



# St Mary's Catholic Church

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Served by the Rosminians: Fr Paul Gillham, Parish Priest

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

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## Newsletter for Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Psalter week 2

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### England the 'Dowry of Mary'

This year on **Sunday 29th March**, the Sunday following the **Solemnity of the Annunciation**, the Bishops of England and Wales will re-dedicate our country as the '**Dowry of Mary**'. **King Richard II**, during a time of political unrest, sought Our Lady's protection and guidance for our country and dedicated England as her 'Dowry' in Westminster Abbey in 1381. This means by an act of the Monarch, we have Our Lady as special protectress because we belong to her. This dedication has never been revoked. There was clearly a great devotion to Our Lady here during those times and there are strong signs that this has not been lost. Thousands go every year on pilgrimage to Lourdes and Fatima, and more locally to our national shrine at **Walsingham**, which is one of the oldest shrines to Our Lady. There is also **Aylesford** in Kent where Our Lady appeared to **St Simon Stock** in 1251 and gave him the **Brown Scapular** which to this day is worn with faith and devotion the world over.

We are very blessed in having our parish dedicated to **Our Lady of the Annunciation**, and let us not forget we consecrated it to her **Immaculate Heart** in 2017, the centenary year of Fatima. Our Lady's intercession is very powerful with God, and **St Bernard** (1090-1153) tells us that it is the will of God that everything comes to us through her hands. It was through her '*fiat*', her 'yes' at the Annunciation that our Saviour was conceived in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit and was born into this world. We want to imitate that 'yes' in our own personal lives for her guidance to her Son and our protection under her.

In the run up to this re-dedication, let us have great confidence in Our Lady and pray fervently to her for our own spiritual renewal, as well as for the conversion of our country back to the true Faith. How wonderful it would be if England were Catholic again! All things are possible with God. **Cardinal Rafael Merry del Val** (1865-1930), a priest of the Diocese of Westminster and close friend and Secretariat of State to the great **Pope St Pius X** (1903-14) composed the following prayer which many of you will know for this intention:

*O Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our most gentle Queen and Mother, look down in mercy upon **England thy "Dowry"** and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee. By thee it was that **JESUS** our Saviour and our hope was given unto the world; and He has given thee to us that we might hope still more. Plead for us thy children, whom thou didst receive and accept at the foot of the cross. O sorrowful Mother! intercede for our separated brethren, that with us in the one true fold they may be united to the Chief Shepherd, the Vicar of thy Son. Pray for us all, dear Mother, that by faith fruitful in good works we may all deserve to see and praise God, together with thee, in our heavenly home. Amen.*

Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us!

*Fr Paul Gillham IC*

## MASS TIMES AT ST MARY'S

<b>Sat</b>	18 <sup>th</sup>	5.30-5.55pm	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass
		<b><u>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</u></b>	
<b>Sun</b>	19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>9.00am</b>	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		<b>11.00am</b>	Parish Mass
		4.00pm	<b>NO ITALIAN MASS **</b>
<b>Mon</b>	20 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	St Fabian
<b>Tues</b>	21 <sup>st</sup>	9.15am	St Agnes
		11.00am	<i>Requiem Mass (old rite) for Brian Smith RIP</i>
<b>Weds</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.15am	St Vincent
		4.30pm	<i>Reception of Dorothy (Bubbles) Boyce RIP</i>
		7.00pm	Latin Mass (old rite)
<b>Thurs</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.15am	Feria
		12.30pm	<i>Requiem Mass for Dorothy (Bubbles) Boyce RIP</i>
<b>Fri</b>	24 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	St Francis de Sales
<b>Sat</b>	25 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	The Conversion of St Paul (Feast)
		10.00-11.00am	<i>Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions</i>
		5.30-5.55pm	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	26 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</u></b>	
		<b>9.00am</b>	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		<b>11.00 am</b>	Parish Mass

## THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

<b>Mon</b>	20 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Catholic Social Action Meeting – Parish Hall
<b>Tues</b>	21 <sup>st</sup>	6.45-7.15pm	Holy Rosary – Church
<b>Weds</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	2.00-4.00pm	Senior Citizens – Parish Hall
		7.30pm	UCM (AGM) – Library
<b>Thurs</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.00pm	RCIA – Library

**PLEASE PRAY for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Lucia Calardo, Marie Spencer, Wanda Lapham, John Sharpe, Teresa Martin, Michael Doyle, Velia Cappasso, Helena Bock, Michael Fryer, Joseph Hall, Wanda Souraty, Nicholas Robottom, Rita George and Thomas Hunt

**WHITE FLOWER APPEAL:** SPUC (Society for the Protection of Unborn Children) exists to support life from conception to the grave with special emphasis on protecting children in the womb and helping parents in meaningful ways, to ensure dignity and hope in life no matter the circumstances of conception. In October 2019 the most extreme abortion law in Europe was imposed on Northern Ireland. Unborn babies can now be killed there for any reason. The abortion lobby wants to introduce the same into England and Wales. **Next weekend** there will be a collection to support the work of SPUC. Please bring an offering, if you can afford to. *Fr Paul*

