



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 21 June 2020 TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Psalter Week 4

Why Must I Suffer?

Suffering came into the world through sin. If it were not for **Original Sin** (Adam and Eve eating the fruit of the forbidden tree), suffering would be unknown to us. St Paul tells us this in the Second Reading today. "*Sin entered the world through one man, [Adam] and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned*" (Romans 5:12). God created Adam in a state of perfection - he had no defects. But being the head of the human race, the *effects* of that Original Sin have passed down to us. But why must we suffer for the sin of Adam? Imagine a father who is a multi-millionaire. He has a wife and several children and they want for nothing. When he dies each child will receive their part of the inheritance. But in the meantime the father becomes a drunk and a gambler and he loses everything and is forced to beg. Now his bad conduct has affected not only him, but his wife and children too who are entirely innocent. Now they have lost their inheritance. Once they were happy and enjoyed their wealth and now they are reduced to poverty and suffering as if *they* had sinned. In much the same way we are subject to the loss of our *spiritual* inheritance in which Adam involved us by disobeying God. This is the principle reason why suffering comes into everyone's life.

But instead of eliminating suffering, Christ has transformed it. The sufferings of this life can increase our glory in Heaven. God has drawn good out of a great evil. In the *Exsultet* at the Easter Vigil the priest sings, "*O felix culpa.*" "***O happy fault.***" Why happy? Because Our Lord, by suffering and dying on the Cross has made sufficient atonement for Adam's sin, and the grace He now offers us more than compensates for what we lost. It doesn't remove the evils and miseries of this life, but it enables us to endure all sufferings with patience and resignation and to make them holy by uniting them with the Passion and Death of Our Lord. If we do this **our sufferings receive great supernatural merit and we will have a much higher place in Heaven** than if we had not fallen in Adam from the state of our original perfection. All the saints suffered - some enormously.

Pope Benedict XVI gave us some good advice about this in his Encyclical Letter "*Spe salvi*" (Saved in Hope) written in 2007. He suggested we revive the good Catholic practice of "**offering up**" the small trials of each day, those little sufferings, pains, and inconveniences that

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

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|--------------|------------------|---|--|
| Sat | 20 th | 6.00pm | Intention for the living |
| Sun | 21 st | <u>Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time</u> | |
| | | 9.00am | Andrew Marples RIP (Anniversary) |
| | | 11.00am | For the Parish |
| Mon | 22 nd | <u>SS John Fisher and Thomas More (Feast)</u> | |
| | | 9.15am | Andrew & Jeanne Robinson RIP |
| Tues | 23 rd | 9.15am | McCann Family and all missing children |
| Weds | 24 th | <u>NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST (SOLEMNITY)</u> | |
| | | 9.15am | Stephen Merriman RIP |
| Thurs | 25 th | 9.15am | Andrew Marples RIP (Anniversary) |
| Fri | 26 th | 9.15am | Paul Finnegan RIP |
| Sat | 27 th | 9.15am | Michael Murphy (70 th Birthday) |
| | | 6.00pm | Patrick Hollingsworth RIP (Anniversary) |
| Sun | 28 th | <u>SS PETER & PAUL, APOSTLES (SOLEMNITY)</u> | |
| | | 9.00am | For the Parish |
| | | 11.00am | Loughborough Catenians |

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 online edition of the newsletter.**

PLEASE pray for those who have recently died: John O'Brien and Paul Rowe **May they rest in peace**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Dennis Main, George Hollingsworth, Clare Daniels, Martin Allaway, Richard Hönl, John Burton, Andrew Marples, Kathleen Blake, Rev Fr Michael Williams, Agnes Husser and Patrick Hollingsworth

Cont'd from front page

annoy us, whether it's being caught up in traffic, or now in many instances not being able to see members of our family, and indeed the many and varied sufferings of lockdown which we're all enduring together. We spiritually unite our sufferings with that of Christ on the Cross, and then we share in His redeeming mission. You can offer these sufferings up for any intention you like: to atone for your own sins, for the conversion of someone to the Faith, for someone to recover from an illness, or for someone to receive a priestly or religious vocation. And doing this helps us grow in grace and holiness. These sufferings may also shorten our **Purgatory** since every sin we commit on earth has to be atoned for. So let us try to accept our trials with humility so we cancel out our debt of sin in this life as much as we can. A soul in Purgatory cannot obtain a higher degree of glory, but we can increase it in this life by accepting our trials patiently. Believe me, I know how challenging this is, but the supernatural reward is great. So let us strive to cultivate the habit of not complaining when trials and afflictions come our way and offer them up instead. Remember, it is because of His infinite love for us and for our eternal glory that God gives us these crosses.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

FROM THE SAINTS: "Suffering is a great favour. Remember that everything soon comes to an end...and take courage. Think of how our gain is eternal" (*St Teresa of Avila, 1515-82*).

RE-OPENING THE CHURCH: We have sent off the application forms to the diocese to show that all the necessary measures are in place to open the church for private prayer. We are waiting to hear back from them, and as soon as a response comes I will let you know. The times for opening will be limited and I will make those known once we have had approval.

Fr Paul

VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD: Our continued prayers for vocations from the parish are bearing fruit. Sam Hart, one of our altar servers, having completed a pre-seminary year at the Old Friary has now been accepted by Bishop Patrick as a seminarian for the Diocese of Nottingham. In October, Sam will be going for his first year to Valladolid in Spain which is now standard practice in England and Wales. This is not a guarantee of ordination, so keep him in your prayers as he continues to discern God's Will for him. And please continue praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life from our parish of St Mary's. Pray daily for someone you think might have a vocation. Remember the words of Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen: "There are probably hundreds of thousands of vocations hanging from Heaven on silken cords; prayer is the sword that cuts them."

Fr Paul

SPUC (Society for the Protection of Unborn Children) has written to thank you for the £400 collected earlier this year in the White Flower Appeal. The threats of abortion are graver than ever. Pro-abortion politicians are pushing for abortion to be permissible for any reason up to 24 weeks, and in cases of disability abortions will be able to continue to take place up to birth. Also schools are being flooded with pro-abortion propaganda, particularly in sex education programmes. SPUC is fighting back. Last year SPUC spoke to 15,000 youngsters and provided pro-life materials for 7,000 teachers. And let us not forget the threat of assisted suicide is ever present. Human life must be protected and defended from conception until natural death. Your support always helps to save the lives of the most vulnerable. 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.*

SHORT ACT OF REPARATION TO THE SACRED HEART: JESUS, Son of God and our Saviour, have mercy on all who wound Your Sacred Heart by sin, unfaithfulness and neglect. O loving Heart of JESUS, broken by our ingratitude, pierced by our sins, yet loving us still, accept in reparation the offering I now make to You of all that I am and all that I have. Draw me ever nearer to Your Sacred Heart: there where I can learn best, teach me, JESUS, Your blessed way to eternal life. *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.

NEXT SUNDAY is the Solemnity of the two Princes of the Apostles, Peter and Paul, the foundations of the Church.

MASS INTENTIONS: There are lots of spaces now if you would like to have a Mass offered for a particular intention.

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