



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

Assistant Priest: Fr Simon Giles. On attachment: Fr David Jones OLW

Newsletter for Sunday 1st December 2019

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Psalter Week 1

Wake Up, Your Salvation is Near

I wish you all a happy New Year, because the new Liturgical Year begins today, the First Sunday of Advent. We are now in Year A of the three-year Sunday cycle and we will be reading the Gospel of St Matthew.

The beginning of Advent is focused more on Our Lord's Second Coming than on His First Coming at Bethlehem and **being ready** is the key point. **St Paul** tells us in the Second Reading to "*wake up now, salvation is nearer than it was when we were converted*" (Romans 13:13). St Paul is alluding to the Second Coming of Christ when He will return on the clouds in glory to judge the living and the dead. The Scriptures always refer to the Second Coming as 'near' but is also clear that we don't know when it will be. Our Lord also says in the Gospels, "*No one knows the day or hour*" and gives various parables when the Master goes away; the servants behave badly and then the Master returns "*at an hour they do not expect.*" Therefore, St Paul tells the Romans they need to be prepared and live as sons of light and of the day, rather than as people of darkness. And St Paul even gives a list of sins which need to be overcome: drunkenness, orgies, promiscuity, jealousy. Sounds a bit like the world we live in today. So, in order to be ready, we have to clean up. And the Reading today ends with St Paul saying, "*Let your armour be the Lord JESUS Christ.*"

Our Lord Himself, in today's Gospel, tells His listeners that before the Great Flood people were completely unaware of what awaited them. Only Noah and his family were living godly lives. The rest were all asleep. Similarly, we do not know when our lives will end, so be ready, says Our Lord. Be always in a state of grace, awake, because we do not know when He will call us from this world. Our Lord is saying, "*Do not be like that man or that woman, who was not ready at the time of Noah when the flood came.*"

Advent is an excellent time to renew our preparations for Our Lord coming to town. What better way to do so than by making a good and honest Confession? The reason Our Lord came into the world was because it was shrouded in darkness. The message of Christmas is that the Light has prevailed and the darkness has not overcome it. So, as we head towards the celebration of the coming of the True Light, let us put behind us our sins and put on the only armour that will save us: Our Lord JESUS Christ.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

MASS TIMES AT ST MARY'S

Sat	30 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	1 st	<u>First Sunday of Advent</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		11.00am	Parish Mass
		2.15pm	<i>Baptism</i>
		4.00pm	Italian Mass
Mon	2 nd	9.15am	Advent Feria
Tues	3 rd	9.15am	St Francis Xavier
Weds	4 th	9.15am	St John Damascene
		7.00pm	Latin Mass (old rite)
Thurs	5 th	9.15am	Advent Feria
		11.00am	Year 4 Confessions
		7.00pm	<i>Holy Hour for Vocations</i>
Fri	6 th	9.15am	St Nicholas
			<i>First Friday</i> – For our Deceased Relatives and Friends
Sat	7 th	9.15am	St Ambrose
		10.00-11.00am	<i>Devotion of the Five First Saturdays: Sacrament of Reconciliation, Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration</i>
		5.30-5.55pm	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	8 th	<u>Second Sunday of Advent</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		11.00am	Parish Mass

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Sun	1 st	10.00-1.00pm	Christmas Fair – Parish and School Halls
Mon	2 nd	1.30pm	History Group – Parish Hall
Tues	3 rd	6.45-7.15pm	Holy Rosary – Church
		3.15pm-4.30pm	St Mary's Primary School Fair – School Hall

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

YEAR OF THE WORD - THE GOD WHO SPEAKS: 2020 is the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini, the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Benedict XVI on The Word of the Lord and it is also the 1,600th anniversary of the death of St Jerome, who said '*Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ*'. Free copies of St Matthew's Gospel are still available at the back of the church for you to take. On **Sunday 1st December**, today, 6pm, Bishop Patrick will celebrate Mass to officially begin the '*Year of the Word*' at **St Barnabas Cathedral**. Visit www.godwhospeaks.uk

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS: As Christmas approaches, Joseph's Storehouse (Loughborough Food Bank) is requesting donations for Christmas hampers. St Mary's has a long tradition of supporting this venture and once again your generosity is very much appreciated. There are posters at the back of the church listing suggestions for the hampers. **Can all donations be in church, please, by Monday 9th December** in readiness for the hampers to be made up on Friday 13th, and distributed during the week beginning the 16th. Please leave your contributions for the hampers in the Carpenter's Arms box which is situated at the back of church, underneath the blue display board on the left-hand side as you enter the church. Thank you. *Jane Monaghan*
Please note: the hampers are still being distributed even though the food bank will be closing from 19th December.

