

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

NEWSLETTER

LAETARE SUNDAY
(FOURTH OF LENT)



The Spiritual Fatherhood of St Joseph

On 8th December 2020, the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis announced a special year of St Joseph to mark the event. This Friday 19th March, we celebrate the Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of Our Lady and foster-father of JESUS, and so this year his Feast has an added weight to it.

We are used to thinking of Mary as our Heavenly Mother but perhaps rarely think of St Joseph as being our spiritual father. Although St Joseph was not the biological father of JESUS, (Our Lord was conceived by the Holy Spirit), Scripture tells us that he watched over and protected Our Lord as if he were His father, and Scripture does call St Joseph the father of JESUS (Luke 2:33, 48). So it follows that because St Joseph was the father of the Head of the Mystical Body, He is also the father of the members of that Mystical Body (that's us). If Mary is our Mother and JESUS is our brother, St Joseph must be our father in the spiritual sense, and so he wants to watch over and protect us just as he did the Holy Family. His fatherhood was emphasised at the final apparition of Our Lady at Fatima on 13th October 1917, when St Joseph appeared with the Child JESUS blessing the world showing his paternal role as Patron or Guardian of the whole Church.

It seems now is the time of St Joseph. God wants to give him to us in these times of difficulty and of spiritual and moral confusion, so as we can take refuge in his spiritual fatherhood. With so many attempts being made today to redefine what marriage and the family are, who could better help us understand what they are truly all about? St Teresa of Avila (1515-82) once said, "To other saints Our Lord seems to have given power to succour us in some special necessity – but to this glorious Saint, I know by experience, He has given the power to help us in all." As St Joseph provided for JESUS and Mary, so will he provide for our needs. As Fr Donald Calloway, an authority on St Joseph says, he "will shelter you in the safety of the Sacraments and teachings of the Church, clothe you with virtue, educate you in the interior life, protect you under his fatherly cloak and correct you should you go astray."

St Joseph is also the patron of a happy death. By this we mean dying in the grace and peace of JESUS Christ. He is the patron of a happy death because when he died JESUS and Mary were at his side and so it must have been very peaceful. St Joseph, being our spiritual father, wants to guide us safely home to Heaven. So let us pray to him that JESUS and Mary will also conduct us safely into Paradise when our time comes to depart this life.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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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

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Hastings Street
Loughborough
Leics, LE11 5AX
01509 212621

office@stmmarys-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



MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 13th

6.00pm John Saunders RIP (Anniv) – PUBLIC MASS

Sun 14th **Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)**

9.00am For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS

11.15am Deceased of the Kane family – PUBLIC MASS

4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

Mon 15th

9.15am Mary John RIP – PUBLIC MASS

11.30am *Requiem Mass for Teresina Frankow RIP (by invitation only)*

Tues 16th

9.15am Ray Wainwright RIP (Anniversary)

Weds 17th **St Patrick (Feast)**

6.30pm John McEnergy RIP (Latin, old rite) – PUBLIC MASS

Thurs 18th

9.15am Deceased of the Cassidy Family

Fri 19th **St Joseph (Solemnity)**

12 noon For the Universal Church (Latin, old rite)

6.30pm Intention for the living – PUBLIC MASS

7.00pm Stations of the Cross followed by Confessions

Sat 20th

9.15am Senior Citizens & families (GE)

10.30am **Private prayer with Exposition of the**

Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am

6.00pm For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS

Sun 21st **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

9.00am Carmela Brunetti RIP – PUBLIC MASS

11.15am Norah Lillian Hutchings 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 in the online edition of the newsletter.

