



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 12 July 2020

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Psalter Week 3

Parable of the Sower

Today we hear the well-known **Parable of the Sower** in the Gospel. God created us with free will and we are all free to accept or reject God's offer of salvation. But all the time there are outside influences trying to get us to choose what is bad for us.

Satan is represented here by the birds that eat the **seed of the path**. Satan and his legions are always trying to tempt us to disobey God's commandments. *"Oh go on. It's nothing. God won't mind. It's not that serious. After all, you can always go to Confession after!"* But will you get that opportunity to confess? *"Oh, but you don't need to go to Confession. Just go to God direct. Confess to a priest? That's just medieval superstition!"* The evil one uses these subtle temptations to break our relationship with our Heavenly Father who loves us, and who desires nothing more than our eternal salvation.

Then there is the **rocky soil**. Often God asks us to make a sacrifice and carry our cross. But our desire for the comforts and pleasures of life cause us to resist and opt for the comfortable option.

The soil that fell **among the thorns** represents the culture we live in. This fallen world promises us all sorts of pleasures, but they will never satisfy us because we are made for God alone, and only He can satisfy us. That's why when we get something we have always wanted we will soon after desire something else. It's only when we follow God's Will that we will be satisfied. St Augustine famously said, *"Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee."*

So, we have to cooperate with God's grace. There is a school of thought that says that we human beings are not free to change our lives because everything is controlled by instinct or other forces beyond our control. This is not true. God is ultimately in charge of everything, but we do have free will, and the choices we make can have a lasting effect on ourselves and others. This parable teaches us that while God offers the gift of faith to everyone, people respond to it in many different ways. Some will ignore it or reject it altogether while others will accept it only in a half-hearted manner. Some though will take it to heart and make it bear much spiritual fruit. Only the last group is truly pleasing to God, and only they have the assurance of the Kingdom of Heaven. So let us give God the chance to bear a rich fruit in our lives. The wonders He can produce in us when we cooperate with His grace are truly amazing! Let us pray that we will recognise these gifts and opportunities when they are offered so that we can truly make a difference in the world.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	11 th	6.00pm	Intention for the Living
Sun	12 th	<u>Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</u>	
		9.00am	Katie Mercer RIP
		11.00am	For the Parish
Mon	13 th	9.15am	Deceased Members of the Ronchetti Family
Tues	14 th	9.15am	Violet & Philip Bowler RIP
Weds	15 th	9.15am	Romana Ronchetti RIP
Thurs	16 th	<u>Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Memoria)</u>	
		9.15am	Sally Clemerson RIP (Anniversary)
Fri	17 th	9.15am	Vito Caruso RIP
Sat	18 th	9.15am	Intention for the Living
		6.00pm	For the Parish
Sun	19 th	<u>Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</u>	
		9.00am	Terence J Monaghan RIP
		11.00am	Intention for the Living

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: Monsignor Georg Ratzinger and Winnie Fox. **May they rest in peace**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Michael Cox, Gerrard Nicholson, Thelma Medlycott, Christopher Pacynko, Romana Guzetti, Bogdan Pacynko, Dora Belcher, Horace Corbett, Joe Romano, Ellen Pollard and Sally Clemerson

CONFESSIONS A priest will be available to hear Confessions in the church on **Saturday mornings** between **10.30 and 11.30am** and on request.

Fr Paul

OPENING FOR MASS: We are still in the process of organising things. There is a lot to put in place before we can have public Masses again. I hope this will be sorted out in the next week. Please check the parish website regularly for details. Thank you. *Fr Paul*

THE STAFF AND PUPILS OF ST MARY'S SCHOOL have now started their summer holidays. We wish them a happy and restful break after the difficult conditions they have had the deal with over the last two terms.

A STORM IS COMING ... Families in Loughborough currently struggling financially may soon be hit by further financial problems. Feeding children during the summer holidays will be an added expense as schools are closed. As the furlough scheme starts to unwind, more and more people will find that they have no job to return to and the number of those in need will rise. The rules for the Universal Credit Scheme are starting to tighten once more. As lockdown rules are relaxed other forms of government support will also diminish. **The Bridge, a charity based in Loughborough**, is working hard to support those in need. They are currently supporting the provision of more than 600 food parcels a week. This number will grow. They also provide a range of other support services. **The Bridge needs our help.** Can you donate a little to help those in need in Loughborough? You can donate via The Bridge website or send a cheque payable to 'The Bridge (East Midlands)' to 'Food Poverty', The Bridge, 38 Leicester Road, Loughborough, LE11 2AG. Alternatively, you can make a one-off BACS payment to 'The Bridge (East Midlands)'. Sort Code:40-52-40. Account Number: 00084149. Reference: Food Poverty. Thank you. *Terry Spicer*

FOODBANK: All food bank distribution is now being coordinated from **John Storer House** and St Mary's has a long-standing tradition of supporting this venture. Over the summer months these resources are soon depleted and requests for non-perishable, dried and tinned goods are deeply appreciated. On **Saturday 25th July between 10.30 and 11.00am** parishioners from St Mary's will be in the car park to collect your donations. If you are able to give something, no matter how small, please bring your items in a carrier bag and we will then transport them to JSH. We will be wearing masks and gloves and operating social distancing. Kindly note, to comply with lock down restrictions, no goods of any kind can be left on the church premises. We will let you know of further collections later in the summer. Thank you. *Jane Monaghan*

**ST MARY'S WILL BE OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER
AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES:**

Mondays 10.30am-12.30pm

Wednesdays 4.00pm-6.00pm

Saturdays 10.30am-12.30pm

Sundays 3.00pm-5.00pm

Please note: Hand sanitiser must be used on entry and exit and there is a single directional walkway which is indicated.

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: 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.

FROM THE SAINTS: “Do you know that often a root has split a rock when allowed to remain in it? Give no place to the seed of evil, seeing that it will break up your faith” (*St Cyril of Jerusalem, ca 315-386*).

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