



# St Mary's Catholic Church

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Served by the Rosminians: Fr Paul Gillham, Parish Priest

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## Newsletter for Sunday 24th November 2019

### CHRIST THE KING

### World Youth Day

Psalter Week 2

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## Christ is King and Lord of All

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of **Christ the King**. This is not just some sentimental feast for Catholics and neither is Catholicism just one religion among many who happens to have this man "Christ" as its head. **Christ is King of the whole universe**, the whole cosmos, both in the supernatural and in the natural order because He is God. And as such He is King and Lord of all and therefore has rights over all.

Now it's true that throughout recent centuries, in what was once Christendom, revolutionaries have removed Christ from His rightful Throne. Those determined to establish the **New World Order** have decided to build their kingdoms without Christ. Today, politics wants nothing to do with God. They refuse to enthrone Christ and so they reject His Bride which is the Catholic Church. They seek to tear Him out of society for good. Although some politicians may express religious belief in private, essentially we are atheistic. *They* define what is right and wrong and then try and impose it on us. **But civil society must acknowledge God and obey Him**, because it is in God's plan to bring the whole of humanity to Himself. This is why Christ came, so that we could be brought back to God through His Mystical Body which is the Catholic Church. And societies must acknowledge this and Christ's Kingship. By doing so, our *supernatural* end (Heaven) is acknowledged.

God also wills that Church and State, though they be distinct, are never to be divorced, but rather that they should *collaborate* to bring about Christ's reign on earth. This would be where the Ten Commandments, the Gospel and the natural law become the foundational guide of society and for legislators who write the moral law. But what we see in society today are the fruits of one that is now totally divorced from God, and we all suffer as a result with anti-Christian laws being passed which ultimately bring only misery.

Our task is to convert the world to Christ. That is the mission Our Lord gave to His Church. *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you"* (Matt 28:18-20). This is certainly very daunting, but with God all things are possible. After all, Christians converted pagan Rome in the past, so why not now? Therefore, let us begin with ourselves and by trying to rebuild a truly Catholic culture in our homes and families, and then this will flow out into society. *Long live Christ the King!*

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

### MASS TIMES AT ST MARY'S

<b>Sat</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	24 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>CHRIST THE KING (SOLEMNITY)</u></b>	
		<b>9.00am</b>	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		<b>11.00am</b>	Parish Mass
		4.00pm	Italian Mass
		<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Vespers and Benediction</b>
<b>Mon</b>	25 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	St Catherine of Alexandria
<b>Tues</b>	26 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Feria
<b>Weds</b>	27 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Feria
		7.00pm	<b>No Latin Mass</b>
<b>Thurs</b>	28 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Feria
<b>Fri</b>	29 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Feria
<b>Sat</b>	30 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	St Andrew, Apostle (Feast)
		10.00am-11.00am	<i>Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions</i>
		5.30-5.55pm	<i>Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions + on request</i>
		<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	<b><u>First Sunday of Advent</u></b>	
		<b>9.00am</b>	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		<b>11.00am</b>	Parish Mass

### THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

<b>Tues</b>	26 <sup>th</sup>	6.45-7.15pm	Holy Rosary - Church
<b>Weds</b>	27 <sup>th</sup>	2.00-4.00pm	Senior Citizens – Parish Hall
		7.30pm	UCM – Library
<b>Thurs</b>	28 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	RCIA – Library
<b>Sat</b>	30 <sup>th</sup>	11.00-2.00pm	Christmas Fair – Parish and School Halls

**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 MARY'S CHRISTMAS FAIR** will take place on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**, 11am-2pm. We would be very grateful for prizes for the tombola, bottles for the bottle stall, children's books, raffle prizes, jewellery, scarves, cakes and preserves, and any small new gifts for children. Donations can be handed in to the presbytery on Wednesday or Friday mornings. Thank you for your support.

*Events team*

**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 1<sup>st</sup> December**, 6pm, Bishop Patrick will celebrate Mass to officially begin the '*Year of the Word*' at **St Barnabas Cathedral**. Visit [www.godwhospeaks.uk](http://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 9<sup>th</sup> December** in readiness for the hampers to be made up on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, and distributed during the week beginning the 16<sup>th</sup>. 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*

**THE WEEKEND MASS ROTAS** covering the months **December 2019 to March 2020** are now available to collect from the back of the church.

**ROSMINI CENTRE:** **Saturday 30 November**, 3.00-4.30pm: **Lectio Divina**. **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.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**NEXT WEEKEND,** the First Sunday of Advent, there will be a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Patrick which will be read at all Masses.

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**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Aislabie Harrison, Gino Romano, Albert Barker, Alan Tinker, Doreen Antill, Frank Michalski, Claire Kelly, Geraldine Jackson, Lawrence Adkin, Michael Smith, Ester Lewis, Christine Harvey, Henry Ostrowski, Eric Beasley, Paul Atkin, Petro Coviello and baby Dominko Horvathova.

**and for those who have died:** Ian Mclean. May he 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.*

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**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:** “At the name of JESUS every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that JESUS Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (*St Paul to the Philippians 2:10-11*).

**DID YOU KNOW THAT?** The “Christ the King” statue in Poland is the largest statue of JESUS in the world. At 33 metres tall (one metre for each year of Our Lord’s earthly life), the Christ the King statue is 3 metres taller than the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

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**MASS FOR FR GENTILI:** Thank you to all who were able to attend the Mass last Thursday in our Cathedral to celebrate the mission of Fr Luigi Gentili, the first Rosminian in England and Parish Priest at St Mary's. The main body of the Cathedral was full and the Mass was beautifully celebrated by Bishop Patrick and about thirty other priests. Bishop John Arnold of Salford (who ordained me) preached a very moving sermon and tied in Fr Gentili with the recently canonised St John Henry Newman. Children from St Mary's School and Grace Dieu were also present. Thank you also to those who helped in the preparations. Let us pray that the grace of the occasion will inspire more Rosminian vocations. *Fr Paul*

**SPECIAL SERVICES FOR ADVENT:** The Advent Reconciliation Service will be on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December** at 7pm. Christingle service for children will be at 3pm on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 **14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> December** known as Bambinelli Sunday.

**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*

The next **second collection** will be on **1<sup>st</sup> December** for the Exaireo Trust

<b>LAST WEEK'S FINANCE</b>	
First Collection: <b>£ 769</b>	Philippines Earthquakes appeal: <b>£1007</b>
Standing Orders: <b>£ 667 @ 29/09</b>	<i>Thank you</i>