



# St Mary of the Annunciation 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 OLV

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## Newsletter for Sunday 26th April 2020

### THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Psalter Week 3

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## This is the Mass

This Sunday's Gospel gives the very well-known story of Christ appearing to two of His disciples on the road to **Emmaus**. We read the same Gospel on Wednesday of Easter Week and I wrote a letter to you about it which is on the parish website. But there is another aspect to this story which can easily go un-noticed. It gives us the Mass in seminal form.

Towards the end of this Gospel, Cleopas and the other disciple ask the Lord, whom they have still not recognised, to stay with them. Our Lord agrees, and as they sit down to eat, He re-enacts exactly what He had done a few days earlier at the Last Supper, and they recognised Him in **'the breaking of the bread'**. But then He disappeared. Of course, Our Lord *is* going to stay with them but in a different way – not in His earthly body but under the appearance of bread and wine in the Holy Eucharist. His resurrected and glorified body is no longer limited to being in one place at a time, neither is it bound by space or time. So now He can be in Rome, London, Paris, Jerusalem, Nottingham and Loughborough all at the same time.

It's interesting to note in this Gospel how first of all when the disciples are troubled, Our Lord reads the Scriptures (the Old Testament) to them and explains how **He** is the fulfilment of them. Many throughout the ages have claimed to be sent by God, but only Christ has proved His authenticity through the Old Testament prophecies He fulfils. Then after He has explained the Scriptures to them, *"while He was with them at the table, He took the bread and said the blessing. Then He broke it, and gave it to them."* **This is the Mass!** The **Liturgy of the Word** or the Scriptures is followed by the **Liturgy of the Eucharist** where we have the Offertory, the Eucharistic Prayer and then Holy Communion. So every time we participate in Mass we are really participating in the same experience the disciples had in Emmaus. And the reason that the two disciples recognised JESUS at 'the breaking of the bread' is because they had been prepared for it through the reading of the Scriptures and then having it explained to them. This gave them the faith to recognise Him in the Holy Eucharist, and it filled them with such joy they went off and told the others all about it. What does the priest or deacon say at the end of Mass? *"Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord."* That's what they did, and it's also our commission, to go out and proclaim the joy of the Gospel to the world.

*(Cont'd on next page)*

## MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

<b>Sat</b>	25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6.00pm</b>	Terence John Monaghan RIP
<b>Sun</b>	26 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</u></b>	
		<b>9.00am</b>	For the Parish
		<b>11.00am</b>	Peter Foster Boswell RIP
<b>Mon</b>	27 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	For those in distress
<b>Tues</b>	28 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Venancio Castillo Sr RIP
<b>Weds</b>	29 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>St Catherine of Siena, Patron of Europe (Feast)</u></b>	
		9.15am	Rosemary & Stanley Ball RIP
<b>Thurs</b>	30 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	John Cleary Ferrie RIP
<b>Fri</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	<b><u>St Joseph the Worker (Memoria)</u></b>	
		9.15am	<b>First Friday</b> – For our deceased relatives & friends Mary & James Murphy RIP
<b>Sat</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.15am	Senior Citizens - Intention
		<b>6.00pm</b>	Bernard Lane RIP
<b>Sun</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b><u>FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</u></b>	
		<b>9.00am</b>	Terence John Monaghan RIP
		<b>11.00am</b>	Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life

**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.

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**Please pray for those who have recently died:** Sabino Pelosi, Zita Roscoe, Genina Romano and David Connearn **May they rest in peace.**

**and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Mykola Drobiszer, Giovanni diCosmo, Danuta Ereminowicz, Jan Orzeszek, Vincent Campbell, Addolorata Palmiero, Norman Welband, William Allcock and Aubrey Hamilton

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*(Cont'd from front page)*

Let us continue to try and to do so even in these times of adversity, but you're already doing a great job in many different ways. And may our being deprived of the Mass and the Sacraments at this time bring us to an even deeper appreciation of these mysteries, so as we come to see even more clearly our risen Lord is with us always, and especially in the Liturgy and the Sacraments. Let us storm Heaven with our prayers that our churches will be open soon.

*Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

**CORONAVIRUS AND STAYING CONNECTED:** 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](http://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 Mary’s 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.

**CLOSE TO HOME:** Please keep in your prayers a family in the parish where both parents are suffering from Coronavirus and one is seriously ill in hospital. *Fr Paul*

**EASTER OFFERING:** Thank you so much to all of you for your very generous Easter Offering to the clergy of £885. We do appreciate it, and particularly so in these uncertain times. *Fr Paul*

**GIFT AIDED DONATIONS:** **Have you recently set up a standing order online to send regular payments to St Mary’s?** If so, and you would like to Gift Aid your donations, please download and complete the Gift Aid declaration form available on the parish website (Home page updates or click on ‘Donate to St Mary’s’ under the ‘Fundraising’ tab). Please return your completed form to Geoff Mercer.

**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 during the Coronavirus crisis. For information about how you can help and get help for yourself or someone else, visit [www.johnstorercharnwood.org.uk](http://www.johnstorercharnwood.org.uk). To make direct contact, email [enquiries@johnstorercharnwood.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@johnstorercharnwood.org.uk). If you really need to speak to someone, call 01509 631750 (Monday-Friday 8.30am-5.30pm).

**THE DIOCESE OF NOTTINGHAM SEEKS TO APPOINT** a Director of Adult Formation for Mission. The role is to work with the Bishop of Nottingham and the Parishes of the Diocese to lead the creation and delivery of opportunities for adult formation, promoting the Diocesan Vision and Mission and the three themes of Encounter, Discipleship and Missionary Discipleship, and helping our people to grow in confidence as practical, engaging, Spirit-filled witnesses of Jesus Christ in their everyday lives. This would suit a committed Catholic, qualified in theology, catechetics, evangelisation or pastoral ministry, experienced in leading catechesis and evangelisation and with a passion for the mission of the Church. Salary: £45,000 - £50,000 dependent on qualifications and experience. For more information and an application pack email: [office@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:office@dioceseofnottingham.uk). Closing date 25 May 2020.

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**FROM THE SAINTS:** “The Eucharist is the work of measureless love that has at its service an infinite power, the omnipotence of God” (*St Peter Eymard, 1811-1868*).

## 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.*

## 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.

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**ST JOSEPH THE WORKER:** Friday, "May Day" is also the memoria of St Joseph the Worker. Many of you are worried about jobs and income in this crisis. St Joseph and Our Lady went through many hardships, so let us call on St Joseph's help to carry us through this difficult time. May is also the month dedicated to Our Lady. *Fr Paul*

**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.**

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**PLEASE KEEP CHECKING THE PARISH WEBSITE DURING THE WEEK  
FOR UPDATES FROM ST MARY'S  
[www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk](http://www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk)**