



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 27 September 2020 TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Psalter Week 2

‘The Little Flower’

This Thursday we celebrate the feast day of **St Thérèse of Lisieux** (1873-1897) or ‘The Little Flower’ as she is often called. **Pope St Pius X** said she was *“the greatest saint of modern times.”* She remains very popular today and I know many of you have a devotion to her. We have a statue of her in our church by the Altar of St Joseph.

In spite of her very short life she wasn’t always a saint. She was a precocious child who would have temper tantrums when she didn’t get her own way, but she had a profound conversion when she was just 13. She felt called to become a Carmelite nun, but she was too young and was told to ask again when she was 16. She asked the Bishop to let her enter when she was 15 but was still unsuccessful. Her father who believed in her vocation took her on a pilgrimage to Rome when she met **Pope Leo XIII** and asked him to allow her to enter Carmel at 15. As she knelt before the Pope he replied, *“Go, go! You will enter if God wills it!”* And God did will it because the Bishop then gave her permission to enter at 15 and she lived in the convent at Lisieux, where three of her older sisters were also nuns for nine years until her death from tuberculosis at the age of 24. She promised to spend her Heaven doing good on earth. After her death many miraculous cures happened through her intercession.

On the face of it she seemed very ordinary, so how did she become so famous? Before her death, because her holiness and humility were so evident, her Superior ordered her to write an autobiography detailing her spiritual life now known as **“Story of a Soul”**, a spiritual classic which I would recommend you read. Her *“little way”* teaches us to become holy through the ordinary things of life. We don’t have to do mighty deeds to be a saint – we can become holy by doing ordinary things with great love. She wrote, *“I applied myself above all to practice quiet hidden little acts of virtue; thus I liked to fold the mantles forgotten by the Sisters, and sought a thousand opportunities of rendering them service.”* She once said, *“To pick up a pin for love can convert a soul.”*

Thérèse suffered poor health all her life, but in spite of her frailty she spent many hours in the convent laundry. There was a particular Sister opposite her washing handkerchiefs who would always splash her with the dirty water, but Thérèse refrained from showing annoyance, and on the contrary made great efforts to welcome being splashed so as she would come joyfully *“to the happy spot where such treasures were freely bestowed.”*

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MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	26th	6.00pm	Bridget Fay RIP (Anniversary) – PUBLIC MASS
Sun	27th	<u>Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</u>	
		9.00am	Moira Webb RIP – PUBLIC MASS
		11.15am	For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
		4.00pm	Italian Mass
Mon	28th	9.15am	Kenneth Gillham RIP – PUBLIC MASS
Tues	29th	<u>Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels (Feast)</u>	
		9.15am	Mary Gilmartin RIP
Weds	30th	6.30pm	Holy Souls – PUBLIC MASS (Latin old rite)
Thurs	1st	<u>St Thérèse of Lisieux (Memoria)</u>	
		9.15am	Peter & Anne Rochford RIP
Fri	2nd	<u>The Holy Guardian Angels (Memoria)</u>	
		6.30pm	First Friday: For our deceased Relatives & Friends – PUBLIC MASS
Sat	3rd	9.15am	Members of the RCIA programme (GE)
		10.30am-	Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
		12.30pm	Confessions available 10.30am-11.30am
		6.00pm	Sylvia Alborough RIP – PUBLIC MASS
Sun	4th	<u>Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</u>	
		9.00am	Intention for the living – PUBLIC MASS
		11.15am	For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS

MASS INTENTIONS: Although the times of Masses are all displayed in this newsletter, the PRIVATE Masses (ie those not open to the public) will not necessarily be offered at those 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: Salvatore Fele, Sylvia Alborough and Janet Edwards **May they rest in peace**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bridget Fay, Andrew Leonard, Norah Willems, Eileen Scott, Donald Folkes, Joan Slevin, Patrick Lynch, June Upton, Concetta Buttarazzi, Arthur Spencer and Pauline Davey

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St Thérèse and her "little way" show us that true holiness is within the reach of all of us. She was canonised in 1925, and in 1997 **Pope St John Paul II** declared her to be a **Doctor of the Church**, a title given to only a few of the Church's saints, thus making St Thérèse one of the true guides in the spiritual life for us all.

St Thérèse of Lisieux, pray for us.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES will recommence on **Saturday 3rd October** in the Hall, 10am-11am. Parents should have received an emailed letter about this.

CONFIRMATION: A number of people have been asking me when the Sacrament of Confirmation will take place. The answer is, I really don't know. I have mentioned it to the Bishop recently who said he would still like to come and administer the Sacrament himself, but with the numbers involved and the social distancing he would have to come more than once. I don't know yet when that will be. As soon as there is some development I will let you know.

Fr Paul

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS: Now that Sam Hart and Brother William Rees have gone off to begin studying for the priesthood we must not rest on our laurels regarding praying for vocations and think that is sufficient. We must continue to pray for them, but also now ask God to inspire new vocations, particularly from this parish. So in this regard, after a pause of eight months there will be a revival of our monthly Holy Hour for Vocations to the priesthood and religious life on **Thursday 15th October at 7pm**. See what good it's done already! "*Ask and you will receive.*" You don't need to book. Just come and join us.

Fr Paul

ROSARY SUNDAY: October is the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary and the first Sunday of October is traditionally known as Rosary Sunday on which we may celebrate one Votive Mass of Our Lady of the Rosary. We will do this at the 11.15am Mass next **Sunday 4th October** but with the readings of the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Fr Paul

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR MIGRANTS: The World Day for Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) is being celebrated today, **27th September**.

STUDENT FOR THE PRIESTHOOD: As I have mentioned in previous weeks, one of our altar servers, Sam Hart has been accepted to study for the Priesthood for Nottingham Diocese. Sam will be leaving for Valladolid in Spain this **Thursday 1st October** for his first year of formation. This is not a guarantee of ordination. He has to go on discerning God's Will for him. It can be a tough road to the Priesthood which is why he will need sustaining by our prayers. It is so important to pray for priests and for vocations to the Priesthood. It could be Sam one day anointing you and preparing you to depart this life and stand before the Judgement Seat of God. Such is the vocation of a priest. We wish him well and keep him in our prayers. No doubt we will see him back here in the holidays.

Fr Paul

DE LISLE COLLEGE: Parents of pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 are warmly invited to De Lisle College on one of their open evenings – **28th, 29th and 30th September**. For information about how to book tickets, please see the college website: www.delisle.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.

FROM THE SAINTS: “I know now that true charity consists in bearing all our neighbour’s defects - not being surprised at their weakness, but edified at their smallest virtues”

(St Thérèse of Lisieux, 1873-1897).

PRE-BOOKING PLACES FOR MASS: 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 higher 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 if possible** to help ease the numbers at the weekend. Thank you.

Fr Paul

LAST WEEK’S FINANCE:	
Envelopes: £117	Second collection -
Loose plate: £238	<i>Holy Places in the Holy Land: £211</i>
Standing orders: £776	<i>Thank you</i>