



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 19 July 2020 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Psalter Week 4

From Great Sinner to Great Saint

In today's Gospel we hear another well-known parable: '**The Parable of the Wheat and the Darnel**' in which the enemy comes to a field during the night and sows darnel or weeds among the wheat in order to ruin the crops. Once the wheat begins to grow the servants notice the weeds coming through, and so they ask the sower of the good seed if they should weed it out, to which he responds, "*No. Let them both grow till the harvest, and at that time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.*" Our Lord a little further on explains that the parable refers to the **Kingdom of God** and the **Final Judgement**. The good seeds are the subjects of the Kingdom, who are going to shine like the sun in Heaven for eternity after the Final Judgement. And the weeds or darnel are "*the subjects of the evil one*" who unless they repent in this life will be thrown into "*the blazing furnace*" or Hell which is eternal punishment and separation from God.

Now we might be tempted to think when we hear this parable and Our Lord's explanation of it, "*Well, that's good! Those evil people deserve their comeuppance while the good people get rewarded*", but this is not the best response. Our Lord wants us to be concerned not only for the well-being of the just but also of those on the path to ruin, and these days that's a very easy path to get on. Yes, on the Day of Judgement everyone will have to answer for every thought, word, deed and omission, but *before* this, God wants to give everyone that is on the path to destruction the opportunity to repent and gain eternal life.

The story of **Blessed Bartolo Longo** (1841-1926) is an extraordinary one. Although he was brought up in a staunch Italian Catholic family, he turned away from the Faith, began attending séances and ended up becoming a satanic priest. He pulled other people away from the Church and also became involved in drugs. Being so heavily involved in satanism and being exposed to the horrible satanic rituals caused him to suffer from serious depression and paranoia and eventually a total breakdown. However, his family never gave up on him. They stormed Heaven with prayers for his return to God, and their prayers were later answered. He returned to the Catholic Faith and left behind his involvement with the occult. He became a Third Order Dominican and dedicated his life to bringing people into the Faith, particularly through **Our Lady and the Holy Rosary**. Many converted because of him.

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MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	18 th	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
Mon	20 th	9.15am	Margaret Gilroy RIP
Tues	21 st	9.15am	Private Intention (PH) PUBLIC MASS
Weds	22 nd	<u>St Mary Magdalene (Feast)</u>	
		6.30pm	Bird Family Intentions PUBLIC MASS (Latin)
Thurs	23 rd	<u>St Bridget of Sweden (Feast)</u>	
		9.15am	Deceased Family & Friends
Fri	24 th	<u>St James, Apostle (Feast)</u>	
		6.30pm	Intention for the living PUBLIC MASS
Sat	25 th	9.15am	For the Parish
		6.00pm	Estrella Marti RIP (Anniv) PUBLIC MASS
Sun	26 th	<u>Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</u>	
		9.00am	Deceased members of the Thurland & Galvin families PUBLIC MASS
		11.15am	Natalie Gillham RIP (Anniv) PUBLIC MASS

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: Barbara Watkins & Dr Antony Giles **May they rest in peace**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Winefride Bonner, Stanislaw Gebski, Harold Wright, Guilemena Pizzolon, Lily Rigley, Margaret Armstead, Betty Rowan, Philip Cimelli, Peter Pascall, Amelia Michalski, Estrella Marti and Natalie Gillham

Cont'd from front page

No one is beyond the reach of God's grace and forgiveness and it is wonderful that we can help change dandelion into wheat by helping people through prayer and deed. Pray and make sacrifices for the family member who has stopped going to church, the young person who is always in trouble with the police, the former friend who can't let go of a grudge, or the neighbour who never stops gossiping. The whole of Heaven rejoices when such a miracle of grace takes place.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

RESUMING OF PUBLIC MASSES: Thanks be to God, we are now in a position to resume a *limited* public celebration of Mass at St Mary's. The Mass times to begin with are as follows:

Tuesday: 9.15am

Saturday: 6.00pm

Wednesday: 6.30pm (Latin old rite)

Sunday: 9.00am and 11.15am

Friday: 6.30pm

(Changed times are underlined)

Private Prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will continue on **Saturdays only 10.30am – 12.30pm with Confessions during the first hour or by appointment**

A limit of 56 people in the congregation at any one time is allowed for Mass in accordance with 2 metre social distancing rules. This may be slightly increased with couples and families sitting together. The church will open 15 minutes before Mass. You will be guided by the stewards who will help you get seated. They will fill up the church from the front; therefore, you may not be able to sit in your favourite seat. The diocesan booking system is not yet up and running so places are on a "first come first served" basis. **Please note that the obligation to hear Mass on Sunday remains suspended until further notice.** So this is not yet a return to normal. If you feel uneasy about coming to Mass, please stay at home. There is still no Holy Water in the stoups. There will be no singing (unless by a cantor), no Offertory Procession, no Bidding Prayers or Children's Liturgy. Holy Communion will be distributed *after* Mass under one kind only by the priest. You are then asked to exit the church straight away and make your thanksgiving on the way home. **Parents may not bring food, drink, or toys to the church. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult to the toilet.** Please do not come to Mass if you have any cold-like symptoms. The church will be closing straight after Mass for cleaning, so we ask you not to linger. There will also be a collection box by the exit. There will be no tea and coffee in the Hall after Sunday Mass. Thank you for your patience with all this, but at least now we are moving forward. Have a good week.

Fr Paul

PLAYGROUND CAR PARK: The school playground is not available for parking due to safety concerns. Parents of St Mary's School children have not been allowed on the playground either. With the University being closed and the limit on numbers at Mass it should be easy to find a parking space close to the church. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Fr Paul

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

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.*

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.

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.

FROM THE SAINTS: “Know that the greatest service that man can offer to God is to help convert souls” (*St Rose of Lima, 1586- 1617*).

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL of **Dr Antony Giles**, Fr Simon’s brother, who died on Wednesday evening. May he rest in peace. As many of you will know, Fr Simon lost his sister Veronica only in March. These are very hard times with not being able to visit family members who are in hospital and to be with them in their final hours. Let us also keep Fr Simon and all his family in our prayers at this difficult time.

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