



St Mary of the Annunciation 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 OLV

Newsletter for Sunday 22nd March 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – LAETARE SUNDAY

We are living in unprecedented times where we are being told to isolate ourselves from other people and discouraged from having any social contact. The schools are also closing for an unspecified period. These measures are important to help contain the spread of the Coronavirus as it is possible to have the virus for several days without knowing it, and so if we are going out and about as normal, we could unwittingly infect others. Hence the need to only have *necessary* contact. In the parish we are seeking to ensure that the vulnerable and needy are being looked after. I know some of you are doing shopping and collecting medication for others. The Social Action Group are also seeking to help the needy.

Regarding public worship at St Mary's, due to the extraordinary nature of the times we have to take extraordinary measures. So the situation is as follows:

1. **Sunday and Daily Mass**

The Bishops of England and Wales have decreed that from this Friday evening 20th March, **there will be no public Masses until further notice**. Therefore, for the time being, everyone is dispensed from the obligation of attending Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation, but you should observe the Lord's Day at home in other ways. The priests will continue to offer daily Mass in private, so if you have any intentions for Mass, please let us know in the normal way by putting an envelope through the door of the house. The church, in so far as is possible, will remain open throughout the day for private prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. It is also possible to watch Mass on TV or the internet. See the parish website for details.

2. **Confessions**

Confessions will continue as normal at the scheduled times and on request. ALL confessions will be in the Confessional with the curtain kept drawn.

3. **Anointing of the Sick and Extreme Unction**

This Sacrament will be available on request.

4. **First Holy Communion and Confirmation**

These are postponed for the time being until public worship has been resumed and it is safe for people to congregate together again.

Since the public celebration of Mass is not possible for the time being, please do pray at home, and I would recommend making a **Spiritual Communion** which I wrote about in last week's newsletter. I also strongly encourage you to say the **Rosary** which Our Lady always requests at her many apparitions throughout the world and beg God to end this epidemic. The Rosary is a very powerful prayer. The **Readings and Prayers for Sunday Mass** will be posted each week on the parish website for you to read through and meditate on. *(Continued on page 3)*

LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sat	21 st	5.30-5.55pm	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass for Fourth Sunday of Lent
Sun	22 nd	9.00am	Fourth Sunday of Lent – Laetare Sunday
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		11.00am	Fourth Sunday of Lent – Laetare Sunday
		6.00pm	Vespers and Benediction
Mon	23 rd	9.15am	Saint Turibius of Mongrovejo, bishop
Tues	24 th	9.15am	Lenten Feria
Weds	25 th	9.15am	The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)
		7.00pm	
Thurs	26 th	9.15am	Lenten Feria
Fri	27 th	9.15am	Lenten Feria
		6.00pm	Lenten Feria
Sat	28 th	9.15am	Lenten Feria
		10.00-11.00am	<i>Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions</i>
		5.30-5.55pm	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass for Fifth Sunday of Lent
Sun	29 th	9.00am	Fifth Sunday of Lent
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		11.00am	Fifth Sunday of Lent

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.

THE ANNUNCIATION: Wednesday is the Solemnity of the Annunciation and our Patronal Feast. I will remember you all in a special way at Mass that day.

MASS INTENTIONS: Although the times of Masses have been left on the weekly calendar, the priests will not necessarily offer Mass at those specific times, but the Masses will all be celebrated for the particular intentions on the days advertised.

PLEASE PRAY for those who are sick: Zita Roscoe, Stephen Hallam, Fay Smith, Jennifer Shaw, Renata Maderna, Libby Concannon, Rosina Matthews, Nelfa Apura, Rosario Salvador, Alan Leafe, Liz Chalmers, Benedict Brooks, Sarah Gallagher, Ray Wainwright, Ian Yeoman, Ruth Beart, Teresa Jennings, Frances Ebong, Teresa Alsey, Vera Hurry, John Marples, John Feeney, Dale & Barbara Morrison, Anu Awotula, Valentino Castillo Snr, Leonardo Lopez Wain, Teresa Frankow, Margaret Barson, Ethel Dale, Andrew Belton, Tendai Mufute, baby Leo, Jim Moreland, Hazel, Frank Chatonda, Rosinah, Lee and Louise Raven, Kevin and Olive Chapman, Vera Cunningham, Crispin Castillo, Christina Mortell, Clelia Paciolla, Danilo Salvador, Christopher Browne, David & Claire Potter, Jamie, Mark, Stephen Coultas, Jane Moss, Eddie Hamilton, Hannah Bechler, Val Wells, Alan & Judith Creighton and Barbara Watkins.

