



# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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## Newsletter for Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Psalter Week 1

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## Sloth

In today's Gospel we hear the famous **Parable of the Talents** (Matthew 25:14-30) in which JESUS urges us to be ready for the Master's return. He Himself is that Master, and that return will be either at the moment of our death or at His Second Coming.

In the parable, the talents are not distributed equally. One servant received five talents, another received two and the other just one, each according to their ability. The Master returned after a long time. The first two had doubled their investment and were rewarded, whereas the third who had done nothing and hid it in the ground was punished and "*thrown out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.*" He hadn't done anything immoral but his sins were those of *omission* rather than commission. So it is possible to lose our souls by doing nothing. He had been lazy or slothful and had not used the talents he had been given.

**Sloth** or laziness is one of the **Seven Deadly Sins**. It does not refer to legitimate recreation or rest. We all need time for ourselves to relax and chill out, especially if we've been working hard. But when we think only of ourselves and our own comfort and become unwilling to do anything for anybody else, and when we neglect our spiritual duties, this can cause us serious damage. We all hear the devil whispering in our ear that God accepts me and loves me just as I am and so I don't have to bother improving myself. If we give in to these thoughts it causes our spiritual life to deteriorate and we begin to fall into more serious sins. God does love us, but He wants us to become holy, and that requires effort on our part. **St Jane Frances de Chantal** (1572-1641) said, "*Hell is full of the talented, but Heaven of the energetic.*" In other words, we will be judged not on how many talents we had, but on how we used the ones we were given and whether we used them with a supernatural motive.

So what talents has God given you? How are you using them? Do you cultivate the gifts God has given you? If you have monetary gifts, do you help those in need? Almsgiving is an essential part of the spiritual life. Could you be a volunteer for a worthy organisation? Could you help steward in the church? Could you sing in the choir? Is there a sick person you could visit or do shopping for? Do you pray and make sacrifices for the souls in Purgatory? The majority of the saints didn't become holy overnight. For most it was the result of a life of humble sacrifices and loving actions. Even insignificant actions done out of love of God have supernatural value. Think of the talents God has given you and ask Him to show you how best to use them.

*Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

## MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

<b>Sat</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	6.00pm	James O'Rourke RIP
<b>Sun</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><u>Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time</u></b>	
		9.00am	For the Parish
		11.15am	Joan Meynell RIP (Anniversary)
<b>Mon</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	9.15am	Steve Morris RIP
<b>Tues</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	9.15am	Intention for the living
<b>Weds</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	6.30pm	Roger Galvin RIP (Anniversary)
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	9.15am	Holy Souls
<b>Fri</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	6.30pm	Luigi Romano RIP
<b>Sat</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b><u>Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Memoria)</u></b>	
		9.15am	Emily Houston RIP
		<b>10.30am-</b>	<b>Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.</b>
		<b>12.30pm</b>	<b>Confessions available 10.30am-11.30am</b>
		6.00pm	For the Parish
<b>Sun</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b><u>CHRIST THE KING (Solemnity)</u></b>	
		9.00am	Aislabie Harrison RIP (Anniversary)
		11.15am	Intention for the living

**MASS INTENTIONS:** Although the times of Masses have been left on the weekly calendar, the priests will not necessarily offer them at those specific times. However, 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.**

**NO PUBLIC MASSES UNTIL AT LEAST 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER  
CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES:**

**Sundays:** 3-5pm, **Mondays:** 9.30-10.30am

**Wednesdays:** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 5.30-6.30pm with Confessions

**Fridays:** 5.30-6.30pm

**Saturdays:** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10.30am-12.30pm  
with Confessions 10.30-11.30am.

**PLEASE PRAY for those who have recently died:** Frances Ebong, Fr Michael Horrax and Freda Ainsworth. **May they rest in peace**

**and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Michele Digirolamo, Miroslaw Popowicz, Angela Brienza, Tony Jallow, James Ward, Philip Bowler, Roger Galvin and Joan Meynell

## CHRISTMAS APPEAL

As you know, **the Grub Club team** has not been able to run any sessions this year, although we have supported some families financially during holiday times. Conscious of the increasing pressures on families, we are starting a **Christmas Cheer Appeal to try to raise £2000** to support as many disadvantaged families as we can to provide some small extras this Christmas. (This amount will supplement the small amount that remains in the Grub Club account). This appeal will run in St Mary's and Sacred Heart parishes. We have contacted eight local primary schools to ask head teachers how many families they believe would benefit.

