



## St Mary's Catholic Church

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### Newsletter for Sunday 23rd February 2020

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Psalter week 3

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## Getting Ready for Lent

**Lent** is almost upon us. Wednesday this week is **Ash Wednesday**. In the traditional Roman calendar (before Vatican II) we are given three weeks to prepare for Lent in what is known as the period of **Septuagesima** - Latin for the seventieth day before Easter. As in Lent purple vestments are worn and the Gloria and Alleluia are not said, but flowers are still permitted in the church and the organ is still played. The Sundays which follow are *Sexagesima* (sixtieth) and *Quinquagesima* (fiftieth), and Ash Wednesday is called *Quadragesima*, (fortieth). So today would be **Quinquagesima Sunday**. The arithmetic is not exact – it's more symbolic, but it gives us more time to prepare for Lent. In the modern calendar this period doesn't exist which is a great pity, because Lent just suddenly comes upon us and we can easily be unprepared. So let's all think about Lent now!

An important question to ask ourselves is “**what is the state of my spiritual life?**” Yes, I come to Mass on Sundays - but when I return home, am I only concerned with worldly things? Does my faith gradually take a back seat throughout the week because of my cares for the world, like watching too much TV or using the internet or Twitter too much? Sometimes families can have so many activities, clubs, sports, entertainments, that there's no time for prayer or anything spiritual at home. If that's the case, perhaps some of these activities need to be reduced? Try to come together each day as a family for prayer. “*The family that prays together stays together.*” Or if you are retired you might be able to attend Mass in the week or come to Holy Hour on a Saturday morning?

The Church also recommends we give something up during Lent. It could be something small, like not taking milk in your coffee or giving up condiments on food. These small things can be quite difficult to sustain, but can be very beneficial to your spiritual life. Or perhaps you could give more time to helping the needy? This might include almsgiving. But don't try doing too many things as it may result in your giving them all up in exasperation!

So we have just over a couple of days left. Decide now what you are going to do and **write down what you decide**. It will help you stick to it. Otherwise you could end up saying, “Oh dear, it's too late now. I'll leave it till next year.” Don't let that happen. For any of us, this could be our last Lent on this earth. Make the most of it!

*Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

## MASS TIMES AT ST MARY'S

<b>Sat</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	5.30-5.55pm	Confessions + on request
		<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b><u>SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</u></b>	
		<b>9.00am</b>	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	Confessions + on request
		<b>11.00am</b>	Parish Mass
		4.00pm	Italian Mass
<b>Mon</b>	24 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Feria
<b>Tues</b>	25 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Feria
<b>Weds</b>	26 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>ASH WEDNESDAY – Day of Fasting and Abstinence</u></b>	
		9.15am	Parish and Whole School Mass with <b> blessing and distribution of ashes.</b>
		7.00pm	Mass with <b> blessing and distribution of ashes</b>
<b>Thurs</b>	27 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Sts Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line & Margaret Ward
<b>Fri</b>	28 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Lenten Feria
		6.00pm	Lenten Feria
		<b>6.30pm</b>	<i>Stations of the Cross</i> (following 6.00pm Mass)
<b>Sat</b>	29 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Lenten Feria
		10.00-11.00am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions
		5.30-5.55pm	Confessions + on request
		<b>6.00pm</b>	Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	<b><u>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</u></b>	
		<b>9.00am</b>	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	Confessions + on request
		<b>11.00am</b>	Parish Mass

## THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

<b>Tues</b>	25 <sup>th</sup>	5.00-7.00pm	Confirmation Class – Hall
		6.45-7.15pm	Holy Rosary – Church
<b>Sat</b>	29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	First Holy Communion Class – 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.**

Next **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February** we begin **Lent** which is a day of **fasting and abstinence**. 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 throughout the year unless it is a Solemnity (a major feast). This is by decree of our Bishops. Masses with the blessing and distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday will be at 9.15am and 7pm. It is NOT a Holyday of Obligation.

