We will be looking at **Food Poverty within Charnwood and what we can do support existing initiatives:** Something to think about in the meantime is the **Reverse Advent Calendar** which was suggested last Christmas. Instead of the traditional advent calendar, each day during Advent buy a tin of food or toiletries, put them in a box and then take the box to Joseph's Storehouse, at the Carpenter's Arms or bring them into St Mary's and your box will be taken to the food bank for you.

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

PARISH VOICE will be available next weekend after all Masses. Suggested donation £1 to cover printing costs.

L'BOROUGH UNIVERSITY – Carols around the fountain: 3rd December. See notice board.

ST MARY'S PARISH is warmly invited to attend Sacred Heart Catholic Academy's Reception class Nativity play on **Tuesday 4th December** at 1:45pm.

LEICESTERSHIRE ACTIVE CATHOLIC YOUTH (LACY): Advent Youth Mass: 16th December 2018. Details on our notice board.

MADONNA AND CHILD CHRISTMAS STAMPS are now available. Please insist on these as they are not always promoted by the post offices.

PLEASE PRAY for those who have recently died: Tom Mahon and Mario Sepede. **May they rest in Peace**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Michael Smith, Venancio Castillo Jr, Catherine Connolly, Sarah Gardem, Robert Di-Niro, Margaret Sheaf, Ernie Willet, Frank Shelton, Bill Flattley, Dorothy Fellows, Morgan Isherwood, Elizabeth Kendell, James Callan, and Cyril Dale,