Please pray for those who have recently died:

Mary Pitchford

May she rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Eva Guarasci, James Wardle, Elsie Walmsley, Lucy Antill, Joyce Oakley, Polikarp Ereminowicz, John Saunders, Mario Lanza, Rev Fr Eddie Murphy, Ray Wainwright, Guglielmo Buttarazzi, Eva Hao Xu, Edward Wortley, Elena Romaniello, Joan Hammond, Paddy Mills, Genoveffa DeBlasio, Timm Tymzyszyn and Kath Spencer

Solemnity of St Joseph: March is the month traditionally dedicated to St Joseph, and his Feast which falls this **Friday 19th March** is a Solemnity, which means we can relax our penances on this day, and abstinence from meat does not apply even though it is a Friday. There will be two Masses to celebrate this special year of St Joseph as Protector of the Church. There will be a sung Latin Mass in the traditional rite at 12 noon and a Solemn English Mass at 6.30pm followed by the Litany of St Joseph and Stations of the Cross. Fr Paul

Knights of St Columba: We hope to be able to have an enactment of the events of Holy Week by young adults of the Loughborough parishes again this year, as their contribution to the ceremonies of Holy Week, at 6.30pm here in St. Mary's on Palm Sunday evening, **28th March** – on this occasion, suitably distanced. Undergraduates and students in Years 5 to 13 willing to participate, please contact Richard Mitchell (tel: 07812-997847 or rmitchell@constructivebusiness.com) before Sunday evening **14th March**, when we will have to take the decision as to whether it will be practicable to go ahead this year. Thank you”

Grub Club will be back this summer and **we are looking for volunteers**. 3 weeks from 12th July, 3 sessions of 3 hours, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, in St Mary's school hall. Specifically, we need a few people to help with registration and activities (not devise them, just sit with children), and a couple of people to make tea for parents and volunteers. (Each role for a minimum of 3 sessions). We will sort out DBS (if needed) and arrange all training. And, of course, we will be operating within government guidelines. If you think you may be interested contact Catherine or Frank or email the parish office.



Vera Hurry RIP: We had a beautiful Funeral Mass for Vera last Tuesday. With Vera having been such a well known member of the parish for many decades, the family have left a number of Orders of Service at the back of the church for those who knew her to take, particularly for those who would have liked to attend the Funeral but were unable to do so due to the present restriction on numbers.

Fr Paul

A very happy Mothers Day to all our mothers and let us remember to always pray for our mothers who have passed on from this life.

St Patrick's Day: A very happy Feast day to all our Irish parishioners on Wednesday.

Year of St Joseph



VACANCIES

The Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Education Service is seeking to appoint a **Deputy Director of Education** who will provide a strategic lead in the areas of Catholic Life, Formation, Inspection, Religious Education and Collective Worship. For further information / application pack or To arrange an informal conversation with the Director of Education, please contact Julie Sweeney: julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk Closing date **30th 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.

Holy Week Services: To give you advance warning, these are the times of the Holy Week Services:

Palm Sunday: 6pm (Sat), 9am, 11.15am

Maundy Thursday: Missa in Coena Domini (Mass of the Lord's Supper) 6.30pm, Watching 7.30pm -10pm

Good Friday: Sacred Liturgy 3pm, Stations of the Cross 6.30pm

Easter Vigil (Holy Saturday): 8pm

Easter Sunday: 9am, 11.15am

Signing up sheets for the Triduum will be available in the church from this weekend. **Please Note - you will not need to book online if you sign up on the form.**

Chrism Mass: This year the Chrism Mass will be closed to the general public due to the restrictions on numbers permitted to gather for public worship during the time of the Covid-19 Pandemic, only members of the presbyterate have been invited to attend. The Mass will be live streamed and recorded and can be watched via the Cathedral website: stbarnabascathedral.org.uk



From the Saints

"If Joseph was so engaged, heart and soul, in protecting and providing for that little family at Nazareth, don't you think that now in Heaven he is the same loving father and guardian of the whole Church, of all its members, as he was of its Head on earth?" (Venerable Pope Pius XII, 1876 -1958).

www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk

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:

£671 of which

£270 was gift-aided

CAFOD:

£120 added to previous

£214

Standing orders:

£791 (@31/01) of

which £702 was gift-aided

Mass attendance:

209

Thank you