*Fr Paul*

**MANY THANKS** to everyone who contributed to the Lourdes Sale last weekend. The amount raised was **£303.50**, which was fantastic considering the number of people who gave us their support - the weather was shocking and numbers at Masses were down.

*Bernie*

**AT GRUB CLUB THIS WEEK** we fed 100+ children and family members. There was a good buzz in the room as the children enjoyed the many activities on offer. Two years on we have got to know many of the children and their families and hope to start to involve them more in the operation. Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Raquel Neves who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at 11am Mass this Sunday. Please keep her in your prayers.

**YEAR OF THE WORD:** There will be a series of talks on **Wednesdays in Lent** on St Matthew's Gospel at *Sacred Heart Church*, Loughborough at 7pm. The speaker will be Fr Joe O'Hanlon, a priest of Nottingham diocese who is a renowned Scripture scholar. All are welcome.

**FRIDAYS IN LENT:** Every Friday in Lent, in addition to the Mass at 9.15am, there will be a **6pm Mass** followed by **Stations of the Cross at 6.30pm**. A Plenary Indulgence may be gained by making the Stations which you may apply to yourself or to the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

*Fr Paul*

**PARISH HALL KITCHEN: UPDATE:** As you know, when we issued a questionnaire in December, parishioners voted overwhelmingly for the proposal to extend the parish hall to provide for a kitchen. What we are looking for is a modest extension that will allow us to prepare hot meals and drinks, with the usual kitchen equipment and some storage space – what you would expect in most church halls these days. (Those of you who attended last Friday's social event will have seen how much people enjoyed coming together). The proposal, accompanied by initial draft plans, went to Father Paul and the Parish Finance Committee, who agreed to it in principle. But this is only the first step. A longer detailed proposal must now go to the diocesan planning office in the next week. It may not be a quick decision and we may have hurdles to climb before we get (we hope) acceptance to the plan. When we are a bit further on, we will come back to the Parish with plans, costs, timeframes, a fund-raising strategy and to hear your views. It's an exciting time and we do need your support! We have waited a long time to get to this stage. Bear with us; we will keep you in the loop.

*Bernie and the Events Team*

**PLEASE PRAY for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Eric Glenever, Pat Murphy, Paul Want, Les Prentice, Barbara Herbert, Audrey Wilbram, Stephen Scott, Carmella Lallo, Valerie Roberts, Linus Linkevicius, baby James Walsh, baby Mary Manton, baby Michael Walton, Michael Warliture, Jan Wisniewski, baby Nora Ganley, Alfred Antill, Margaret Jackson and Vivienne Ashleigh.

**and for those who have recently died:** Canon Colin Taylor and Narina Crowson. **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.*

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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:** “Worldly people say it is too difficult to save one’s soul. Yet nothing is easier. To observe the Commandments of God and the Church and to do good and avoid evil; that is all.” (*St John Vianney, 1786-1859*)

**CORONAVIRUS:** With more cases of the virus now being reported in the UK, it would seem prudent for the time being at Mass to omit the sign of peace and the chalice for the congregation at Communion. Once we get the all clear we can restore them. *Fr Paul*

**ANOTHER DAY FOR CATHOLIC WOMEN: One Faith: Different Cultures. Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February, 10.30am – 4.00pm, 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 **29<sup>th</sup> 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, email Alison.CWS@outlook.com or catherinemarybrady@gmail.com or call 0116 2207881.

**PARISHIONER** needs help with shopping and lifts from time to time. If you can help, please speak to Fr Paul.

**ACCOMMODATION SOUGHT** by 40-year-old man who has his own gardening business. A former student at De Lisle currently living in Coalville, he is looking to move to Loughborough. If you can help, please call the office or email office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk.

**OUTSIDE THE WALLS – DOCUMENTARY, MOUNT ST BERNARD ABBEY:** Please look at our notice board to see where and when this is being shown.

**EASTER PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE: 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020.** Please see notice board.

<b>LAST WEEK'S FINANCE</b>	
First Collection: £ 671	
Standing Orders: £ 635 @ 31/12	<i>Thank you</i>