ROSMINI CENTRE: **Saturday 7th December**, 10.00am-4.30pm: **Advent Retreat** guided by Fr Tony Furlong – Mass, Meditation, Adoration, Sacrament of Reconciliation. Lunch provided. Booking essential (01509 813078) donation welcome.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR: You are invited to St Mary's School Christmas Fair on **Tuesday 3rd December** in the school hall. 3.15pm-4.30pm. Santa's grotto, games, raffle, stalls, food and much more.

LOUGHBOROUGH AMHERST SCHOOL SIXTH FORMERS are delighted to invite any senior citizens of the Parish to attend their annual Christmas Party at the school on **Wednesday 4th December** between 2pm and 4pm. For catering purposes please phone the school to let us know if you are attending: 01509 263901.

LOUGHBOROUGH AMHERST SCHOOL'S annual Christmas Fayre takes place from 10am to 2pm on **Saturday 7 December** in the School cloisters. The Fayre features 37 different stalls, games, musical entertainment, delicious refreshments, a raffle and a chance to visit Santa's grotto. All profits go to our School charity 'Following Felix'. We look forward to seeing you there.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE: This is a voluntary role which needs to be filled as soon as possible. You will be supported by the Diocesan Safeguarding Office and training will be provided. You will support Fr Paul to provide the safe recruitment of volunteers in the parish, and by verifying DBS applications to submit to the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory service. If you would like to know more or see a role description, please contact Sue Clarke on 01509 267248.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: baby William Middleton, baby William Beeby, Raymond Beasley, Giovanni Picciano, Ray Savage, Barnardo Messoro, Ann Eaton, Sarah Hollingsworth, Sarah Gardem, Robert Di-Niro, Raymond Frake, baby Stuart Freeman, Margaret Sheaf, Ernie Willett, Frank Shelton, Bill Flatley, Dorothy Fellows, baby Catherine Kenny, Andrea Feroulher and baby Morgan Isherwood.
and for those who have died: Ian Mclean and Alan Richardson. May they rest in peace

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: “This is the choice before us: either try to revolutionize the world and break under it or revolutionize ourselves and remake the world” (*Venerable, soon to be Blessed Archbishop Fulton Sheen, 1895-1979*).

DID YOU KNOW THAT? Advent has two parts. The first portion the First Sunday of Advent until 16th December is preparation for the Second Coming of Christ. The second portion from 17th – 24th December directly prepares us for the commemoration of the First Coming of Christ, Christmas.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS: This will be on **Thursday 5th December at 7pm.** Please come and pray with us for priestly and religious vocations which are so desperately needed in the Church and in our diocese today. Persistence in prayer produces results! Leaflets for vocations to the Rosminians are now at the back of the church. *Fr Paul*

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR ADVENT: *The Advent Reconciliation Service* will be on **Friday 13th December at 7pm.** *Christingle* service for children will be at **3pm** on **Sunday 15th December,** and the *parish Carol Service* will be on **Sunday 22nd December at 4.30pm.** As we did last year there will also be the blessing of figures of Baby Jesus for your cribs at home on the weekend of 14th/15th December known as Bambinelli Sunday.

A “TWILIGHT” RETREAT for Advent and Christmas to be held at St Joseph’s, Leicester, on **Wednesday 4th December,** in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel (entrance at side of church). The evening of prayer, talks, reflection and music is led by Fr John Daley IC and begins with prayer at 7.00pm concluding around 9.00pm with a hot drink. A £3 donation is asked towards expenses.

This weekend’s **second collection** is for the Exaireo Trust

LAST WEEK’S FINANCE	
First Collection: £ 1043	
Standing Orders: £ 667 @ 29/09	<i>Thank you</i>