



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 28 June 2020

SAINTS PETER & PAUL, APOSTLES

Psalter Week 1

Saints Peter and Paul, Princes of the Apostles

Today we celebrate the **Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul**, the two Princes of the Apostles and the foundations of the Church. Both were martyred for the Faith in Rome. St Peter was crucified upside down because he didn't consider himself worthy to die in the same way as the Master, in what today is a courtyard to the left of St Peter's Basilica. He was buried in a nearby cemetery on Vatican Hill and St Peter's Basilica was later built over his tomb. St Paul was beheaded in a place now called 'Tre Fontane' (Italian for three fountains, after the legend that the three springs in the spot mark the three places where Paul's head bounced after being beheaded). He was also buried in a nearby cemetery over which St Paul's Basilica now stands, and it's where I, with ten others, was ordained a Deacon in June 2014.

St Peter is important because he was the **first Pope**. JESUS changed his name from Simon to Peter which means 'rock'. Then in today's Gospel we hear Our Lord say to Peter after he has confessed Him to be the Christ, "*You are Peter and on this rock I will build My Church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.*" In these words Peter is appointed head of the Apostles and received the supreme authority to teach and govern the whole Church. This is made more explicit by the giving of the keys. "*I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in Heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in Heaven.*" This is what we call the promise of the primacy, but the primacy was conferred by Our Lord to Peter after the Resurrection when He said to him, "*Feed My lambs...feed My sheep*" (John 21:15-17). The primacy of Peter was recognised by the early Church as we can see clearly in the Acts of the Apostles. Peter takes charge of the election of Matthias to replace Judas as an Apostle (1:15-22). Peter gives the sermon at Pentecost (2:14-41). Peter works the first miracle (3:1-10). It is Peter who excommunicates the first heretic Simon Magus (8:9-24) and so on. Also St Paul, when he was about to begin his mission thought it necessary to gain recognition from Peter (Galatians 1:18). Peter became the first **Bishop of Rome**, and like him, his successors were recognised as the Supreme Head of the Church on earth and Pope Francis is the 265th Successor of St Peter. "*Ubi Petrus ibi ecclesia.*" That is, "Where Peter is, there is the Church."

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	27 th	6.00pm	Patrick Hollingsworth RIP (Anniversary)
Sun	28 th	<u>SAINTS PETER & PAUL, APOSTLES (SOLEMNITY)</u>	
		9.00am	For the Parish
		11.00am	Loughborough Catenians
Mon	29 th	9.15am	Intention for the living
Tues	30 th	9.15am	Intention for the living
Weds	1 st	<u>Blessed Antonio Rosmini (Feast)</u>	
		9.15am	Paul Rowe RIP
Thurs	2 nd	9.15am	Intention for the living
Fri	3 rd	<u>St Thomas, Apostle (Feast)</u>	
		9.15am	First Friday – For our Deceased Relatives & Friends
Sat	4 th	9.15am	Willie Buckley RIP
		6.00pm	Dominic Bombardini RIP
Sun	5 th	<u>Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</u>	
		9.00am	For the Parish
		11.00am	Peggy & Mike Joe Enright RIP

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: Mary Buttarazzi **May she rest in peace and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Tony McEnergy, Brenda Waltire, Teresa Pedley, Gaetano Micciche, Raymond Yeomans, Frank Stieler, Norah Fox, Irmgard Cooledge, Kathleen Winterton, Charlotte Devaney and Patrick Hollingsworth

CONGRATULATIONS to Patricia and Donald Blood on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary yesterday (Saturday). They were married at St Mary's 50 years ago. Let us keep them in our prayers and we hope they will have many more happy years together.

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St Paul, originally called Saul, was the Apostle to the Gentiles. At first he was a Pharisee and persecuted the Christians, but one day when he was on the road to Damascus, JESUS appeared to him saying “*Saul, Saul why are you persecuting Me?*” And Saul said, “*Who are You Lord?*” And JESUS replied, “*I am JESUS of Nazareth whom you are persecuting.*” And Paul was converted and baptised (Acts 9:1-22). This changed his life completely and he went on many missionary journeys to proclaim Christ to those who had not heard of Him, particularly non-Jews.

The Church still stands today as Christ promised She would because She was founded by Him, the Son of God. She has weathered many storms and She will also survive the present crisis. She does not change her doctrine because “*the doctrine is not Mine but His that sent Me*” (John 7:16). Let us thank God that He founded the One, Holy, Roman, Catholic and Apostolic Church on Peter the Rock, and let us pray for the Supreme Head of the Church on earth today, Pope Francis, that God will give him the grace to follow St Peter and St Paul in zeal for the true religion and for the salvation of souls.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

FROM THE SAINTS: “There is one day for the passion of two Apostles. But these two also were as one; although they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, Paul followed. We are celebrating a feast day, consecrated for us by the blood of the Apostles. Let us love their faith, their lives, their labours, their sufferings, their confession of faith, their preaching” (*St Augustine of Hippo, 354-430*).

THANK YOU to those who continue to support the Parish financially in these difficult times and especially to those who have kindly converted to Standing Order or sent a donation by cheque through the post.

Fr Paul

RE-OPENING THE CHURCH: We have now received permission from the diocese to open the church for private prayer at the following times: **Mondays 10.30am-12.30pm, Wednesdays 4pm-6pm, Saturdays 10.30am-12.30pm, Sundays 3pm-5pm.** Seven people will be allowed in the church at any one time and social distancing of 2 metres must still be observed. Hand sanitiser must be used on entry and exit and there is a single directional walkway which is indicated. From **4th July** onwards, public Masses will be allowed under strict conditions. This does not mean that public Masses will resume at St Mary's on 4th July, but hopefully shortly afterwards. Thank you for your patience with all of this.

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

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.

A PLENARY INDULGENCE is granted to the faithful who, on the Solemnity of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, make prayerful use of an article of devotion, such as a Crucifix, a Rosary, a Scapular or holy card that has been blessed by the Pope or by any bishop, provided you also recite the Creed. In addition, go to Confession if you can or make an Act of Perfect Contrition and a Spiritual Communion and pray an Our Father and Hail Mary for the Pope. A **partial indulgence** is granted to the faithful who devoutly use such articles of devotion properly blessed by either a priest or a deacon. *Fr Paul*

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