(Continued from front page)

Holy Water is a powerful sacramental of the Church. You can sprinkle it in your homes and bless yourselves with it. As you know we've had to remove it from the stoups, but you may still take some home with you. Bring a bottle and fill it up from the urn by the statue of St Padre Pio on the right-hand aisle of the church. Consider some of the words of the prayers of blessing of Holy Water:

*May this, your creature [water], become an agent of divine grace in the service of your mysteries, to drive away evil spirits and **dispel sickness**, so that everything in the homes and other buildings of the faithful that is sprinkled with this water, **may be rid of all uncleanness and freed from every harm. Let no breath of infection and no disease-bearing air remain in these places.***

And it continues: *Let whatever might menace the safety and peace of those who live here be put to flight by the sprinkling of this water, so that **the health obtained by calling upon your holy name, may be made secure against all attack.***

Powerful stuff!

At present we are awaiting more information from the Bishops on Holy Week and I will let you know as soon as I hear anything. Please keep an eye on the parish website. No doubt many of you are anxious. This crisis will come to an end and normal services will eventually resume at St Mary's. In the meantime, pray and try not to panic. On this Solemnity of St Joseph, the Guardian of the Holy Family, let us ask him, together with Our Lord and Our Lady, to protect us and keep us safe just as he did the Holy Family.

May God bless you all.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

CORONAVIRUS AND STAYING IN TOUCH: During this difficult period, we will be keeping in touch with you and informing you of anything we think might be of help to you in two ways:

1. Through the Parish website – www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk. Here, among other things, you will be able to read the weekly newsletter (you can also sign up to receive it automatically every week) and access the Sunday Mass readings and prayers.
2. A Facebook support group that you can join and through which you can interact with other parishioners. Obviously to join the group you will need to have a Facebook account. A link to the group will be available on the Parish website.

ALL MEETINGS in the Parish are cancelled until further notice.

THE LOURDES MARIST PILGRIMAGE in May organised by Vera Hurry has had to be postponed but will hopefully be rescheduled for later this year.

GRUB CLUB will not operate at Easter. However, families needing extra support will receive Tesco vouchers each week as long as we can sustain it. We are working with Charnwood Poverty Action Group to coordinate our relief efforts with other agencies.

Please pray for those who have recently died. Veronica Bailey and Ray Wainwright. **May they rest in peace.**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Claire Coburn, Stefania Mszyca, baby Chelsia McCubbin-Magee, John Kilyon, baby Marjorie Brewin, baby Frederick Woodhouse, baby Glenys Palfreyman, Fay Walton, Dorothy Schepens, William Almond, Joan Hodgson, Olga Maker, Antony Askew, Richard Allan, Arthur Clarke, Yvonne Dyson, Barry Clarkeson, Barry Upton, Maria DiGirolano and Raymond Johnson.

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.*

PRAYER TO OUR LADY AGAINST DISEASE

Priest: The Star of Heaven that nourished the Lord drove away the plague of death which the first parents of man brought into the world. That very Star is now worthy to encompass the world, whose wars cut down the people with the sore of dreaded death.

All: **O glorious Star of the Sea, preserve us from pestilence; hear us, O Lady, for Thy Son honours Thee by denying Thee nothing. Save us, O Jesus, for whom Thy Virgin Mother supplicates Thee.**

A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION is an earnest desire to receive Holy Communion when you are unable to. St Padre Pio, even though he celebrated Mass every day also had the habit of making a spiritual communion a number of times throughout the day. Here is a form used by him and many other saints: **My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to possess You within my soul. Since I am unable at this moment to receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.**

REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND AS THE DOWRY OF MARY: This will still go ahead next **Sunday 29th March**. I will make the Act of Entrustment of England to Mary even though there will be no congregation present. It is also meant to be a personal dedication, where each of us can turn to Our Lady in this time of crisis. I would invite you all to join me in making the dedication next Sunday. You can download the Rededication Prayers from <http://www.behold2020.com>

LAST WEEK'S FINANCE	
First Collection: £ 562	CAFOD: £582 of which £251 was Gift Aided
Standing Orders: £ 659 @ 29/02	<i>Thank you</i>