



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 7 June 2020

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Psalter Week 2

The Mystery of the Trinity

One of the first things we learn as Catholics is how to make the **Sign of the Cross**. We put our hand on our forehead, on the breast, then on the left and then the right shoulder while saying, *“In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.”* This is the **Blessed Trinity** and today is **Trinity Sunday**. We were all baptised in the name of the Trinity, and Our Lord before He ascended into Heaven spoke of it when He said, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”* (Matthew 28:19). We should notice He didn’t say *names of* but *name of* (singular) because there is only **one nature** in God – that is the **Divine nature**, but there are **three Persons**, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The **Creed of St Athanasius** which contains a detailed meditation on the Trinity and which all priests once recited every Sunday says this:

“So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God. And yet they are not Three Gods, but One God. So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Ghost Lord. And yet not Three Lords but One Lord.”

If this confuses you slightly – that’s great, because it is a **mystery** – a divinely revealed one but a mystery all the same. The teaching on the Trinity, while not contrary to reason does transcend it and it is beyond our human understanding. Human reason alone would never have come up with the idea of Three Persons in One God. Anyone, even a pagan, can work out through reason alone that a Supreme Being who created everything must exist, but we could never imagine that this God would be a Trinity of Three Divine Persons. **God the Father** created us; **God the Son** redeems us; **God the Holy Spirit** sanctifies us. This can only be known to us because God has made this revelation about Himself, and it is what makes Christianity absolutely unique, as it should be because it is the True Faith. All the other mysteries of our Faith tell us what God has done for us; the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, the Holy Eucharist, but the Trinity tells us *Who* God is from all time and for all eternity. God wants to draw us into this mystery because the Trinity is our ultimate destination.

So when you pray this week, try always to begin with the Sign of the Cross, invoking the Holy Trinity. This will remind us we should be doing everything in His Name Who loves us so much. You may be surprised as to how it changes your perspective on the day.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	6 th	6.00pm	The Murphy Family
Sun	7 th	<u>THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (Solemnity)</u>	
		9.00am	Antonietta Acierno RIP (Anniversary)
		11.00am	For the Parish
Mon	8 th	9.15am	Deceased family & friends of Pauline Hallam
Tues	9 th	9.15am	Jan & Lidia Orseszk RIP
Weds	10 th	9.15am	Jan & Lidia Orseszk RIP
Thurs	11 th	<u>St Barnabas, Apostle, Patron of the Cathedral (Feast)</u>	
		9.15am	Stephen Merriman RIP
Fri	12 th	9.15am	Deceased family & friends of Pauline Hallam
Sat	13 th	<u>St Anthony of Padua (Memoria)</u>	
		9.15am	Intention for the living
		6.00pm	Ann O'Rourke RIP (Anniversary)
Sun	14 th	<u>CORPUS CHRISTI (Solemnity)</u>	
		9.00am	For the Parish
		11.00am	Winnie Best 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: Fr Richard Adam and Anna Krauze **May they rest in peace**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: William Gallagher, Frank Kozimor, Rae Hagan, Gerald Longburn, Joan Roper, Anthony MacAllister, Irene Clarke and Antionetta Acierno.

THANK YOU to all who have taken out a standing order or increased their giving at this time. We are very grateful.

ON RE-OPENING THE CHURCH FOR PRIVATE PRAYER: You may be aware that the Government and a multi-faith Task Force is in the process of considering the re-opening of churches and other places of worship. Although the guidance is not yet clear, and in the case of Catholic churches, has not yet been reviewed by the Bishops' Conference, there have been indications that initially some churches will be able to open for private prayer only, conditional on these churches introducing appropriate safety measures and strict protocols for those who will be allowed to enter. There will have to be a limit on the numbers entering the church, designated single-directional walkways, minimal social distancing, both when seated and whilst moving inside the church, the provision of hand-sanitising materials and some marshalling. The holy water fonts will have to remain empty and the WCs will have to remain closed. These measures will almost certainly be mandatory, but we do not know whether there will be additional advisory measures. **It would be very helpful to the Parish if we could have some assistance in modifying the Church for the day when it can be re-opened.** The over 70s may not be able to assist in this. Moreover, those who are under any restrictions under the developing track and trace rules will also be prevented from participation in any preparations to re-open the Church. I would be very grateful if parishioners who would be willing to provide some practical help in preparing for the Church to re-open could kindly contact me. Thank you.

Fr Paul

MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART: As May was the month dedicated to Our Lady, June is the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart of JESUS. Devotion to the Sacred Heart is devotion to the human heart of JESUS burning with love of us. Our Lord appeared to St Margaret Mary in 1675 and said, "*Behold the Heart that has so loved men...instead of gratitude I receive from the greater part (of mankind) only ingratitude...*" JESUS then asked for a **feast of reparation** on the Friday after the Octave of *Corpus Christi*. We celebrate the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart on **Friday 19th June**. Let us all make reparation to the Sacred Heart for the grave sins committed in the world today and that God will end the scourge of Coronavirus. There is a short prayer of reparation on the back page of this newsletter. *Fr Paul*

CORPUS CHRISTI: Next Sunday is the Solemnity of Corpus Christi and so on Saturday our first group of children were due to make their First Holy Communion with the second group making theirs on 20th June. These will now not take place so please keep the children in your prayers and hopefully we will be able to have the Masses later in the year. *Fr Paul*

ORGAN DONATION - PRESUMED CONSENT: The law has recently changed on organ donation to a presumed consent, unless you have specifically opted out. The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have issued a statement here: www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/04/Organ-DonationGuidelines-Feb-2020.pdf. And there is guidance for Catholics here: www.cbcew.org.uk/organ-donation-guidelines-200520/

STAYING CONNECTED: While the church is closed, you can keep in touch 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.**

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.

MASS BY PHONE: You can hear Mass from Middlesbrough Cathedral by phone. You just dial the number 01642130120 which should be the cost of a local call and you hear Mass over the phone. You can access the Mass at any time. Useful for those who have no internet connection.

FROM THE SAINTS: “This is the Catholic Faith, that we should adore one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity.” (*From the Athanasian Creed attributed to St Athanasius, died 373 AD*)

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