



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 29th March 2020

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Psalter Week 1

Rededicating England to Mary

The day of Rededication of England as the ‘**Dowry of Mary**’ has finally arrived, but none of us expected it would take place under these conditions. We were going to have a big ceremony with a procession, but now it will have to be made privately and individually. This in itself is not a disaster because we are all being asked to dedicate ourselves *as individuals* to Mary. We want her as our advocate. There is an old joke about JESUS being troubled when He saw a lot of souls in Heaven He didn’t recognise. So He went to St Peter (the holder of the keys) and asked how all these people were getting in, to which Peter replied, “Lord, it’s Your Mother keeps who keeps letting them in through the window!” So we want Mary as our intercessor. She is the Help of Christians and also the Refuge of Sinners. Many of the saints have said no client of Mary will ever be lost.

The first dedication of our country to Mary was made by **King Richard II** in 1381 in Westminster Abbey. He was seeking her protection of England amidst political turmoil, and it was at this point England was placed under Our Lady’s guidance and protection and became known as the ‘Dowry of Mary’. The dedication coincided with the growth of the Shrine of **Our Lady of Walsingham** into one of the four great pilgrimage destinations of Medieval Europe. Although destroyed by **Henry VIII**, the shrine was re-established in the 19th Century, and the English bishops decided in 2017 that a rededication was desirable given the rapid de-Christianisation of the country.

So I invite you all to join with me at **11am this Sunday** in making the dedication, so as we can be truly united as a Parish in this act. The text is included with this newsletter. Mary is the Patron of our Parish and you may remember one of my first acts as Parish Priest was to consecrate the Parish to her Immaculate Heart on the centenary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima on 13th October 2017. You will find the text of Rededication on the parish website and there is also a copy included with this newsletter.

May God bless you all and may Our Lady guard us and protect us. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sat	28 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	29 th	<u>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		11.00am	Parish Maass
Mon	30 th	9.15am	Lenten Feria
Tues	31 st	9.15am	Lenten Feria
Weds	1 st	9.15am	Lenten Feria
		7.00pm	Holy Hour for Vocations
Thurs	2 nd	9.15am	St Francis of Paola
Fri	3 rd	9.15am	Lenten Feria, Hermit
		6.00pm	For our deceased relatives and friends
Sat	4 th	9.15am	St Isidore, Bishop
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	5 th	<u>PALM SUNDAY</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		11.00am	Parish Mass

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.

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.

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

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Joseph Allcock, Ellen Moore, Thomas Walsh, Beryl Flatley, Salvatore Chiamonte, Josephine Cavanagh, Lewis Holders, Marcello Carecci, Nigel Ainsworth, Terry Sweeney, Rita Preston, Scott Dominy, Jamie Burdett, Matthew O'Flynn (Jr), Paula Minkley and Edward Connell

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. **The Parish website – www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk.** Here you can sign up to receive the newsletter by email every week and access the Sunday Mass readings and prayers. The home page will keep you updated with links to News posts and other helpful information.
2. **A private Facebook support group (St Marys Community Support)** that you can join and through which you can interact with other parishioners and offer each other support. To join the group you will need to have a Facebook account. A link to the group is available on the Parish website.

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

SUPPORT FOR THE VULNERABLE: Charnwood Council are working with John Storer Charnwood and have set up ‘Charnwood Community Action’ as an umbrella organisation to ensure there is a coordinated approach to supporting the most vulnerable in our communities. You can support by:

1. Encouraging volunteers to register online by visiting www.johnstorercharnwood.org.uk. To volunteer to support with food for those experiencing hardship please email clare.fillingham@thebridge-eastmidlands.org.uk before 9.30am on Friday with your availability each week;
2. Letting them know if you are aware of vulnerable adults that may need additional support/essential items and/or food parcels etc by calling 01509 631750.
3. Informing them of any initiatives/projects providing/distributing food in Charnwood to the most vulnerable by emailing VCSupport@charnwood.gov.uk.
4. Keeping up to date with all that is happening at www.johnstorercharnwood.org.uk.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS: All food bank donations in Loughborough are currently being coordinated by John Storer House, Wards End, Loughborough LE11. In-date food can be taken to John Storer House, Monday-Friday, between 9am and 3pm. Please ring the doorbell to make sure there is someone to take the food in before leaving.

SUPPORT FOR ST MARY'S: It is not possible, for the time being, for parishioners to support St Mary's through the weekly offertory, although the costs associated in maintaining the Church and the Priests remain. I would like to ask all parishioners, who have previously provided their support in this way, to consider setting up a monthly standing order to St Mary's. If you would like to do this, please email office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk and ask for the Parish account details to be sent to you. Alternatively, donations can be made (through PayPal) from ‘Donate’ page on the parish website or by cheque made out to St Mary's RCP. Thank you.

Fr Paul

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.

FROM THE SAINTS: “As sailors are guided by a star to the port, so Christians are guided to Heaven by Mary” (*St Thomas Aquinas, 1225-1274*).

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.**

DON'T FORGET

**PLEASE KEEP CHECKING THE PARISH WEBSITE
DURING THE WEEK FOR UPDATES FROM ST MARY'S**

www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk