

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

VESPERS AND BENEDICTION: The next Sunday Vespers and Benediction scheduled for **Sunday 10th March** needs to be moved to **Sunday 24th March** due to the Rite of Election taking place at St Barnabas Cathedral on the First Sunday in Lent.

LENT: On **Wednesday 6th March** we begin Lent which is a day of **fasting and abstinence**. According to the Code of Canon Law, Catholics who are 18 years old and up, until their 59th birthday (when you begin your 60th year), are bound to fast (1 full meal and perhaps a little food at a couple of points during the day) on both **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**. Catholics who are 14 years old and older are bound to abstain from meat on **Ash Wednesday** and on **all Fridays of Lent**. In England and Wales this is actually the case for all Fridays throughout the year, according to the decree of our bishops, unless it is a Solemnity (a major feast). Masses with the blessing and distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday will be at 9.15am and 7.00pm. It is NOT a Holyday of Obligation. *Fr Paul*

PATRONAL FEAST: Our church is dedicated to St Mary of the Annunciation. Therefore we will have an extra Sung Mass on the Solemnity of the Annunciation on **Monday 25th March** at 7pm. Please do your best to be present.

SECOND COLLECTION FOR KWEDIBOMA: There will be a second collection at all Masses this weekend for the Health Centre at Kwediboma. Your donations will be used to help to build a new Maternity Ward. If you wish to **Gift Aid** your donation please use the **yellow Mission Fund envelopes** which can be found in various places at the back of the church. Thank you.

LAST WEEK'S FINANCE	
First Collection: £763	
Standing Orders: £665 @ 31.01	<i>Thank you</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 3rd March 2019
EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Psalter Week 4

More Scandal

We have been subjected to yet another week of terrible sex scandals concerning high ranking Catholic clergy in the news. Whenever sexual abuse of children takes place it is always horrific, but even worse when the perpetrators are priests or religious who are consecrated to God. Children must always be safe in our churches. Other recent stories have included the abuse of seminarians and also the raping of nuns. All of this is very saddening, as well as the many cover ups orchestrated by some members of the hierarchy and religious superiors over the decades to protect the Church's reputation, or to protect themselves or their friends who may also have been compromised, while others simply turned a blind eye. I read in an article this week that according to recent polls taken around the world, the Catholic Church is increasingly being seen as a force not for good in the world, but for evil. This is where we are at, and many are losing their faith and leaving the Church because of it. This must stop.

As always, our hearts go out to those victims of abuse who have had their lives ruined by these crimes of the clergy. Many of them never get over it and some have even taken their own lives as a result. We pray for them and their families. Let us pray also for the perpetrators themselves. While there are some who have shown remorse for their evil deeds, it seems many have not. Let us in the spirit of Christ pray that they will show some sign of repentance before they depart this life. Let us also pray that God will use these revelations to purify His Church of this evil once and for all so as the Church may again be a true beacon of light to the world.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

FROM THE SAINTS: "Who is going to save our Church? Not our bishops, not our priests and religious. It is up to you, the people. You have the minds, the eyes, and the ears to save the Church. Your mission is to see that your priests act like priests, your bishops act like bishops, and your religious act like religious." (*Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen, 1895-1979*)

MASS TIMES AT ST MARY'S

Sat	2 nd	5.30-5.55pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	3 rd	<u>Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request
		11.00am	Parish Mass
			<i>Confirmation of Michelle Ezeiruoma & Theo Ajuyah</i>
		12.45pm	Polish Mass
		4.00pm	Italian Mass
Mon	4 th	9.15am	St Casimir
Tues	5 th	9.15am	Feria
Weds	6 th	<u>Ash Wednesday</u>	
		9.15am	Whole School Mass
		1.00pm	Polish Mass
		7.00pm	Parish Mass
Thurs	7 th	9.15am	Lenten Feria
Fri	8 th	9.15am	Sts Felicity and Perpetua
		6.00pm	Sts Felicity and Perpetua
		6.30pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat	9 th	9.15am	St Frances of Rome
		10.00-11.00am	<i>Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions</i>
		5.30-5.55pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	10 th	9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request
		11.00am	Parish Mass

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Mon	4 th	1.30pm	History Group
Tues	5 th	6.45-7.15pm	Rosary – Church
Weds	6 th	2.00-4.00pm	Senior Citizens (Bingo) – Hall
Sat	9 th	10.00am	First Holy Communion Class (2) – Hall

This Sunday there will be a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Patrick, read at all Masses.

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.

GRUB CLUB made the front page of this month's Catholic News, which is available at the back of the church. There is a longer article on page 5. Well done to all involved. **Easter Grub Club will be on Monday, 15th and Tuesday 16th April.** Only one week as most state schools return the day after Easter Monday.

CONGRATULATIONS to Michelle Ezeiruoma and Theo Ajuyah who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at the 11am Mass this Sunday. Please keep them both in your prayers.

LENT READING: There are some spiritual books for your Lenten reading available from the Repository at the back of the church at very low cost. I encourage you all to take advantage of this to help you make a good Lent. *Fr Paul*

PRAYER VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED! Christian campaign group “**40 Days for Life**” will be running their 4th prayer campaign in Nottingham during Lent. The aim of their prayers is to bring an end to abortion. **The vigil is prayerful, peaceful, and non-judgmental.** You can sign up to pray with them between **Ash Wednesday (6th March) and Palm Sunday (14th April)** on webpage www.40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/Nottingham. Alternatively, email 40daysforlifennotts@gmail.com.

A DAY FOR WOMEN: Fifty women came from all over the country to St Joseph's, Leicester last Saturday for a day dedicated to listening to, and sharing women's stories. It was billed as 'Catholic Women Speak - Join the conversation'. In the morning we heard from a hospital chaplain, a retired head-teacher, a pastoral worker and the director for ongoing clergy formation in the Nottingham diocese (all speakers were women). In the afternoon women shared their own faith stories. There was a musical meditation and Father John joined us at the end to answer any questions. Connections were made and the feedback was very positive. If you would like to be kept informed of any future events please advise Catherine at catherinemarybrady@gmail.com.

DISCERNMENT WEEKEND FOR MEN AGED 30 TO 55: The Beda College in Rome is running a discernment weekend for men between the ages of 30 and 55 from **Friday 30th August to Sunday 1st September 2019**. It takes place at St Bueno's Spirituality Centre in North Wales. The weekend is hoping to reach men who are not already officially in touch with their diocese and is a first step for those who may be exploring the possibility of priestly vocation in later life. Information and registration forms can be obtained from: <http://www.pathwaystogod.org/courses-events-retreats/discernment-weekend-older-men>.

ROSMINI CENTRE: **Saturday 9th March**, 2.00 - 4.30 pm. Deacon David Knight, Lead Chaplain in Lincoln Hospital Trust - '**God in my life: Invitation, Mission and Gratitude**'. Please contact if you are coming: 01509 813078 or djtobinic@gmail.com.

PLEASE PRAY for those who have recently died: Teresa Ng. **May she rest in peace**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Lillian Sweeney, Ingeborg Cox, Nancy Hart, Antonio Giampalma, Ray Owens, Osyp Szczur, John Simpson, Maura Barton and John Saunders