



# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

97 Ashby Road, Loughborough LE11 3AB

Tel: 01509 262123

Email: [office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk](mailto:office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk)

Web: [www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk](http://www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk)

Served by the Rosminians: Fr Paul Gillham, Parish Priest

Assistant Priest: Fr Simon Giles. On attachment: Fr David Jones, OLW

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## Newsletter for Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Psalter Week 2

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## Changing the Regime

Every year in our cycle of readings we read on the Second Sunday of Advent about John the Baptist and this year we get it from the introduction to the Gospel of Mark. ‘**Gospel**’, old Anglo-Saxon for ‘**Good News**’ has been described as a news bulletin of **regime-change**. Something to broadcast to the world and what is it? The triumph of Christ, born at **Christmas**, crucified and risen at **Easter**, ascended and glorified at **Pentecost**. **Regime-change par excellence!** Consisting as it does of adopting a whole new system of values; how we see others, how we use our time and talents, how we see and value our very selves. Seeing our world and our lives as Christ would. Turning worldly short-term ways of thinking on their head. Now that’s ‘**Repentance!**’ Adopting Christ’s ways of behaviour, seeing things His way, looking for the signs of His Kingdom, praying for His reign to come.

So John, dressed in the unmistakable garb of the prophet Elijah – and a prophet is not a glorified weather-forecaster but a daunting figure who sees and interprets things as God sees them – cries out at the ford of the River Jordan, swirling with merchants and travellers, intent on their own values, “**Change your ways the Lord is coming!**”. And it’s his message for all of us this weekend **too**.

The excitement is on and will only develop by listening to the ‘**Good News**’ as we journey towards Christmas. God’s love **revealed**. God’s forgiveness **received**. God’s grace showered **upon us**. If Advent does nothing else, it gives a time to evaluate our own position, our faith, our claim to believe, the evidence in the values we live. A time to examine, “***What I have done, and what I have failed to do.***” A time that may well involve a serious and well-considered **Confession**.

We can usually assume that each of the **Seven Deadly Sins** (if you don’t know them, Google!) are at work in us in some manner and degree, an examination of conscience should help us see how. Listen to John’s message, **repent, confess, be renewed and ready**. Let’s continue to change our **personal regime**, ready to welcome the Lord when He comes.

*Fr David Jones OLW*

“Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us, and also to verify our longing for God. To look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ’s return.”

*(Pope Francis)*

## MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

<b>Sat</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	6.00pm	Charles Connolly RIP (Anniversary) – <b>PUBLIC MASS</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><u>Second Sunday of Advent</u></b>	
		9.00am	Katie Mercer RIP – <b>PUBLIC MASS</b>
		11.15am	For the Parish – <b>PUBLIC MASS</b>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	9.15am	Venancio Castillo Sr RIP (Anniversary) – <b>PUBLIC MASS</b>
<b>Tues</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><u>IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (SOLEMNITY)</u></b>	
		9.15am	Andy Newbold RIP
		<b>6.30pm</b>	Ian McClean RIP – <b>PUBLIC MASS</b>
<b>Weds</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	Leslie Betts (Latin old rite) – <b>PUBLIC MASS</b>
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	9.15am	Don & Kath Howell Family Intentions
<b>Fri</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	1.15pm	<i>Requiem Mass for Andy Newbold RIP (by invitation only)</i>
		<b>6.30pm</b>	Donald Riste Clemerson RIP (Anniversary) – <b>PUBLIC MASS</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	9.15am	Sheila McFerran 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>
		<b>6.00pm</b>	Catherine Connolly RIP (Anniversary) – <b>PUBLIC MASS</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><u>Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete)</u></b>	
		<b>9.00am</b>	Margaret Woodhouse & Pauline Davey RIP – <b>PUBLIC MASS</b>
		<b>11.15am</b>	Ian Yeoman RIP – <b>PUBLIC MASS</b>

**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.

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:  
Extra Public Mass at 6.30pm**

**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:** Lidia Buttarazzi, Michele Caggiano, Everard Hurt, Andy Newbold, Frances Ebong and Michael Murphy (Terry's brother). **May they rest in peace and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Ernie Willett, Frank Shelton, Bill Flatley, Dorothy Fellows, Morgan Isherwood, Elizabeth Kendall, James Callan, Cyril Dale, Arthur Makey, Salvatore Corbinzolu, Christina Johnstone, Teresa Denton, James Slevin, Rose Arulmuthu, Mavis Maguire, Charles Connolly, Venancio Castillo and Donald Riste Clemerson

**GRUB CLUB CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** As of 2<sup>nd</sup> December we have received **£2050**. This has enabled us to support 71 families and 281 individual adults and children drawn from eight schools across Loughborough. Thank you to St Mary's and Sacred Heart parishioners for their huge generosity. *Catherine Brady and Frank Fay*

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

**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*

**APPEAL FOR HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES:** A young man helped by Exaireo is moving into his own home and needs a fridge and a cooker. If you can help, please call Exaireo on 01509 266422 or email dettie@exaireo.org.

**VIRTUAL CAROL SERVICE:** It will be impossible to have our Carol Service this year with the restrictions that are in place, most notably the ban on indoor singing! However, the diocese will celebrate a short online carol service on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December** at 6pm on Bishop Patrick's YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/BishopPatrickMckinney>) with readings, music, prayers and reflections. You are invited to join as a family and ask others to do so too. After the service grab a mince pie, something warm to drink, and join in on Zoom for a family Christmas Quiz (6:45pm-7:15pm). The link and access code will be given out during the service.

**FR LIMNYUY GAMSI** was ordained to the Sacred Priesthood yesterday (Saturday) by Bishop Patrick in St Barnabas Cathedral. Please keep him in your prayers as he begins his work as a priest in the Diocese of Nottingham, and let us keep storming Heaven daily with prayers for vocations to the priesthood and to the religious life. *Fr Paul*

**H.E. CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS,** as is customary on approaching his 75th birthday, wrote to the Pope offering his resignation as Archbishop of Westminster. The Holy Father has accepted his resignation but the Cardinal will remain in office until "other provision is made." Let us keep him in our prayers as he continues his work for the Church in England and Wales and we also pray for a worthy successor. *Fr Paul*

<b>LAST WEEK'S FINANCE:</b>	
Envelopes: <b>£40</b>	Loose Plate: <b>£189</b>
Grub Club Donations: <b>£210</b>	
Standing orders: <b>£776</b> of which <b>£679</b> is gift-aided	<i>Thank you</i>

## 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.

**FROM THE SAINTS:** "Generally speaking, everything that concerns Our Lord JESUS Christ is twofold. His birth is twofold: one, of God before time began; the other, of the Virgin in the fullness of time. His descent is twofold: one unperceived, like the dew falling on the fleece; the other, before the eyes of all, is yet to happen" (*St Cyril of Jerusalem, 313-386*).

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**YOUTH 2000** is a Catholic spiritual initiative for young adults aged (16-35 years). It exists to draw young people across the UK into a community of other young Catholics and to help them deepen their relationship with Jesus. In non-Covid times, they host retreats and festivals throughout the year which are packed full of inspiring talks, amazing worship and 24-hours of adoration, but since March 2020 they have moved our mission online. They are currently hosting an array of courses and events which young people can get involved with. Upcoming is "Share the Joy" advent service on the **13<sup>th</sup> December**, they are also launching an online eFestival for the New Year: NEWonline. In the early 2021 they will be launching a "Time for God" book study as well as an alpha course so there is plenty to get involved with. Details of all our courses and events can be found on our website: <https://www.youth2000.org/>

**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. 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*