



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 13 September 2020 TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Psalter Week 4

Forgiving Seventy-Seven Times

It is not easy to forgive those who have hurt us. We can hold grudges, we want revenge, we want to get even. But Our Lord today, in response to Peter's question as to how many times we should forgive, says no, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. In other words, always! **St Stephen**, the first martyr for the Faith gave us a wonderful example of forgiveness. As he was about to be stoned to death he said, "*Lord, do not hold this sin against them*" (Acts 7:60).

We have to forgive others because God forgives us. Think of what we say in the Our Father: "*forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.*" Can we expect God to forgive us when we refuse to forgive our neighbour? And if it is true that our neighbour doesn't deserve our pardon, it will be even more true that we do not deserve the pardon of God. So we have to try to forgive others even if it is difficult. The **Parable** in today's Gospel of the **Unmerciful Servant** reminds us that if we insist on strict justice with others who have offended us, God will hold us fully liable for the offenses we have committed against His infinite Majesty. The master said to the wicked servant, "*I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?*" (Matthew 18:32-33).

During the Reformation in this country, the Jesuit priest and martyr **St Edmund Campion** (1540-1581) was betrayed and arrested. He was visited in prison by his betrayer, George Eliot, a Catholic, who was being prosecuted for murder and who saw a chance to save himself. Fr Campion not only forgave him, but he also urged him to leave England, because he might be in danger himself, and gave him a letter of safe-conduct to a Catholic nobleman in Germany.

The saints forgave because they knew they were sinners themselves and needed forgiveness. Forgiveness is the key to our inner freedom and peace. Once we have experienced that joy of being forgiven, we can open ourselves to forgive others. If you are holding a grudge, pray for that person's well-being because then you have already begun to forgive them. You may choose to keep a distance from them, but it's ok to pray for our enemies from a safe distance!

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

FROM THE SAINTS: "There are many kinds of alms, the giving of which helps us to obtain pardon for our sins; but none is greater than that by which we forgive from our heart a sin that someone has committed against us" (*St Augustine of Hippo, 354-430*).

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	12 th	6.00pm	Intention for the living – PUBLIC MASS
Sun	13 th	<u>Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</u>	
		9.00am	Venancio Castillo Sr RIP (Anniversary) – PUBLIC MASS
		11.15am	Connie Moulton RIP (Anniversary) – PUBLIC MASS
		4.00pm	Italian Mass
Mon	14 th	<u>Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Feast)</u>	
		9.15am	For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
Tues	15 th	<u>Our Lady of Sorrows (Memoria)</u>	
		9.15am	Intention for the living
Weds	16 th	6.30pm	Ray Wainwright RIP – PUBLIC MASS (Latin old rite)
Thurs	17 th	9.15am	Vito Caruso RIP
Fri	18 th	6.30pm	George Daniel Njie RIP– PUBLIC MASS
Sat	19 th	9.15am	Intention for the living
		10.30am-	Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
		12.30pm	Confessions available 10.30am-11.30am
		6.00pm	For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
Sun	20 th	<u>Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</u>	
		9.00am	Holy Souls – PUBLIC MASS
		11.15am	Intention for the living – PUBLIC MASS

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: Vittorio Acierno **May he rest in peace**
and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Margaret Mills, Dreda Clarke, Ambo Faulks, Connie Moulton, John Walsh, Olga Keane, Carmel Dakin, Patricia Blackwell, Charles Farrell, Jane West, Mary Scrivens, David Hammond, Giuseppe Bianco, Brian Tallon and Venancio Castillo Sr

SECOND COLLECTION: There is a mandated Second Collection today for the **Holy Places of Palestine**. This should have taken place on Good Friday. The diocese has asked that it take place this weekend. Thank you.

MASS CHANGE: Due to the availability of stewards and cleaners, from this week onwards, the public Mass on Tuesdays will now be transferred to Mondays. So for the time being there will be no public Mass on Tuesdays.

OPEN EVENING (TALK & TOUR) AT DE LISLE COLLEGE: 28th, 29th, 30th September – 5.00-6.30pm or 6.00-7.30pm. To book, visit www.delisle.org.uk

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR MIGRANTS: The World Day for Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) will be celebrated on 27th September 2020.

BISHOP-ELECT ERIK VARDEN: Many will like to know that the Episcopal Consecration of the former Abbot of Mount St Bernard's, Erik Varden, will now take place on **Saturday 3rd October** in Trondheim, Norway. It was due to have taken place in January but was postponed due to his ill health. He has now fully recovered, but we keep him in our prayers.

FATIMA: A new film has just been released on the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima in 1917 and is getting very good reviews. There has apparently been a bit of artistic licence taken but it is basically faithful to the events as they really happened. You can watch it online. Check it out here: <https://www.fatimathemovie.com/watch-at-home/>

VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life, Walsingham, 27th September. It can be accessed via YouTube on Walsingham Catholic TV or at the Basilica live stream: <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>. Devotions will be streamed throughout the day, beginning with the Mass at 12.00 noon. Full details are on the website, including the programme for the day: www.prolifepilgrimage.org.

CONFESSIONS: A reminder that there is a priest hearing Confessions in the church on Saturday mornings between 10.30 and 11.30am, and by appointment.

TOILETS DURING MASS: Please note 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.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Brother William Rees, IC** who made his First Vows in the Rosminian Order to our Father Provincial, Chris Fuse, in the presence of 17 of the brethren at the Rosmini Centre last week. He is going to Rome tomorrow (Monday) to begin his theological studies. Please keep him in your prayers and keep praying for vocations. This is the first Profession we have had in the Order since mine 10 years ago. Let us pray hard it will not be another 10 years before the next one! Oremus.

Fr Paul

FOODBANK:

- Once again thank you for a fantastic response to the foodbank collection. This time we were able to deliver three carloads to John Storer House. They are amazed at the donations they receive from St Mary's. The next collection is planned for **Saturday 17th October**, 10.30/11.00am. Further details later. Thank you.
Jane Monaghan
- John Storer House are looking for 2/3 volunteers to work in the Foodbank on a Monday or Tuesday. This is a temporary opportunity. For more information, email gemma.skevington@thebridge-eastmidlands.org.uk.

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.

PRE-BOOKING PLACES FOR MASS: Numbers have increased so much at the weekend Masses **it is now essential that you book your place in advance.** Online bookings can be made on the diocesan website at <https://massbooking.uk> Telephone bookings can be made by calling 0115 648 1474, Monday-Friday between 9am and 4pm. Due to the high demand at weekend Masses, a pre-booked seat is not guaranteed if you arrive after Mass has begun. May I take this opportunity to remind you that **the Sunday obligation is still suspended, and therefore I would encourage some of you to take advantage of attending Mass during the week instead** to help ease the numbers at the weekend. Thank you. *Fr Paul*

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