



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 9 August 2020 NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Psalter Week 3

God Never Abandons Us

Today's Gospel is the well-known story of the disciples in a boat battling against a stormy sea when JESUS suddenly comes walking towards them on the water and says, "*Courage! It is I! Don't be afraid.*" The disciples are terrified and think they are seeing a ghost. But the ever-impulsive Peter takes the matter into his own hands and starts to walk out towards JESUS on the stormy waters, but then after a few steps he takes his eyes off JESUS and begins to sink. He cries out, "*Lord, save me!*" JESUS holds His hand out to Peter and says, "*Man of little faith, why did you doubt?*"

Now this Gospel story isn't merely an event from the past. It continues to happen over and over again throughout history. And the point of it is that **just because we have to endure trials it doesn't mean we have been abandoned by God**. This applies to the Church and to all of us as individuals. Trials and sufferings make us grow and they can make us stronger. So, when we have to endure trials, and we all have to at some point in our lives, it is good to ask ourselves, "*What is God trying to say to me here? What can I learn from it?*"

One of the things we can always learn from a trial is that we get through it by the grace of God and not by our own strength. Compare Peter in this Gospel to what he came to be later on. He went through a lot and by the time the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles at Pentecost he was a different man. In the Gospel, Peter denies Our Lord three times, but then later on in the Acts of the Apostles he twice endured prison for preaching the Gospel. All the Apostles felt privileged to be able to suffer for JESUS. St Paul tells us in Second Corinthians, how he was beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, hungry, thirsty, cold and naked, all for the spread of the Gospel (2 Corinthians 11:24-28).

St John Vianney, also known as the **Curé of Ars** (1786-1859), whose feast we celebrated last week couldn't pass his exams to become a priest. In the end, by much prayer, by God's grace and a very helpful priest he did just enough to be ordained, but even then he was ordained more for his holiness and virtue than for any qualifications. John became one of the greatest Confessors in the history of the Church, and he is now Patron Saint of Parish Priests!

So when we have to go through a trial let us abandon ourselves to JESUS as the saints did. Let us learn to trust Him now in these difficult times and allow His grace to work on us so as we become the human beings He intends us to be.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	8 th	6.00pm	Heather Saunders RIP (A) – PUBLIC MASS
Sun	9 th	<u>Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</u>	
		9.00am	For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
		11.15am	Francesco & Rosina Guarasci RIP (A) – PUBLIC MASS
Mon	10 th	<u>St Laurence, Martyr (Feast)</u>	
		9.15am	Lamberto Castillo RIP
Tues	11 th	9.15am	Barbara Watkins RIP – PUBLIC MASS
Weds	12 th	6.30pm	Intention for the living
Thurs	13 th	9.15am	Dr Antony Giles RIP
Fri	14 th	<u>St Maximillian Kolbe (Memoria)</u>	
		6.30pm	Marian Kotarba RIP – PUBLIC MASS
Sat	15 th	9.15am	Holy Souls
		10.30am-	Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
		12.30pm	Confessions available 10.30am-11.30am
		6.00pm	Dr Antony Giles RIP – PUBLIC MASS
Sun	16 th	<u>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)</u>	
		9.00am	For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
		11.15am	For the Victims of the Beirut Explosion – PUBLIC MASS

LATIN MASS: There will be no Latin Mass this **Wednesday 12th August**. It will resume on **Wednesday 19th August**. *Fr Paul*

ITALIAN MASS will resume on **Sunday 23rd August**.

MASS INTENTIONS: Although the times of Masses are all displayed in this newsletter, the PRIVATE Masses (ie those Masses not open to the public) will not necessarily be offered at those particular 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: Domenica Coviello **May she rest in peace and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Gregory Mazur, Terry Fitzpatrick, Robert Fadesco, Mary Brookner, Antonietta Albiniano, Elizabeth Tivey, Erroll Starbuck, John Colardo, Hannah Bell, Alf Cooper, Antonia Wosniak, Edna Hudson, Elizabeth Mallon, Anna Madge, Heather Saunders and Francesca & Rosina Guarasci

ONLINE BOOKING FOR MASS: St Mary's has signed up for the Online Mass Booking service with the Diocese and it is now functioning. You must sign up in order to reserve seats for yourself and others. Seats can be reserved 7 days in advance up to 23 hours before the start of Mass. The website address is <https://massbooking.uk>. If you don't have the means to book yourself, please ask someone to do so for you.

TOILETS DURING MASS: Please note that for safety reasons it will not be possible to access the toilets via the sacristy and library during Mass. Instead you will need to exit the church by the Lady Altar and use the outside entrance to the hall, and then re-enter the church by the main double doors. All children under 12 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Thank you.

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

VOLUNTEER STEWARDS: We could do with some more stewards particularly for Saturday morning private prayer between 10.30am and 12.30pm. Volunteers should be under 70 with no underlying health conditions. Please let Fr Paul know if you are able to assist. Thank you.

LATIN MASS BOOKLETS: Due to the Covid situation we are not able to hand out the booklets at the Latin Mass and so people have been asking to buy their own. I have ordered 20 copies of the booklet and should have them some time over the next week. If you would like one please ask me. The cost is £3.75.

Fr Paul

FACE MASKS AT MASS: As you will know, the Government have now made compulsory the wearing of a face mask at public worship. You will obviously have to remove it to receive Holy Communion. Children under 11 are not expected to wear them. People are exempted from having to wear a face mask for the following reasons: "not being able to put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability; if putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause you severe distress; in order to take medication." Other reasons are given too. You can check out the document at the following website: www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/.

NEXT SUNDAY 16th August is the transferred **Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady** when we celebrate the divinely revealed dogma that Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was taken up body and soul into Heaven. Pope Benedict XVI said in 2006, *"By contemplating Mary in heavenly glory, we understand that the earth is not the definitive homeland for us either, and that if we live with our gaze fixed on eternal goods we will one day share in this same glory. and the earth will become more beautiful. Consequently, we must not lose our serenity and peace even amid the thousands of daily difficulties. The luminous sign of Our Lady taken up into Heaven shines out even more brightly when sad shadows of suffering and violence seem to loom on the horizon."*

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: “If I try by myself to swim across the ocean of this world, the waves will certainly engulf me. In order to survive I must climb aboard a ship made of wood; this wood is the Cross of Christ. Of course, even on board ship there will be dangerous tempests and perils from the sea of this world. But God will help me remain on board the ship and arrive safely at the harbour of eternal life.” (*St Augustine of Hippo, 354-430*).

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