



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 13th December 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gaudete Sunday

Psalter Week 3

The One Who is to Come

St John the Baptist features again in this week's Gospel. So great was his humility that he said, *"The One Who is coming after me; I am not fit to undo His sandal-strap."* And yet Our Lord Himself said of John, *"no greater man has been born of a woman"* (Luke 7:28). So Our Lord is indicating that even though John is the greatest man born, Christ far excels him in every respect.

John knew and understood fully Who Our Lord is. He knew He was not just the Messiah, He was not just a man sent by God, but He was also God Himself. JESUS is fully man and fully God. He is not a human person but a **Divine Person** with a human nature. In other words, when we see Christ we see God. JESUS said, *"He who has seen Me has seen the Father"* (John 14:9). When God the Son Who is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity became man, He did not cease being God. This is why in the Creed we say He is *"consubstantial with the Father."* That is, He is of the same substance as the Father.

As we heard in last week's readings, the Good News from the prophet Isaiah was that one day God Himself was going to come and visit us. At the time of John the Baptist, things were bad. The Romans were in charge, Herod was committing terrible crimes, and so Israel was longing for God to come and save His people.

This Sunday is known as '**Gaudete**' Sunday. Gaudete is Latin for rejoice, and so the penitential purple is replaced by the more joyful rose-coloured vestments. We are rejoicing midway through Advent because Christ is coming and our salvation is near. The words of today's Entrance Antiphon from St Paul from which this Sunday takes its name are, *"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. **Indeed, the Lord is near**"* (Philippians 4:4-5). He is coming to save us, but not from Herod, the Romans or Coronavirus, although we hope and pray He will save us from that too. More importantly He has come to save us from sin and eternal death. This is truly something to be rejoicing about. And He can only save us **because He is God.**

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

FROM THE SAINTS: "John was a voice, but the Lord in the beginning was the Word. John was a voice for a time, Christ the eternal Word in the beginning" (*St Augustine of Hippo, 354-430*).

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	12th	6.00pm	Catherine Connolly RIP (Anniversary) – PUBLIC MASS
Sun	13th	<u>Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete)</u>	
		9.00am	Margaret Woodhouse & Pauline Davey RIP – PUBLIC MASS
		11.15am	Ian Yeoman RIP – PUBLIC MASS
Mon	14th	9.15am	Rolando Salvador & Joven Fabilena RIP– PUBLIC MASS
Tues	15th	9.15am	For the Parish
		12.30pm	<i>Requiem Mass for Michele Caggiano (by invitation only)</i>
Weds	16th	6.30pm	Sr Lucina (GE) (Latin old rite) – PUBLIC MASS
Thurs	17th	6.45am	Rorate Mass: Vito Caruso RIP – PUBLIC MASS
Fri	18th	11.00am	<i>Requiem Mass for Frances Ebong RIP (by invitation only)</i>
		6.30pm	Anthony Richard Hutchings RIP – PUBLIC MASS
Sat	19th	9.15am	James O'Rourke RIP
		10.30am-	Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
		12.30pm	Confessions available 10.30am-11.30am
		6.00pm	Evelyn Woodhouse RIP – PUBLIC MASS
Sun	20th	<u>Fourth Sunday of Advent</u>	
		9.00am	Evelyn Woodhouse RIP – PUBLIC MASS
		11.15am	For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS

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.

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY: At the end of all Masses this weekend we will have the blessing of your Christmas cribs. Please bring them to church with you if you would like them blessed.

**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: Terry Oliver, Marie Hardy, Lidia & Fernando Buttarazzi, Michele Caggiano, Everard Hurt and Frances Ebong. **May they rest in peace**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Peter Davis, Vera Savage, Rev Sr Mary Dominic Thomas, Lawrence Rayburn, Rev Fr Kit Cunningham, Teresa Crescenzo, David Hatley, Peter Stonehouse, Giuseppe Sacchetta, Hryhori Westyn, Luisa deBlasio, Gertrude Tyler, Rita Message, Elizabeth Jordan, Veronica Burton, Alojgy Panna, Carmel Berridge, Peter Robinson and Catherine Connolly

ADVANCE BOOKING FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES: Please sign in as soon as possible for the Mass you wish to attend on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. There will be a booking form at the back of the church for each Mass. PLEASE NOTE - you will **NOT** need to book online if you sign up on the form.

