



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 10th May 2020

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Psalter Week 1

The Rosary is a Sword

In April 2014, Boko Haram, a radical Islamic group kidnapped two hundred girls from a school in Nigeria. The group is responsible for many atrocities. In December of the same year **Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme** of the diocese of Maiduguri in Nigeria was praying the Rosary in his chapel when Our Lord appeared to him holding a **sword** which He extended towards the Bishop. As the Bishop took the sword into his own hands it turned into a Rosary and Our Lord looked at him and said three times, *“Boko Haram is gone! Boko Haram is gone! Boko Haram is gone!”* These were the only words Our Lord spoke but the Bishop said he didn’t need any further explanation. *“It was clear that with the Rosary we would be able to expel Boko Haram”* he said. You will find videos of Bishop Doeme explaining all this on YouTube. So he went to the priests of his diocese, explained what had happened and he began **Rosary Crusades**. After just two years of this Boko Haram had almost vanished from his area, and on 13th October 2016, the anniversary of the final apparition at Fatima and the Miracle of the Sun, dozens of kidnapped girls were suddenly released by Boko Haram. Then in May 2017, another 83 girls were released, and on 3rd July 2017, seven hundred members of Boko Haram surrendered their weapons and turned themselves in to Nigerian authorities.

The Rosary is the sword that slays the dragon – Satan. It might not look like it when you see beads on a string, but this is the reality. Think about it: the first and the last books of the Bible, Genesis and the Apocalypse speak of a Woman (Mary) doing battle with a serpent or a dragon (Satan). And it is her offspring, JESUS who conquers him by the saving mysteries of His life, death and resurrection. Without Mary we wouldn’t have these mysteries. And what is the Rosary? It is a *meditation* on these mysteries. God, with the aid of the Church crafted the Rosary over many centuries, so that when the time was right she could give it to St Dominic as the weapon to destroy the evil of the **Albigensian heresy** in 1208.

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MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	9 th	6.00pm	For the Parish
Sun	10 th	<u>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</u>	
		9.00am	For all those suffering with Coronavirus
		11.00am	Ines & Felixberto Cogal RIP (Anniversary)
Mon	11 th	9.15am	Intention for the living
Tues	12 th	9.15am	Gordon Cookson (RIP)
Weds	13 th	<u>Our Lady of Fatima (Memoria)</u>	
		9.15am	Christopher Briscoombe RIP
Thurs	14 th	9.15am	Cliff Brookes RIP
Fri	15 th	<u>St Matthias, Apostle (Feast)</u>	
		9.15am	Zita Roscoe RIP
Sat	16 th	9.15am	Penelope Adcock RIP
		6.00pm	Peter Foster Boswell RIP
Sun	17 th	<u>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</u>	
		9.00am	Vito Caruso RIP (Anniversary)
		11.00am	For the Parish

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 for the deceased in the printed edition of the newsletter.

PLEASE PRAY for those who have recently died: Dale Morrison, John Newman and Barbara Carpenter. **May they rest in peace.**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Joan Ramsden, Ethel Copestake, Kath Brooks, Rev Fr Terry Watson, Jean Walvin, Len Arnold, Noelline Overlunde, Stan Trojan, Betty Stewart, Katie Wardle, Neville Thomlinson and Peter Darleston

(Cont'd from front page)

And so the Rosary is also the weapon given to us by our Heavenly Mother to slay the dragon in our times. **St Padre Pio** called it “*the weapon*” and **St Dominic** referred to it as a “battering ram”. The Rosary has won so many battles throughout the centuries. What further proof do we need? If you say the daily Rosary devoutly it will protect you against sin and evil. For decades now many have rubbished the Rosary and tried to consign it to the scrap heap. This is what Satan wants because he knows how powerful it is. He is actually terrified of it. So don't be fooled. **Our Lady at Fatima**, whose feast we celebrate on Wednesday, prophesied a lot of what is going on in the world and in the Church today, and her remedy for it was the Rosary. The Rosary is the solution to the problems of our day. We are in a spiritual battle for the future of the Church and of humanity and so we need a supernatural weapon to fight it. Our Lady has given it to us, and it is the Rosary! *Ave Maria!*

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

FROM THE SAINTS: “Love the Madonna and pray the Rosary, for her Rosary is the weapon against the evils of the world today” (*St Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, 1887 – 1968*).

THE FOODBANK will be open between 3 and 4pm, Monday to Friday in the Parish Hall for anyone who needs it. *Fr Paul*

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. To make direct contact, email enquiries@johnstorercharnwood.org.uk. If you really need to speak to someone, call 01509 631750 (Monday-Friday 8.30am-5.30pm).

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.** 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.

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.**

**PLEASE KEEP CHECKING THE PARISH WEBSITE DURING THE WEEK
FOR UPDATES FROM ST MARY'S
www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk**