

# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

# NEWSLETTER

### Temptations are a Gift

Every year on the First Sunday of Lent we hear one of the Gospel accounts of Our Lord going into the desert for forty days where He prayed and fasted and was tempted by the devil. We commemorate this with the forty days of Lent. Our Lord, by being tempted provides us with the encouragement we need, that with His help, we can face and overcome temptation.

Although it might sound an odd thing to say, God allows us to be tempted because we all need to be! One of the reasons He allows it is because it shows us what our weaknesses are. As a result we are humbled and realise we are not as strong as we would like to think. If we weren't tempted we would probably become full of pride thinking we had overcome the sin.

We can also make satisfaction for our sins through temptation. It's not very pleasant being tempted and it can even become a real suffering when we have to struggle and fight against something we know is sinful. This in turn purifies us, and by struggling against it we win the graces necessary to overcome it, and thus grow in holiness. We become more confident in God's help and we come closer to Him because we realise that without Him we can do nothing (John 15:5).

To overcome temptation we need to prepare for it, particularly through prayer and the regular reception of the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion. We should avoid the near occasions of sin, that is people, places and things that could lead us into sin. Also avoid idleness because as the saying goes, "The devil finds work for idle hands." St Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787) tells us, "As soon as we become aware of a thought that has an evil look about it, we must dismiss it immediately. We must, as it were, slam the door in its face denying it admittance into the mind, without stopping to decipher its meaning or intention. We must shake off such wicked suggestions as quickly as we would shake off fiery sparks that landed on our clothes." Also foster a devotion to Our Lady because she continues to crush the head of the serpent and there is no one Satan fears more than her. We should also invoke St Joseph as "Terror of Demons" because his purity, his humility and his obedience terrorises the devil.

So always remember, temptations are an opportunity to prove our love of God and to become holier by resisting them. God never allows us to be tempted beyond our strength (1 Corinthians 10:13). By our perseverance we will make great progress along the narrow path that leads to eternal life.

*Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

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



### St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

97 Ashby Road,  
Loughborough, LE11 3AB  
01509 262123

office@  
stmarysloughborough.org.uk

### 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

Hastings Street  
Loughborough  
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,  
Theresa Frankow,  
William Hitchins

*May they rest in peace*

### and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Emily Mingay,  
Richard Lynch,  
Susan Bagnell,  
Jan Skowronski,  
Pat Murphy,  
Paul Want,  
Les Prentice,  
Barbara Herbert,  
Audrey Wilbram,  
Stephen Scott,  
Carmella Lallo,  
Valerie Roberts,  
Linus Linkevicius,  
Zbigniew Czybai,  
Michael Wartire,  
Jan Wlodzimierz and  
Terence John Foister

## MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

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### Sat 20th

6.00pm Andy Newbold RIP – PUBLIC MASS

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### Sun 21st **First Sunday of Lent**

9.00am For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS

11.15am John McEnergy RIP – PUBLIC MASS

4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

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### Mon 22nd **St Peter's Chair (Feast)**

9.15am Antonio Lopez RIP – PUBLIC MASS

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### Tues 23rd

9.15am Terence John Foister RIP (Anniversary)

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### Weds 24th

6.30pm Vera Hurry RIP (Latin, old rite) – PUBLIC MASS

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### Thurs 25th

9.15am John Merwick RIP

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### Fri 26th

6.30pm Kathleen Merwick RIP – PUBLIC MASS

7.00pm Stations of the Cross followed by Confessions

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### Sat 27th

9.15am Maria Bombardini 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

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### Sun 28th **Second Sunday of Lent**

9.00am Bill Donnelly RIP – PUBLIC MASS

11.15am John Merwick Jr RIP – PUBLIC MASS

4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

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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.*

**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](mailto: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](mailto:vocationsadmin@dioceseofnottingham.uk) to register your place or for any further information. They look forward to seeing you (for 18 and over).

**EXAIREO are looking for experienced women** to join them in the role of womens' 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](mailto:catherine@exaireo.org) or phone 01509 266422.

**The next collection for the Loughborough Foodbank** will be on Saturday 27th February in the church car park between 10.30 and 11.00am. Once again suggestions for donations include tea, instant coffee, tinned and sachets of drinking chocolate, canned soups, long life milk, biscuits, toiletries and cleaning materials. Kindly note John Storer House are not able to accept fresh produce. Thank you.

*Jane Monaghan*

**CAFOD Family Fast Day** will be on Friday 26th February

**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

The Dioceses of Nottingham are currently advertising the following Kickstart roles within the Curial Team:

**Office Junior (2 positions);**

**Finance Assistant (Office) (1 position);**

**Finance Assistant (OPAS) (1 position).**

If you're aged 16-24, claiming Universal Credit and are interested in any of the above listed Kickstart roles, please speak to your work coach at the Jobcentre or apply on your Universal Credit Platform/App. Applications close 26th 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](mailto:office@dioceseofnottingham.uk).

Closing date: 28th February 2021.

Interviews are expected to take place in person on Monday 8th March 2021.

## 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

*“No one ought to consider himself a true servant of God who is not tried by means of trials and temptations”*

(St Francis of Assisi, 1181-1226).

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## 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*

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## Last Week's Finance Collection:

£566 of which

£204 was gift-aided

### Standing orders:

£788 (@31/12) of which

£702 was gift-aided

### Mass attendance:

170

*Thank you*

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