

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

NEWSLETTER

The Glory of Christ Revealed

Our Lord in today's Gospel (Mark 9:2-10) climbs Mount Tabor with Peter, James and John and is transfigured before them. His face shone as the sun and "His clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them."

The fact that each year we read an account of the Transfiguration so close to the beginning of Lent is because it is a pre-figuring of Our Lord's Resurrection. The Church is trying to show us that all our efforts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving throughout Lent will help us to share in His Resurrection, when, if we remain faithful, our mortal bodies will one day be raised up in glory to be like His. The Transfiguration is also a revelation of His divinity. This is not just God coming down to earth as a spirit. JESUS is revealing His divinity, His glory and His power in His own humanity.

In the vision He is also conversing with Moses and Elijah. Then a voice from the cloud above says, "This is My Son the Beloved. Listen to Him." God is revealing to Peter, James and John that JESUS is no mere prophet. He is far greater than Moses or Elijah. He is the Son of God by nature. And once that revelation is completed, "then suddenly when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only JESUS."

While the Transfiguration announces Our Lord's divinity and Resurrection, it also prepares the three Apostles for the scandal of the cross. St Ephrem (306-373) says, "He took them up onto the mountain in order to show them His kingship before they witnessed His Passion, to let them see His mighty power before they watched His death, to reveal His glory to them before they beheld His humiliation." The three Apostles who witnessed His glory in the Transfiguration were the same three who witnessed His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. So to strengthen them, they had a foretaste of His Resurrection.

We have here then the story of two mountains: Tabor and Calvary. They will have to descend from the Mount of Transfiguration in order to climb Mount Calvary. And that's where we are heading this Lent. We go now to Calvary so as on Easter Sunday we can celebrate the glory of His Resurrection.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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office@
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Served by the Rosminians

Parish Priest

Fr Paul Gillham, IC
Assistant Priest
Fr Simon Giles, IC
On attachment
Fr David Jones, OLW

Parish Catholic Schools

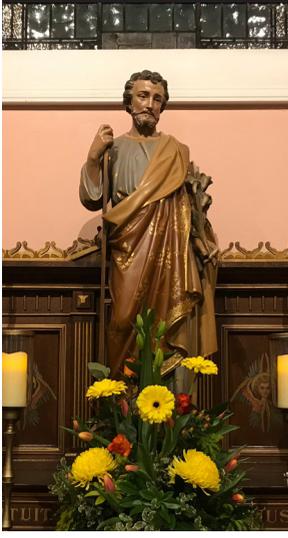
St Mary's Primary

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Leics, LE11 5AX
01509 212621
office@stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk
Headteacher: Miss P Jordan

De Lisle College,

Thorpe Hill, Loughborough,
Leicestershire, LE11 4SQ
T: 01509 268739
enquiries@delisle.leics.sch.uk
Headteacher: Dr J F Pye

Year of St Joseph



Please pray for those who have recently died:

Olive Chapman, Barbara Stafford, Rosina Matthews
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Margaret Jackson, Vivienne Ashleigh, Ernest Widdowson, Eddie Weightman, Antonietta Sacchetta, Anna Corbinzolu, Gary Clarke, Lillian Sweeney, Ingeborg Cox and Nancy Hart

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 27th

6.00pm For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS

Sun 28th Second Sunday of Lent

9.00am Bill Donnelly RIP – PUBLIC MASS

11.15am John Merwick Jr – PUBLIC MASS

4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

Mon 1st St David, Bishop (Feast)