**GETTING MARRIED?** If you wish to get married at St Mary's, you should give at least six months notice to the Parish Priest prior to the proposed wedding and should not make any other arrangements concerning the wedding until you have spoken to him. Any marriage involving a Catholic should be celebrated in their parish church. With the permission of the Parish Priest the marriage may take place in another parish. Any marriage involving a Catholic may only be celebrated in the Catholic Church unless a special dispensation is obtained from the Bishop. If you are Catholic and have been married outside of the Church, it may be possible to have the marriage convalidated. This means your civil marriage may be recognised by the Church. If you are in this situation please speak to me about it. *Fr Paul*

**PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE:** This is a voluntary role which **urgently needs to be filled**. Support will be provided for you by the Diocesan Safeguarding Office and training will be provided. Please ask to see a role description if you think this sounds interesting, or contact Sue Clarke on 01509 267248.

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION:** What can we do as a parish to address some of the problems facing our local community? Grub Club and more. Come and join us, 7pm in the parish hall, **20<sup>th</sup> January**.

**SALE OF HOMEMADE GOODIES:** After 9am and 11am Masses **today (Sunday)** – delicious cakes, jams, curds and pickles made by Marie Brookes. Proceeds will go to the Sick and Retired Priests' Fund.

**YEAR OF THE WORD: National Scripture Tour.** The Tour arrives in the Diocese of Nottingham on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020** at Holy Trinity Parish Centre Newark NG24 4AU between 10 am and 4.30 pm. Pete Codling, the artist for the year, will be showcasing his artwork so please do try and pop in during these times and take a look. Other Scripture tents to inspire us are; Mary and the Word, Seeing the Word, Exploring the Word, Sharing the Word, Living the Word. All Welcome, plus there will be a family competition to enter on the day.

**EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITY** available in a thriving coffee shop in the city centre. 6 Degrees Coffee House, run by the Open Hands Trust is seeking a new manager who will continue to build links with the local community and provide fantastic customer service. For full details and an application form please email [hazel.phillpot@openhandsleicester.org.uk](mailto:hazel.phillpot@openhandsleicester.org.uk).

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**PLEASE PRAY for those who have recently died:** Cathy Lingham, Brian Smith and Dorothy (Bubbles) Boyce. **May they rest in peace**

**and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Lucia Calardo, Marie Spencer, Wanda Lapham, John Sharpe, Teresa Martin, Michael Doyle, Velia Cappasso, Helena Bock, Michael Fryer, Joseph Hall, Wanda Souraty, Nicholas Robottom, Rita George and Thomas Hunt

## 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.*

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**FROM THE SAINTS:** "Happy is he who lives under the protection of the Blessed Virgin." (*St John Mary Vianney, 1786-1859.*)

**ITALIAN MASS:** The next Italian Mass will be on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January** at 4pm.

**NEWSLETTERS:** May we remind you to please send all newsletter items to **BOTH newsletter@stmarysloughborough.org.uk and office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk** to guarantee safe receipt, in case either Louise or Marion is away.

**ASCRIED MEETING:** **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020** at Rosmini House (Convent) 7pm.

**LOURDES SALE:** Weekend **8/9<sup>th</sup> February** after all Masses in the hall. A sale of cakes, bacon & sausage, fancy goods and bottle stall. We hope that you will support this good cause. The monies raised will go into the Lourdes Fund, so that if anyone wishes to go to Lourdes and can't afford the money then this fund is available. Just speak to Fr Paul and let him know your circumstances in strictest confidence! Donations of gifts or bottles can be left in the Parish Office.

*Bernie McEnery*

**KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA QUIZ:** 7.30pm **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February** at Sacred Heart church hall. Price: £6 (£3 for students), to include a wine and cheese supper. Proceeds will go towards the Knights' own funds, primarily for youth activities. Teams can be formed on the night. Please book in advance by contacting Will Holland on 07811 353 248; this helps with the catering.

**ROSMINI CENTRE:** **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January**, 3-4.30pm. An **afternoon of prayer**, devotions and "thinking about Scripture in my life," concluding with tea/coffee.

**THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND WORK** was unfortunately not finished last week due to the bad weather and therefore is still not available for parking this weekend. Sorry. *Fr Paul*

**This weekend's Second Collection** is for the Sick/Retired Priests' Fund NRCDT

**Next weekend's Second Collection** is for the White Flower Appeal

<b>LAST WEEK'S FINANCE</b>	
First Collection: <b>£ 866</b>	
Standing Orders: <b>£ 635 @ 30/11</b>	<i>Thank you</i>