



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 17th January 2021 SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Your Body is a Temple of the Holy Spirit

St Paul in today's Second Reading (1 Corinthians 6:13-20) tells the Corinthians something that might have sounded strange to them. He tells them to **glorify God in their bodies**. Corinth was a Greek city, and for the Greeks the body was an unimportant thing. For them, only the soul mattered, and they thought the soul in this life was imprisoned inside this mortal body of ours. As a result they tended to have a very lax attitude when it came to sexual morality. Since the body wasn't important they could do with it whatever they liked. But for us as Christians, this is not the case.

Since the **Incarnation**, human flesh has been united to the Godhead, and so in **Baptism** we become part of the **Body of Christ** (the Church) and our body becomes a **Temple of the Holy Spirit**. And so St Paul then rightly says, "*the body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord.*" And in verse 16 he continues, "*Do you think I can take parts of Christ's body and join them to the body of a prostitute? Never!*" What St Paul is trying to say here is that what Christians do with their bodies, Christ does through them because they are members of *His* Body. And this is great when we do good things, but if a person engages in mortal sin and particularly sexual sin, Paul is saying you are uniting Christ with a prostitute. And God forbid, he says, that someone do something like that. He continues, "*flee from any sexual immorality*" because any other sin a person commits is outside the body, but in this case he sins against his own body which is a Temple of the Holy Spirit. It is a desecration of something that is holy and therefore a serious thing. So, says Paul, you have to understand, "*You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for.*" He is referring here to Christ pouring out His Blood for us on the Cross to pay the ransom for our sins.

So what does all this mean for us? **The Catechism of the Catholic Church** says, "*All the baptised are called to **chastity**. The Christian has "put on Christ," the model for all chastity. All Christ's faithful are called to lead a chaste life in keeping with their particular states of life*" (#2348). Chastity here means to avoid all sexual sin. So those who are married are called to **conjugal chastity**, where sexual union and procreation are one of the ends of marriage. But the unmarried are called to **chastity in continence**, that is abstaining from sexual relations. Therefore, strive to be faithful because your body is a Temple of the Holy Spirit.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

FROM THE SAINTS: "A person's rightful due is to be treated as an object of love, not as an object of use" (*Pope St John Paul II, 1920-2005*).

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	16th	6.00pm	Andy Newbold RIP – PUBLIC MASS
Sun	17th	<u>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</u>	
		9.00am	Deceased members of the Kenyon & Monaghan families – PUBLIC MASS
		11.15am	For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
		4.00pm	Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS
Mon	18th	9.15am	Freda Ainsworth RIP – PUBLIC MASS
Tues	19th	9.15am	Deceased members of the Lopez & Palfreyman families
Weds	20th	6.30pm	Intention for the living (Latin, old rite) – PUBLIC MASS
Thurs	21st	9.15am	Intention for the living (GE)
Fri	22nd	6.30pm	Bernard Lane RIP – PUBLIC MASS
Sat	23rd	9.15am	Eva & Domenico Lallo (GE)
		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	24th	<u>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</u>	
		9.00am	Charles Pratt RIP – PUBLIC MASS
		11.15am	Frances Ebong RIP – PUBLIC MASS
		4.00pm	Italian Mass – 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: Archbishop Philip Tartaglia of Glasgow, Mgr Mark Langham, Fr Jim McKnight IC, Carmela Brunetti, Jim Moreland and Alexandrina Nyajena. **May they rest in peace**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Alan Offiler-Russell, Frank Church, Kathleen Gratland, Henry Reed, Rev Fr Eugene Monaghan IC, Bogdon Wozniak, Justina O'Donoghue, Mary Connell, Thomas Jones, Lucia Carlardo, Marie Spencer, Wanda Lapham, Michael Doyle, Velia Cappasso, Joseph Hall, Wanda Souraty, Nicholas Robottom and Rita George

PEACE SUNDAY: The Catholic Church celebrates the 54th World Day of Peace today, **Sunday 17th January**. The Theme chosen by Pope Francis is: **“A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace.”** The message of the Holy Father, emphasizes *“a common, supportive and inclusive commitment to protecting the dignity and good of all, a willingness to show care and compassion, to work for reconciliation and healing, and to advance mutual respect and acceptance.”*

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD: Last year Pope Francis decreed that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be observed each year as a day devoted especially to the Word of God. We will be observing this next weekend. *Fr Paul*

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY begins on **Monday 18th January** and ends on **25th January**, the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul. This year the theme is “Abiding in Christ”. This is quite a challenging theme, as it also means abiding in the truth of Christ’s teachings found in the Gospel and the Tradition of the Church. Next Friday evening's Mass will be a Votive Mass for the Unity of Christians. *Fr Paul*

LAST RITES DOES NOT MEAN LAST MINUTE: As soon as a person begins to be in danger of death because of illness, injury or old age, the time for anointing has surely already come. Don't leave it too late. *Fr Paul*

SPUC: The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children is, as usual, holding their White Flower Appeal in January. There will be a special basket for you to make donations to it on the weekend of **23rd/24th January**. We are all called to stand up for life, especially for the most vulnerable and defenceless - that is the unborn. Please give generously. *Fr Paul*

THE LOUGHBOROUGH FOOD BANK continues to operate from John Storer House, this will be the case until at least the end of March. Staff at JSH inform me that at least 200 food parcels are being distributed weekly. The next collection from St Mary's will be on **Saturday 30th January, 10.30 -11.00am**. Food items most wanted include the following: tea, instant coffee, drinking chocolate, UHT milk, canned soup, beans and tomatoes. As always social distancing, gloves and masks will be worn in accordance with Covid restrictions. Kindly note food donations must not be left in the church, repository or hall buildings. Thank you for your continued support of this venture. *Jane Monaghan*

PARISH OFFICE AND PRESBYTERY DURING LOCKDOWN: It is best to contact the office by email or phone. Please do not call personally at the door of the presbytery but you may post envelopes through the letterbox. Thank you. *Fr Paul*

MORALITY OF COVID-19 VACCINES: A few parishioners have asked about this. The Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith in Rome issued a note about this in December. The basic points are that it *is* morally licit to receive a vaccination against Covid-19 even if it was developed from cells procured through abortion, because the act of the abortion is so remote from the receiver of the vaccine that it cannot constitute an approval of abortion. However, if there is an alternative vaccine it should be chosen. It also says no one should be *obliged* to receive a vaccination, but we do have a duty to protect our health. If anyone wants to read the complete statement which is not long and which I would recommend, it is on the Parish website, and there are some copies available at the entrance and exit to the church. *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.

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

There will be a Second Collection for Sick & Retired Priests this weekend.

LAST WEEK'S FINANCE	
Collection: £547 of which £85 was gift-aided	
Standing orders: £776 of which £679 is gift-aided	
Mass attendance: 152	<i>Thank you</i>