



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 3rd May 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Psalter Week 4

May, the Month of Our Lady

As is well known, May is the month dedicated to Our Lady. It is often said May is the most beautiful month when the flowers are in full bloom and the weather is generally good. Last year we had the **crowning of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima** which proved very popular. Sadly we won't be able to do it this month but maybe in October? But we can still make this month special and offer our heavenly Mother a beautiful gift which will be very pleasing to her by trying to say the **daily Rosary** in our homes and in our families.

Many of you will remember back in 2010 when thirty-three miners in Chile were trapped 2,300 feet below the earth in a mine. Their plight was reported the world over each day as hopes of rescuing them were running out. Their supplies were coming to an end and it seemed they were going to die. But amazingly after seventeen days contact was made with them. Engineers had managed to drill a small shaft down to where they were trapped, and so food and supplies could reach them. However, a much larger shaft would have to be drilled if they were to be rescued and this was going to take a miracle.

What is less well known is that meanwhile in Rome, Pope Benedict XVI was asking the world to pray for the miners. He blessed thirty-three Rosaries and had them sent them to the miners so as they could pray it and so as they would know that JESUS and Mary were with them. The miners started to pray their Rosaries and wore them around their necks. Miraculously, after being trapped for sixty-nine days all the miners were rescued and survived the ordeal. And what was the date of their rescue? 13th October, the anniversary of the **Miracle of the Sun at Fatima**. I think there is a message in that! With Heaven, dates are very significant.

The Popes have long recognised the power and the importance of the Rosary. It's why they always hand them out to visitors. I have a Rosary given to me by Pope St John Paul II in 1981. Blessed Pope Pius IX famously said, "*Give me an army saying the Rosary and I will conquer the world.*" His successor, Pope Leo XIII wrote eleven Encyclical Letters on the Rosary, in preparation for the month of October which he is responsible for turning into the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary. As a boy he had worked on a farm and he knew that October was the month for harvesting, and so he chose to make it the month dedicated to the Rosary in order to reap a harvest of souls.

(Cont'd on next page)

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	2 nd	6.00pm	Bernard Lane RIP
Sun	3 rd	<u>FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Good Shepherd Sunday)</u>	
		9.00am	Terence John Monaghan RIP
		11.00am	Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life
Mon	4 th	<u>The English Martyrs (Feast)</u>	
		9.15am	Brian & Richard Smith RIP
Tues	5 th	9.15am	David J Owen RIP
Weds	6 th	9.15am	For the Parish
Thurs	7 th	9.15am	For those in Distress
Fri	8 th	9.15am	Rita Acierno RIP (Anniversary)
Sat	9 th	9.15am	Christopher Briscombe RIP
		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)

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 have recently died: Sabino Pelosi, Genina Romano, John Newman and Barbara Carpenter. **May they rest in peace.**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Charles Vaughan, Lidia Orzweszek, Jo Ucar, Rev Fr Harold Allan, Pasqua Genco, Paul Butler, Antonietta Perone, Lilian Hickling, Rosemary Meredith, Michael Sharman, Lilian Fisher, Elias Winter, Desmond O'Leary, Beatrice Roper, Kevin Mortell, Ernest Newton, Kathleen Ward, Carmella Lallo and Rita Acierno

(Cont'd from previous page)

Today is **Good Shepherd Sunday** when we particularly pray for **vocations to the priesthood and religious life**. All of you, have in mind one person you will pray for and encourage to consider a religious vocation. And always remember, vocations come from families. Please keep in your prayers our Rosminian novice Brother William Rees and one of our altar servers Sam Hart who is testing his vocation with the diocese. This is just one way we can all be instrumental in reaping a harvest of souls.

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.** 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: Last week I asked for prayers for a family where both parents are suffering from Coronavirus with the mother in hospital suffering from breathing difficulties. Our prayers are working because she is now improving and is back at home. We continue to pray for her and the family.
Fr Paul

FOOD BANK: Food and meals are available for those who need it from the Food Bank. Please contact Liz Abell on 079800 21916.

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).

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER FROM FR DAVID

Last week on the Feast of St Mark the Holy Father wrote a letter to the whole church, encouraging everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This is characteristic of our Catholic culture especially in May, Mary’s month. But most especially so as millions of people throughout the world are isolated in their homes, and unable to meet with their families or in church. Someone once said that in praying the Rosary, we are never truly alone for Our Lady is always there with us, praying to her Son for and alongside us.
Fr David

Fr David’s complete letter is available to read under ‘News’ on the parish website, www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk. Included in the post is a link to a **Rosary for Vocations** to pray during this Mary’s month of May (a gift from the Ordinariate of Our Lady).

FROM THE SAINTS: “If a church or chapel is not available, say the Rosary together in your own or a neighbour’s house” (*St Louis de Montfort, 1673-1716*).

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**