



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

97 Ashby Road, Loughborough LE11 3AB

Tel: 01509 262123

Email: office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk

Web: www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk

Served by the Rosminians: Fr Paul Gillham, Parish Priest

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

Newsletter for Sunday 24th January 2021 THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Sacred Scriptures are Inspired by God

This Sunday, the Third in Ordinary Time, is observed as a day devoted especially to the **Word of God** or the Sacred Scriptures. The **Bible** consists of 72 books which were written by men who were inspired by God. The Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) put it like this: *“In composing the sacred books, God chose men, and while employed by Him they made use of their powers and abilities, so that with Him acting in them and through them they, as true authors, consigned to writing everything and only those things which He wanted”* (Dei Verbum, #11). So these human authors, although they were moved by God, wrote in their own styles and with their own thoughts, **but only what God wanted them to write**. The Second Vatican Council confirmed all previous teaching on this topic by saying, *“everything asserted by the inspired authors or sacred writers must be held to be asserted by the Holy Spirit”* and goes on to say that since the Holy Spirit obviously cannot confirm error, **there is no error in the Bible**.

However, there can sometimes be difficulties in the text, but we have to have **humility** and recognise our own limitations. St Augustine in a letter to St Jerome in the Fourth Century wrote, *“If I come across anything in those Scriptures which troubles me because it seems contrary to the truth, I will unhesitatingly lay the blame elsewhere: perhaps the manuscript is untrue to the original, or the translator has not rendered the passage faithfully, or perhaps I have not understood it.”* In seeking to understand difficult passages, it is important we look at the human limitations of the authors and their cultures, their languages and the literary genres they used. Sometimes we have to ask if a particular book or passage is meant to be historical or whether it is an allegory or a parable or even a combination of both. Our Lord Himself spoke very directly to people but He also used parables. The sacred authors do the same.

It is clear then that in reading the Bible we need **guidance**. That guidance comes from the **Catholic Church** which Christ gave authority to teach in His Name (Luke 10:16). The theory of “private interpretation” which emerged during the sixteenth century Reformation has caused thousands of different sects to arise with different beliefs and practices, all claiming to be based on the Bible. This is just one reason why from the earliest days of the Church Scripture has been read aloud in the Sacred Liturgy and then explained by the bishop or the priest.

One of the best ways to read Scripture is to read daily what has been selected by the Church to be read at Mass. In this way we read what is appropriate for the time of year and thus we grow in the spiritual life within the framework of the Sacred Liturgy.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	23rd	6.00pm	For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
Sun	24th	<u>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Sunday of the Word of God)</u>	
		9.00am	Charles Pratt RIP – PUBLIC MASS
		11.15am	Frances Ebong RIP – PUBLIC MASS
		4.00pm	Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS
Mon	25th	<u>Conversion of St Paul (Feast)</u>	
		9.15am	Family intention – PUBLIC MASS
Tues	26th	9.15am	Dennis Thurland & Matthew Galvin RIP (Anniversary)
Weds	27th	12.30pm	<i>Requiem Mass for Jim Moreland (by invitation only)</i>
		6.30pm	Marie Styvèn RIP (Latin, old rite) – PUBLIC MASS
Thurs	28th	<u>St Thomas Aquinas (Memoria)</u>	
		9.15am	Russell Glenn Lomotos RIP
Fri	29th	6.30pm	Vera Sparks RIP – PUBLIC MASS
Sat	30th	9.15am	May Hollingsworth RIP
		10.30am-	Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
		12.30pm	Confessions available 10.30am-11.30am
		6.00pm	Andy Newbold RIP – PUBLIC MASS
Sun	31st	<u>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</u>	
		9.00am	For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
		11.15am	Philip Concannon 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: Vera Hurry, Emidio Chiavetti, Carmela Brunetti and Jim Moreland. **May they rest in peace**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Thomas Hunt, John Allcock, Mary Oliver, Eddie Bak, Bob Harlow, Luisa Zenton, Dennis Thurland, Louisa West, Bethany Wilson, Esther Garrett, Jude Jones, Lisa Thomas, Muriel Lewin, John Parker, Mary Embleton, Christina O'Sullivan, Matthew Galvin and Irene Harlow

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY ends on Monday, 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. *Fr Paul*

SPUC: The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children holding their White Flower Appeal this month. There will be a special basket for you to make donations to it this weekend. 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*

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH: Thank you to the donor who has kindly bought a fine pair of brass candlesticks for St Joseph's Altar to commemorate this special year. There are also some St Joseph prayer cards for you take offered by the Rosminians. They are at the entrance and exit to the church. *Fr Paul*

ST FRANCIS' CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY, Melton Mowbray (part of the St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi-Academy Trust) has a vacancy for a **part time non-teaching Deputy Headteacher**. Please visit www.aquinas-cmat.org/vacancies/ for further information. Closing date: **12th February 2021**

'WALK WITH ME' PRAYER BOOKLETS will soon be available for this Lent and Easter. Some of you are already familiar with them and have made good use of the meditations in the past. The diocese are providing copies (I don't know how many) free of charge this year to support the Bishop's theme of Discipleship. *Fr Paul*

HELPING THE CHILDREN: Do you have a laptop, tablet or iPad less than 3 years old, not used, that you could donate to St Mary's School? As you may have seen on the media, some children are unable to access online learning because they don't have the technology. Devices can be handed into the school on Hastings Street, 9-4pm. The school will be able to wipe your device. Thank you.

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*

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: “If you believe what you like in the Gospels, and reject what you don’t like, it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself” (*St Augustine of Hippo, 354-430*).

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

LAST WEEK'S FINANCE	
Collection: £472 of which £109 was gift-aided	
Standing orders: £788 (@31/12) of which £702 is gift-aided	
Sick & Retired Priests Fund: £169	
Mass attendance: 166	<i>Thank you</i>