LOUGHBOROUGH FOOD BANK AT JOHN STORER HOUSE: A huge thanks to all for the numerous donations to the Loughborough Food bank. St Mary's parishioners and the school community excelled in their generosity. The staff at JSH extend grateful thanks to all. They couldn't quite believe it as the gifts kept on coming, in total we made seven car journeys to the centre. This year our contributions will go towards the 350 weekly food parcels distributed across Charnwood. Along with these the Falcon Centre for the homeless, the Trussell Trust, Mountsorrel Community Fridge and the Soar Valley community Food Project will benefit from our collection. As many of you know the food bank, Joseph's Storehouse at The Carpenters Arms disbanded last November and the donations were redirected to JSH. The Carpenters Arms as an organisation is still functioning but there are no food bank facilities there. *Jane Monaghan*

KWEDIBOMA: Many thanks to everyone who has supported the Kwediboma Health Centre over the past year. Last Thursday £1,850 was transferred to the Health Centre to help to build the new Mortuary. *Terry Spicer*

CHRISTMAS CAKES, JAMS & CHUTNEY: I have been merrily baking away during lockdown and have the following goodies for sale: Christmas cakes, mince pies, carrot cakes, jams, marmalade and chutney. The sale proceedings will be donated to The Missions and our local Grub Club. Unfortunately, I can't hold my 'normal' stall, so please contact me via email: marie.brookes12@gmail.com. Many Thanks *Marie Brookes*

VIRTUAL CAROL SERVICE: As it will be impossible to have our Carol Service this year, the diocese will celebrate a short online carol service on **Friday 18th December** at 6pm on Bishop Patrick's YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/BishopPatrickMckinney>) with readings, music, prayers and reflections.

UPDATE ON COVID-19 AND VACCINATION: In September 2020 the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales issued a statement COVID-19 and Vaccination (24th September 2020). In the light of the recent breakthrough in vaccine development, they have now issued a follow up statement (3rd December 2020) which can be found on the CBCEW website along with the original September statement. The Bishop has asked that this information be circulated. Here is the link: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/update-on-covid-19-and-vaccination/>.

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH: With the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis has declared a Year of St Joseph to mark the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as **Patron of the Universal Church**. The year will run from 8th December 2020, to 8th December 2021. In 1870 Pope Pius IX wrote, "*Now that in this most sorrowful time the Church herself is beset by enemies on every side and oppressed by heavy calamities, so that impious men imagine that the gates of hell are at length prevailing against her, the Venerable Prelates of the whole Catholic world have presented to the Sovereign Pontiff their own petitions and those of the faithful confided to their care, praying that he would vouchsafe to constitute St Joseph Patron of the Catholic Church.*" I think I will be saying many Votive Masses of St Joseph this coming year! *Fr Paul*

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.

RORATE MASS: By popular request, we will have a Rorate Mass this Thursday morning, **17th December at 6.45am.** A Rorate Mass is the Advent Mass of Our Lady which takes its name from the Entrance Antiphon: "Rorate caeli". *"Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the just. Let the earth be opened and send forth a Saviour."* It is celebrated early in the morning and only by candlelight. The dawn represents the birth of Christ, and with His coming, the journey from darkness to light. As we did last year, I will celebrate *'ad orientem'*, facing East, as we look together towards the Coming of the Lord. *Fr Paul*

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 **07554 603972 on Tuesday or Wednesday between 2pm and 4pm or Thursday and Friday between 5pm and 7pm. In the run up to Christmas you will also be able to book on Saturday and Sunday between 2pm and 5pm. Please do not phone the Presbytery. 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***

SEA SUNDAY: Next weekend there will be a mandatory second collection for the Apostleship of the Sea. This should have been held in July but it has been transferred.

LAST WEEK'S FINANCE:	
Envelopes: £582 of which £249 was gift-aided	Grub Club Donations: £35
Standing orders: £776 of which £679 is gift-aided	<i>Thank you</i>