

**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.

ADORATION AT ST MARY'S THIS COMING WEEK

Vespers and Benediction: Sunday 9th December 6pm.

Reconciliation Service with Exposition: Wednesday 12th December 7pm
and Saturday 15th December 10-11am.

FROM THE SAINTS: "The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny white Host" (*Venerable Archbishop Fulton J Sheen, 1895-1979*).

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*

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY: Pope St John Paul II began the tradition on the Third Sunday of Advent of inviting the children of Rome to bring their figure of the Baby Jesus from their family nativity scene to him for blessing. I will also do this at the end of the **11am Mass on Sunday 16th December**. It's a beautiful tradition and also a teachable moment for families on the true meaning of Advent. Adults may of course bring their Baby Jesus too! *Fr Paul*

NEW PROVINCIAL: The new Father Provincial for the Rosminians in England and New Zealand will be Fr Chris Fuse, a former Parish Priest of St Mary's. Please keep him in your prayers as he takes on this new role very shortly. No doubt we shall see him at St Mary's sometime in the near future.

LAST WEEK'S FINANCE

First collection: £ 728	Christmas Fair: £1,371
Standing Orders: £ 669 @ 31.10	Exaieo: £1,044
	<i>Thank you very much</i>



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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 9 December 2018

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Psalter week 2

God is Already Here and Among Us Now

Today's Gospel gives a precise historical time as to when Our Lord came into this world – "*In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign...*" So this is real history. What we are preparing for this Advent is not a myth. Our Lord came because He wanted to have a **personal relationship** with us and be involved in our lives. God doesn't just create us and then forget about us. He is always trying to guide us into a deeper relationship with Him.

One of the greatest proofs of this is His presence with us in the **Holy Eucharist**. At every Mass He becomes truly present under the appearance of bread and wine. It is at the **Consecration** of the Mass that Christ is literally **born again** into the hands of the priest. It is like another Christmas, another Bethlehem. God is truly among us now, and we bend our knee to Him in **adoration** just as the shepherds and the Magi did two thousand years ago.

Bishop Patrick, as part of his programme for the spiritual development of the diocese wants to foster more **Eucharistic Adoration** so that we can **encounter** Our Lord more deeply. In his recent Pastoral Letter he wrote, "*In particular I would like to see the development of times of Eucharistic Adoration in our parishes, schools and chaplaincies.*"

There is a beautiful story of a group of Catholics in Communist China who were imprisoned because they had protested at the arrest and imprisonment of their Bishop. They soon found themselves in prison right next to him. Every morning a small girl was permitted to visit and bring each prisoner a small loaf of bread, but wrapped inside each loaf in a small napkin was the Holy Eucharist so that they could receive **daily Communion**. But they would always leave one loaf uneaten each day and put it in the corner of the cell so that they could adore Our Lord and pray to Him in the **Blessed Sacrament**. So even during these times of Communist persecution of the Faith, Our Lord ensured He remained truly among His people and involved in their lives.

Let us resolve this Advent to make good use of the many opportunities we have for Eucharistic Adoration in our parish. Adoration, Benediction and Corpus Christi processions are not something 'old hat' or remnants from a past age. They are part of the very essence of our Faith and of what it means to be Catholic. In every Catholic church JESUS is physically present in the Blessed Sacrament. St Alphonsus Ligouri once said, "*The sovereigns of the earth do not always grant audience readily; on the contrary, the King of Heaven, hidden under the Eucharistic veils, is ready to receive anyone...*" "O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!"

