



St Mary's Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 26th January 2020 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Psalter week 3

‘Sunday of the Word of God’

By decree of the Pope, this Sunday, the Third in Ordinary Time is to be observed as a day devoted especially to the **Word of God**. The whole of the Mass is permeated with the Word of God from start to finish, and so we Catholics probably know more Scripture than we think. The Jews read from the Scriptures in their synagogue, first from the **Law** (the first five books of the Old Testament) and then from the **Prophets** (Isaiah, Jeremiah etc) and these were interspersed with the singing of the Psalms. So then when the first Christians began to meet on Sundays to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection they continued with this custom and added readings from the **Apostles** and the **Evangelists** which is what we do to this day.

So at Mass, during the **Liturgy of the Word**, having first listened to an Old Testament Reading, a Psalm, and a Reading from the New Testament Letters, the great culmination is the proclamation of the **Gospel** where far greater solemnity is observed. At a Solemn Mass lighted candles are carried in procession, and the **Book of the Gospels** is incensed, because it is now Christ Himself speaking to us directly. The Gospel is given signs of **adoration** as the Priest or Deacon first bows to it and then incenses it three times, similar to if it were the Blessed Sacrament. This is because Christ, the Word of God is truly present when His Word is proclaimed to us in the Sacred Liturgy. We always stand for the Gospel to acknowledge His Presence and that it is He Who is speaking to us. At the end of the Gospel reading, the Priest or Deacon kisses the text that has been read saying in a low voice, *“Through the words of the Gospel may our sins be wiped away.”* This kiss is to ask pardon for all the offences we have made against the Word and it is also an act of thanksgiving.

So we give thanks to God for His Word in Sacred Scripture. In addition to hearing the Scriptures at Mass, the Church urges all of us to read the Scriptures privately as well, to help us better know JESUS Christ. The Scriptures really are God speaking to you! St Jerome (347-420) famously remarked, *“Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.”* Every Catholic home should have a Bible for reading and prayer. But it is important for us to always read the Bible in context, within the Tradition of the Church and in accordance with the Truths of the Faith which God has revealed to us.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

MASS TIMES AT ST MARY'S

Sat	25 th	5.30-5.55pm	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	26 th	<u>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		11.00am	Parish Mass
		4.00pm	Italian Mass
Mon	27 th	9.15am	St Angela Merici
Tues	28 th	9.15am	St Thomas Aquinas
Weds	29 th	9.15am	Feria
		7.00pm	Latin Mass (old rite)
Thurs	30 th	9.15am	Feria
		7.00pm	<i>Holy Hour for Vocations</i>
Fri	31 st	9.15am	Parish & <i>Whole School Mass</i> with <i>Blessing of Candles</i>
Sat	1 st	9.15am	Saturday Mass of Our Lady
		10.00-11.00am	<i>Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions and Devotion of the Five First Saturdays</i>
		5.30-5.55pm	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass followed by blessing of the throats
Sun	2 nd	<u>THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD – CANDLEMAS (FEAST)</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass followed by blessing of the throats
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		11.00 am	Parish Mass followed by blessing of the throats

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Tues 28th 6.45-7.15pm Holy Rosary – Church

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

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. **This weekend** there will be a collection to support the work of SPUC. Please bring an offering, if you can afford to.

Fr Paul

SALE OF HOMEMADE CAKES, PICKLES ETC : Marie Brookes would like to thank everyone who supported her sale of homemade cakes, jams & pickles etc last weekend. The amount raised for the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund came to **£82.00**.

J.S. BACH - ST JOHN PASSION: Join Bishop Patrick in this Year of the Word event on **Saturday 7th March** beginning at 7.45 pm: "Experience the spiritual and artistic grandeur of Bach's great reading of Christ's passion in St Barnabas Cathedral". Tickets: £16, £12, £10 available online from www.nottinghamcathedralmusic.com or Nottingham Tourism Centre underneath the Council House. More information on our notice board at the back of the Church.

ANOTHER DAY FOR CATHOLIC WOMEN: One Faith: Different Cultures. Saturday 29th February, 10.30 am – 4.00 pm, at St Joseph's, Leicester LE5 6RA. As with our previous events, speakers share their experience, understandings and vision for our Catholic Church. The women on 29th February are representative of the diverse cultures that make up our universal Church. The morning opens with prayer followed by interviews and concludes with a music meditation. After lunch there are small group discussions inspired by the issues raised during the morning session. The day is open to all women who identify as Catholic, whether or not actively involved in parish life. We also welcome those who no longer practise their faith. No charge for the day. Lunch (soup, rolls, cakes, etc.) available at £3.50. To book a place telephone 0116 2207881 or email Alison.CWS@outlook.com or catherinemarybrady@gmail.com.

THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY would like to thank Fr Paul and the whole parish for their generous support for the recent second collection for the victims of earthquakes in the Philippines. **£1027** was raised, which has been sent to help those who have lost their homes and livelihoods. In addition, Alicia Mullins would like to say thank you to the Filipino community in Loughborough and Castle Donington for supporting her charity. This has raised an additional **£500** to add to the collection from the parish.

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

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: baby William Law, baby Jonathan Collins, John Allcock, Mary Oliver, Eddie Bak, Bob Harlow, Luisa Zenton, Dennis Thurland, Louisa West, baby Bethany Wilson, Esther Garrett, Jude Jones, baby Joan Onions, Florence Allen, baby Michael Ruddy, Lisa Thomas, Muriel Lewin, John Parker, Mary Embleton, Christina O'Sullivan, Matthew Galvin, Irene Harlow, Bernard Hudson, Giuseppina Russo, Pat Lavery, Ronald Elliott, Rose Keeping and Tony Benincasa.

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: “When you read the Bible, God speaks to you; when you pray, you speak to God” (*St Augustine of Hippo, 354-430*).

DID YOU KNOW THAT? A Catholic Bible has 73 books whereas a non-Catholic Bible has only 66.

YEAR OF THE WORD 2020: Fine Artist Sheila Riste Clemerson (aka Leafe) will, along with another artist, be showcasing her Scripturally-based work at Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Newark NG24 4AU on **Saturday 22nd February**, 10.00am-4.30pm. This is part of the *National Scripture Tour*. Sheila will be available throughout the day to discuss her work.

LOURDES SALE: Weekend of **8/9th February** after all Masses in the hall. A sale of cakes, bacon & sausage sandwiches/cobs, fancy goods and a 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 1st 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.

PLEASE NOTE there will be no 9.15am Mass on **Thursday 6th February** as all the priests are engaged in meetings that day.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS will be **this Thursday** at 7pm. Please come if you can.

This weekend's Second Collection is for the White Flower Appeal

Next weekend's Second Collection is for the Kwediboma Mission

LAST WEEK'S FINANCE

First Collection: **£ 838**

Sick & Retired Priests' Fund: **£413**

Standing Orders: **£ 635 @ 30/11**

Thank you