

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.

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*

FROM THE SAINTS: There is nothing the devils flee from more – without returning – than Holy Water” (St Teresa of Avila, 1515-82).

SUNDAY VESPERS AND BENEDICTION:

Our monthly Sunday Vespers and Benediction before Easter will be on the following dates at **6pm: 13th January, 24th February, 10th March and 7th April.**

THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS: January is the month dedicated to the Holy Name of JESUS which means "God saves", and we celebrated the feast last Thursday. Our Lord Himself tells us the great power of His Name. *“Whatever you ask for in My name, I will do”* St Paul writes in his letter to the Phillippians, *“at the Name of JESUS every knee should bend.”* A good Catholic tradition is to bow your head at the name of JESUS. The priest is directed to do this at Mass. This is a beautiful way to honour the power of the Holy Name. Perhaps we could all resolve to bow our heads slightly at the name of JESUS from now on.

Fr Paul

ROSMINIAN ASCRIBED MEETING: Thursday 17th January, 7pm, at the Convent.

The next **Second Collection** will be on **Saturday 19th/Sunday 20th January 2019** for the NRC DT Sick/Retired Priests’ Fund.

LAST WEEK'S FINANCE

First Collection: **£ 784**

Standing Orders: **£ 665 @ 30.12**

Thank you



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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 13th January 2019
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - Psalter Week 1

Holy Water

Today is the Feast of the **Baptism of Our Lord** and so it seems fitting that we have the **Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling of Holy Water** at all Masses this weekend, something we don't see done very often. This takes place at the beginning of Mass.

St Thomas Aquinas (1225-74) teaches that it was when JESUS was baptised by John the Baptist in the River Jordan that He *sanctified the waters* that would be used for *our* Baptism. And so the priest, during the **Rite of Baptism** blesses the water that will be used for the administration of the Sacrament. Similarly, I regularly bless the Holy Water for the Holy Water stoops with which we make the **Sign of the Cross** each time we enter the church. This reminds us of our Baptism, and if used with faith also purifies us of **venial sin** as well as helping us to **resist temptation**. If we are guilty of **mortal sin** we must go to **Confession** as soon as possible. Holy Water, through a Priest, is blessed by God in virtue of Christ's Baptism. The Catholic Church possesses enormous power in being able to impart sacramental grace - and Holy Water as a **sacramental** receives its power through the prayer and authority of the Church.

Holy Water is mixed with **blessed salt**, and in addition, a priest uses Holy Water to bless places, people and things, such as Rosaries, statues and even cars. The Rite of Blessing Holy Water also contains **prayers of exorcism** to drive away demons and evil spirits and to give us grace, which is why Holy Water is used by Exorcists.

Holy Water sprinkled with faith can also obtain God's blessing and protection of dear ones living at a distance, as well as bringing relief to the **Holy Souls in Purgatory** if we sprinkle it with that intention. Simply sprinkle the water on the ground and say the prayer *“Eternal rest grant unto them/him/her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them/him/her. May they/he/she rest in peace. Amen.”* **St John Macias** (1585-1645), a great friend of the Souls in Purgatory, and known as the “Helper of the Poor Souls” would often sprinkle Holy Water on the ground for the spiritual benefit of the suffering souls.

I would encourage you all to keep and use Holy Water in your homes. There is a large container of Holy Water from which you can fill a bottle near the Sacred Heart Altar. Take some and use it to increase God's blessing and protection on yourselves and your families as well as helping the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	12 th	5.30-5.55pm	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request</i>
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	13 th	<u>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (FEAST)</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55	<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	14 th	9.15am	Feria
		11.00am	<i>Requiem Mass for Mattia Fornara RIP</i>
Tues	15 th	9.15am	Feria
Weds	16 th	9.15am	Feria
Thurs	17 th	9.15am	St Anthony, Abbot
Fri	18 th	9.15am	Feria
Sat	19 th	9.15am	Feria
		10.00-11.00	<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions</i>
		5.30-5.55pm	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request</i>
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	20 th	9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request</i>
		11.00am	Parish Mass

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Tues	15 th	6.45-7.15pm	Rosary – Church
Fri	18 th	1.30-3.30pm	Crochet – Hall
Sat	19 th	11.15am	Baptism Class - Library

PLEASE PRAY for those who have recently died: Margaret Woodhouse, Veronica Hammond Young, Mattia Fornara and Carmen Nunes **May they rest in peace**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Vittorio Festa, Bill Davey, Clarice Ryder, Annie Robinson, Emily Heath, Ian North, Paul Turner, Eamon Keating, William Hodgson, Albin Topolewski, Nora Cunningham, Baby Alan Offiler-Russell, Frank Church, Kathleen Gratland, Henry Reed, Bogdon Wozniak, Justina O'Donoghue, Mary Connell, Thomas Jones, Lucia Calardo, Marie Spencer, Rev Fr Joe Mullen and Rev Fr Eugene Monaghan.

VESPERS AND BENEDICTION for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord will take place this Sunday evening, **13th January** at 6pm.

THE CRIB: A reminder that this will remain in the church **until 2nd February** (Candlemas), forty days after Christmas, which is the traditional end of Christmastide. We did the same last year and it met with a favourable response. Candlemas commemorates both the Purification of Our Lady and the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple forty days after His birth. By Law, Mary had to wait forty days before presenting her newborn Child. *Fr Paul*

SINGING IN LATIN: Sometimes we sing the Ordinary of the Mass (ie, Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus Dei etc) in Latin, particularly at the 11am Mass. The Church has always encouraged this and it was even decreed by the Second Vatican Council. The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of Vatican II said, *“the use of the Latin language is to be preserved in the Latin rites”* (#36) and *“steps should be taken so that the faithful may also be able to say or to sing together in Latin those parts of the Ordinary of the Mass which pertain to them”* (#54). So this is why at some Masses we sing a little in Latin. And there is also a great joy and continuity in knowing that we are saying and singing the same things as many of the saints and early Fathers of the Church. People have expressed some interest at my suggestion of doing a couple of classes to familiarise people with the basic chants. I'll organise this soon. *Fr Paul*

SHARING OUR STORIES OF FAITH - a day for Catholic women, will be hosted at St Joseph's Church, Leicester, 10.30 to 4pm, on **Saturday 23rd February**. Organised by international women's network, Catholic Women Speak, the day will include opportunities to listen to women's experience of their faith, as well as sharing your own. Free of charge. Light lunch can be purchased onsite. For more information speak to Catherine Brady or email catherinemarybrady@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: A lot of prizes have not yet been claimed. Please check your tickets against the numbers listed at the back of church to see if you are a winner.

LOURDES 36th. ANNUAL. PILGRIMAGE: **Saturday 25th May to Saturday 1st June** Cost £475 which includes £133 deposit. Full Insurance. Full board in Lourdes. Coach and Ferry travel. Led by Fr. M Coleman SM. For further details and booking forms contact Vera Hurry on 01509 231282

ROSMINI CENTRE: **Friday 18th Jan 7-9 pm** *Healing Mass.* Fr Denis Labartette

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.