Fr Paul Gillham IC

MASS TIMES AT ST MARY'S

Sat	8 th	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
		12.45am	Polish Mass
		4.00pm	Italian Mass
		6.00pm	Vespers and Benediction
Mon	10 th	9.15am	St Augustine and the martyrs of Lincolnshire
Tues	11 th	9.15am	St Damasus
Weds	12 th	9.15am	Advent Feria
		7.00pm	<i>Service of Reconciliation with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
Thurs	13 th	9.15am	St Lucy
Fri	14 th	9.15am	St John of the Cross
Sat	15 th	9.15am	Advent Feria
		10.00-11.00am	<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession</i>
		11.30am	<i>Baptism</i>
		5.30-5.55pm	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i>
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	16 th	<u>Third Sunday of Advent</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation (+ on request)</i>
		11.00am	Parish Mass
		3.00pm	Christingle Service. *Please note change of time*

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Tues	11 th	6.45-7.15pm	Rosary – Church
		7.30-8.30pm	NO Scripture & Tradition
Weds	12 th	7.30pm	UCM Christmas Dinner
Thurs	13 th	7.00pm	RCIA – Library
Sat	15 th	11.15am	Baptism Class – Side Chapel
		1.00pm-3.00pm	Polish Confessions – Church
		Evening	Christmas Party – Filipino Community - Hall
Sun	16 th	3.30pm-5.00pm	Christingle Party – Hall. Please bring £1 donation towards a small gift from Santa plus a small plate of food to share.

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.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE FOR ADVENT: This will take place next **Wednesday, 12th December** at 7pm in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. There will be an opportunity to make a personal Confession. Examinations of Conscience are available for you to take from the back of the church. These are very useful especially if you're not sure what you should say.

NATIVITIES AND OPEN DAY AT ST MARY'S SCHOOL: St Mary's school warmly welcomes St Mary's parishioners to the Reception Nativity at 9.30am on **Friday 14th December** and to the KS1 Nativity on **Wednesday 19th December** at 2.30pm in the school hall. We also invite you to an Open Day on **Tuesday 11th December**, with a brass and dance performance at 11am.. We do have places available in our Foundation class for this year and next and this would be an ideal opportunity to look round, if you have a child starting school or would like a place for your child in a Catholic school.

ADORATION (Preparation for Christmas): '*Adore, be silent and rejoice*' at the Convent, 19 Garton Road, **Monday 17th December**, 10.00-11.00am.

CTS BOOKS: There are some Advent and Christmas booklets available for you to buy from the CTS rack at the back of the church. It could provide some good spiritual reading leading up to Christmas.

ST JOSEPH'S STOREHOUSE: A big thank you for your recent donations to Joseph's Storehouse/Carpenters Arms. The team from both organisations, including some parishioners from St. Mary's, will be making the Christmas hampers on 17th Dec at Joseph's Storehouse. Please keep supporting this venture by donating Christmas treats: chocolates, Christmas crackers and all kinds of confectionary along with the usual staples. All are very welcome, and with demand increasing, are much appreciated. *Frank Fay and Jane Monaghan*

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

CHRISTMAS FAIR: A big thank you to all who organised, manned stalls and supported the Christmas Fair last Saturday and also to St Mary's School for their beautiful singing. It was an excellent effort and **£1,371** was raised. Well done!

EXAIREO: Thanks from Dettie and all at Exaireo for the great donation from parishioners last weekend. The money raised will pay for a Christmas lunch for residents as well as gifts for children, and more.

RIDE AND STRIDE: The Priests and parishioners would like to thank Alan Leafe for undertaking the recent Leicestershire Ride & Stride event and for raising **£200** for the Parish.

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

THREE LAY CHAPLAINS sought. Details on our notice board. **Closing date 19/12/18.**

PLEASE PRAY for those who have recently died: Mario Sepede. **May he rest in Peace**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Catherine Connolly, Donald Riste Clemerson, Arthur Makey, Christina Johnstone, Teresa Denton, James Slevin, Mavis MaGuire, Josephine Brown, Peter Davis, Vera Savage, Lawrence Rayburn, Teresa Crescenzo, David Hatley, Peter Stonehouse, Rev. Sr. Mary Dominic Thomas and Rev. Fr. Kit Cunningham.