9.15am Hallam & Faulks families RIP – PUBLIC MASS

Tues 2nd

9.15am Peter Michael Harris RIP

Weds 3rd

6.30pm Jim Moreland RIP (Latin, old rite) – PUBLIC MASS

Thurs 4th

9.15am Margarita Ilago Rubin RIP

1.00pm *Funeral Service: Olive Chapman RIP (by invitation only)*

Fri 5th First Friday of the Month

6.30pm Deceased relatives & friends – PUBLIC MASS

7.00pm Stations of the Cross followed by Confessions

Sat 6th

9.15am Vera Hurry RIP

10.30am -12.30pm

Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

10.30am -11.30am

Confessions available

6.00pm For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS

Sun 7th Third Sunday of Lent

9.00am Deceased of the Pagani family – PUBLIC MASS

11.15am Frances Ebong RIP – PUBLIC MASS

4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

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

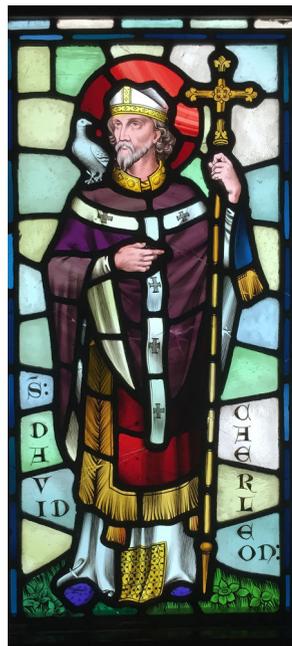
Novena to St Joseph: On the 8th December 2020, Pope Francis announced that there would be a Year of St Joseph from 8th December 2020 to 8th December 2021. This was to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St Joseph being declared the Patron of the Universal Church. To join in these celebrations the Diocese has produced a Novena to St Joseph leading to his feast day 19th March. The Novena takes as its focus the different groups or causes that claim St Joseph as their Patron Saint, as well as the themes of Pope Francis' letter launching the year. The Novena can be obtained by emailing: adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk with 'St Joseph Novena' in the subject line to receive daily emails with the prayers for that day between 10th - 18th March.

Visiting Group: Twenty-five years ago St Mary's started a Visiting Group in the parish, reaching out to the housebound, recently bereaved, sick, lonely and families in need irrespective of age, gender and nationality. Since lockdown members of the group have continued contact with parishioners either by telephone or email. We are always looking for members to join our team and if you feel you can offer this service please make your first contact initially with Fr Paul (using the office email below). Clearance through the Disclosure and Barring Service will be needed for this role. If you would like a member of the team to contact you during these difficult times, please email office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk or phone St. Mary's 01509 262123 and we will get back to you. Thank you.

Angela Pearson

Vocations: Are you looking for a challenge? Are you searching for God? Why not join the Vocations Team at their Zoom Café on Monday 1st March, 7.30 – 9 pm, where you will have an opportunity to ask questions and chat with Priests and Religious Sisters about vocation. A warm welcome awaits you. Please email Diane at vocationsadmin@dioceseofnottingham.uk to register your place or for any further information. They look forward to seeing you (for 18 and over).

Stations of the Cross and Confessions: In addition to the usual Saturday morning time (10.30-11.30am), a Priest will be available for Confessions after the Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings.



VACANCIES

Exaireo are looking for experienced women to join them in the role of **women's rehabilitation project worker** (various shift patterns available). Initial fixed term of 12 months. British driving licence and own transport essential. Must be female and a practising Christian. The role involves supporting clients in a women-only rehabilitation house. For an application form/job description, or more information, contact Catherine Delom – catherine@exaireo.org or phone 01509 266422.

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.

Suggestion for Lent: I came across this excellent prayer which one could use before logging onto the internet. Insert the name of your preferred saint. Why not print it out and put it on or near your computer.

Almighty and eternal God, who created us in Thine image and bade us to seek after all that is good, true and beautiful, especially in the divine person of Thine Only-begotten Son, our Lord JESUS Christ, grant, we beseech Thee, that, through the intercession of Saint N., during our journeys through the internet we will direct our hands and eyes only to that which is pleasing to Thee and treat with charity and patience all those souls whom we encounter. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



From the Saints

“Unless there is a Good Friday in your life, there can be no Easter Sunday”

(Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen, 1895-1979)

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

Tuesday or Wednesday

2pm – 4pm or

Thursday and Friday,

5pm – 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:

£582 of which

£92 was gift-aided

Standing orders:

£788 (@31/12) of

which £702 was gift-aided

Mass attendance:

193

Thank you