**We hope to reach at least 65 families.**

If you would like to help, please send your donation in an envelope marked 'Grub Club' to the church office at St Mary's or at the presbytery at Sacred Heart. For online donations:

Grub Club account at Lloyds Bank. Sort code - 30-96-26. Account - 38441468.

**Thank you for your support.**

*Catherine Brady (Grub Club chair) and Frank Fay (treasurer)*

**SATURDAY 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 10.30-11.00am:** Our Christmas food bank collection for John Storer House will be at this time in the car park. Staff at JSH have suggested if possible that we contribute 'Christmas Goodies', which could include chocolates, sweets, chocolate biscuits, tins or sachets of cocoa, jars of coffee, tea, long life milk, selection boxes, Christmas crackers, boxes of toiletries, tinned meat. If you have the time an idea is to present your donations in a gift-wrapped box, however donations in the usual way are very greatly appreciated. This year many families will be dependent on the food bank for all the little extras that make the Christmas table special. Parishioners from St Mary's continue to give marvellous support to this venture. With grateful thanks to all.

*Jane Monaghan*

**DONATION REQUEST:** Our local charity that helps the homeless, Exaireo, is trying to put measures in place to limit the negative impact on residents' mental health. They are hoping to install a desktop PC in each of the houses, so residents can access online support and activities, as well as keeping in touch with management and other agencies they may need to interact with. **Do you have a PC you no longer need and would like to donate?** If so, please contact Exaireo at info@exaireo.org or by phoning their office on 01509 266422 (this is not currently manned all day). St Mary's has been a faithful supporter of Exaireo for many years.

**REPOSITORY OPENING HOURS EXTENDED:** During lockdown, the Repository will be open during private prayers sessions. Christmas cards, Advent calendars and gifts are now available, along with Mass cards, Rosaries, religious candles and Statues - all at very reasonable prices. Due to the pandemic, please bring the exact money for your purchases. Thank you.

**FROM THE SAINTS:** 'When our lease on life runs out, two questions will be asked. The world will ask, "How much did he leave?" The angels will ask, "How much did he bring with him?" (*Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen, 1895-1979*).

### LAST WEEK'S FINANCE:

'Collection': **£240**, all gift-aided (No 'loose plate' donations)

Standing orders: **£776** of which **£679** is gift-aided

*Thank you*

## 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.*

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**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.

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**CHANGES TO NOVEMBER INDULGENCES FOR THE HOLY SOULS:** Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Apostolic Penitentiary in Rome has made some changes regarding the November Indulgences for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. This is to help avoid large gatherings.

1. The plenary indulgence for those who visit a cemetery and pray for the dead, even if only mentally, normally established only on the individual days from 1st to 8th November, can now be transferred **to any other day of the month of November.**

2. The plenary indulgence of 2<sup>nd</sup> November, for those who piously visit a church or an oratory and pray for the dead and recite the "Our Father" and the "Creed" there, may now be transferred not only to the Sunday preceding or following, but also **on any other day of the month of November.**

In all instances make a good confession within the week before or after and be free from all attachment to sin. Also say one Our Father and Hail Mary for the Pope's monthly intentions and receive Holy Communion worthily on the same day or soon after. If you don't manage to fulfil all these conditions, the indulgence is partial.

The elderly, sick or housebound can obtain the plenary indulgence provided that they are completely detached from sin and have the intention of fulfilling as soon as possible the three usual condition of sacramental confession, Holy Communion and prayer for the Pope's Intentions. They obtain the plenary indulgence by saying prayers for the dead before an image of Our Lord or Our Lady such as the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, or other prayers for the dead, or meditate on a Gospel passage proposed by the Liturgy for the Dead, or do a work of mercy by offering their pain and discomfort to God.

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