



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 7th February 2021 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

What God Teaches Us Through Suffering

Facing difficulties is part of life and sometimes they can cause us much anxiety and distress. We might question God and even whether He really exists. In today's First Reading **Job** expresses how we can all feel at times (Job 7:1-7).

"Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery? ... Months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief. Lying in bed I wonder 'When will it be day?' ... my eyes will never again see joy."

Job thinks he is never going to be happy again, and it is true that suffering can make us feel like our troubles will last for ever. But this is not really the case and neither did it turn out to be so for Job. He did find happiness again, and in abundance. As Psalm 30:5 says, *"Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning."* And this is even the case with death, because if we are faithful we will have eternal joy in Heaven.

So why does God allow us to suffer in this life? Of course there is a certain amount of **mystery** involved but we can give some possible reasons. Certainly, when we are confronted with problems, it can cause us to change for the better. If everything goes according to our plans we can be tempted to forget about God altogether, whereas in our sufferings we may be prompted to turn to Him. The trials of life can also make us stronger and better people. You may find inner strengths and talents you never knew you had.

Problems and sufferings can even be a blessing in disguise. Sometimes when I'm stuck in traffic on the M25 for over an hour or miss the train, I like to think maybe God is protecting me from something harmful ahead. Without these hassles I may have been involved in a serious accident, but through the delay I've been saved from it. Or a serious health problem can prevent someone from committing a habitual sin which might otherwise result in their being eternally lost. So God can turn our sufferings to a greater good. Also our sins and the sins of others need atoning for, and millions of souls out there need converting. **It's much easier for us to atone for our sins in this life than in Purgatory by offering our suffering to God as a penance.** The saints tell us the sufferings of Purgatory are far more intense than the greatest sufferings on earth. Then the sufferings and the trials of life that you offer for the conversion of sinners may obtain their repentance, and at the same time you receive the merit for a great act of charity.

So God permits us to suffer for a reason. We won't necessarily know now what that reason is, but in the end we have to accept that God knows what is best for us. So when you pray for something, allow Him to say either "now" or "later". Either way you benefit – from the healing now, or your faith is strengthened because you have placed all your trust in Him and left it to His Providence.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	6th	6.00pm	Russell Lomotos RIP – PUBLIC MASS
Sun	7th	<u>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</u>	
		9.00am	Intention for the living – PUBLIC MASS
		11.15am	For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
		4.00pm	Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS
Mon	8th	9.15am	Jim Moreland RIP– PUBLIC MASS
Tues	9th	9.15am	Paul Dean RIP
Weds	10th	6.30pm	John Kane RIP (Latin, old rite) – PUBLIC MASS
Thurs	11th	<u>Our Lady of Lourdes (Memoria)</u>	
		9.15am	Eileen Monaghan RIP
		11.00am	<i>Funeral Service: Linda Goodby RIP (by invitation only)</i>
Fri	12th	6.30pm	Sheila McFerran RIP – PUBLIC MASS
Sat	13th	9.15am	John Hooper RIP
		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	14th	<u>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</u>	
		9.00am	Jim Moreland RIP – PUBLIC MASS
		11.15am	Cliff Brookes RIP (Anniversary) – 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: Margarita Ilago Rubin, Molly Shephard (née Watkinson), Vera Hurry, Carmela Brunetti and Linda Goodby. **May they rest in peace**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary O'Neill, Winifred Styles, Bridget Potter, Jim O'Flynn, Mary Bilby, Hilda Harvey, Frederico Buccheri, Michael Bradley and Frank Machalski

LENT IS NEAR! Ash Wednesday falls on **17th February**. Now is a good time to be thinking about what you are going to do for Lent. The three traditional areas to concentrate on are penance, prayer and almsgiving. It's also important to make a good sacramental Confession. More on all this nearer the time. *Fr Paul*

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY will be on **Friday 26th February**.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE NOTTINGHAM invite you to pray for an hour or more during a 40-day vigil running for 12 hours daily during Lent (17th Feb-28th March). You can sign up now at www.40daysforlife.com/nottingham, or contact 40daysforlifennotts@gmail.com. Bishop Patrick will celebrate Mass to mark the start of this year's campaign on **Thursday 11th February** at the Cathedral at 7.00pm. You can also follow the Mass online through the Cathedral website.

'WALK WITH ME' BOOKLETS with daily meditations for Lent to help us grow spiritually have now arrived and are in the church for you to take. It has been produced by the diocese and includes a special message from Bishop Patrick. The copies are provided free for all parishes in the diocese. One copy per household please. *Fr Paul*

ST MARY'S SCHOOL ROSARY: The children and the school community of St Mary's pray the Rosary each Wednesday lunchtime and extend an invitation to all parishioners to join in the reflections on the mysteries of the Rosary. If you are able it would be lovely to know our parish family are praying with us from home.

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**.

SENIOR SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR: The Catholic Diocese of Nottingham seeks to appoint an experienced Safeguarding Professional to lead and manage its Safeguarding Service. **Salary:** £43,800 - £47,800 dependent on qualifications and experience. For full information and an application pack. email: office@dioceseofnottingham.uk. Closing date: **28th February 2021**. Interviews are expected to take place in person on **Monday 8th March 2021**.

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).

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN for the generous response to the Loughborough Food bank. Staff at John Storer House extend their gratitude to parishioners of St Mary's for the food and cash donations; the receipts for these are in the parish office. A big thank you also to Eileen Smith, our parishioner who coordinates a food bank collection from Burton on the Wolds. The food bank will continue to operate from JSH until at least the end of March. The next collection will be at the end of February, dates and details later. *Jane Monaghan*

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: “Suffering is a great favour. Remember that everything soon comes to an end ... and take courage. Think of how our gain is eternal” (*St Teresa of Avila, 1515-1582*).

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: £609 of which £70 was gift-aided	
SPUC: £30	
Standing orders: £788 (@31/12) of which £702 was gift-aided	
Mass attendance: 171	<i>Thank you</i>