

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

NEWSLETTER



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

St Mary's Primary

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

Passiontide and Doing God's Will

Today, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, is the beginning of 'Passiontide'. The gravity of this time is brought home to us vividly by the veiling of all the statues and crosses in the church. The crosses are veiled to remind us of the humiliation of Our Lord in having to go into hiding in order to avoid being stoned, and the statues are veiled because the servants should make themselves inconspicuous when the glory of the Master is eclipsed. These signs are there to help us prepare for the great mystery of our redemption. So we now unite ourselves to the sufferings of Our Lord so that we may not only recognise the gravity of sin, but also to recognise God's great love for us, and the terrible price He paid to expiate sin in our place.

In today's Gospel JESUS says, "Unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest." He is speaking here of His own humiliating death on the cross which will bring about our redemption. But He is also referring to us, His followers, because He then says, "Anyone who loves his life loses it, anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life." Our Lord doesn't mean we must literally hate life. He means we must be prepared to surrender our wills, our desires, our plans, and if necessary, even our lives to God. God's Will has to come before everything else. We have to do our best to follow His Will even if it's going to be difficult or inconvenient for us to do so. JESUS was willing to do anything to obey His Father's Will and that is why He was glorified. He asks the same of us.

Throughout the world today many Christians suffer and are sometimes even martyred for their faith in Christ. There are also many unsung heroes we don't know about who struggle and do daily battle with themselves to be faithful followers of Christ. God calls each of us in different ways and will reward us for all our efforts. By being faithful we can accomplish great things. In getting up early every Sunday morning and coming to Mass, parents set a good example for their children which will hopefully set them up for life. When you give money to a charity instead of spending it on yourself, or you are polite to someone who is normally rude to you, or when you do a favour for someone even if it's not convenient, you are allowing God's grace to work through you. These seemingly insignificant things might be a part of God's bigger plan which could set in motion a chain of events which will bring about many graces to many people. The fruits may only be revealed to us in the life to come, but let us not limit what God can accomplish through us. Be open to what He is asking of you.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC



MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 20th

6.00pm For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS

Sun 21st **Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday)**

9.00am Carmela Brunetti RIP – PUBLIC MASS

11.15am Norah Lillian Hutchings RIP – PUBLIC MASS

4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

Mon 22nd

9.15am Sylvia & William Alborough RIP – PUBLIC MASS

Tues 23rd

9.15am Deceased of of the Sweeney family

Weds 24th

6.30pm Intention for the living (Latin, old rite) – PUBLIC MASS

Thurs 25th **The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)***

6.30pm Deceased of the Concannon & McEnery families - PUBLIC MASS

Fri 26th

6.30pm Phyllis H M Harrison RIP – PUBLIC MASS

7.00pm Stations of the Cross followed by Confessions

Sat 27th

9.15am Rosina Matthews RIP

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

Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am

6.00pm For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS

Sun 28th **Palm Sunday**

9.00am Aislabie Harrison RIP – PUBLIC MASS

11.15am Andy Newbold RIP – PUBLIC MASS

4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

***Please note: Our Patronal Feast of the Annunciation falls next Thursday 25th March.** There will be a Solemn Mass at 6.30pm.

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:

Baby Frankie Stephen Bulger
May he rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Ann Turner,
Claire Coburn,
Stefania Mszyca,
John Kilyon,
Dorothy Schepens,
William Almond,
Joan Hodgson,
Antony Askew,
Richard Allan,
Arthur Clarke,
Yvonne Dyson,
Barry Clarkeson and
Olga Maker

Tuesday 23rd March is the National Day of Reflection which the Prime Minister has asked for on the 1st anniversary of the first lockdown back in March 2020. We pray that this pandemic comes to an end and that the gift of God's Holy Spirit will carry us all forward to a new and better life, both here and in the world to come.

Palm Sunday: Next weekend Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday when we commemorate Our Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Palms will be blessed at all the weekend Masses for you to take home. *Fr Paul*

Walk with Me: The second booklet has arrived with daily meditations for Eastertide with a message from Bishop Patrick. Many of you have said how helpful you have found the Lenten booklet. Once again they are free for you to take - just one copy per household please. Thank you. *Fr Paul*

Knights of St Columba: The young adults of the Loughborough parishes will be having a socially distanced enactment of the events of Holy Week, as their contribution to the Holy Week ceremonies, here in St. Mary's on Palm Sunday evening, **28th March**. Please note the later starting time of 7.00pm. This is the first activity of this sort that it has been possible to arrange in over a year, and we hope that you will again support it with your presence. Would attendees please book for this using the Mass Booking system. Further information from Richard Mitchell (rmitchell@constructivebusiness.com and 07812 997847).

Diocesan Spiritual Theme – Discipleship: Bishop Patrick will give a talk on Zoom on **Thursday 25th March** at 7.00pm entitled 'Knowing the love of God'. Please register at www.dioceseofnottingham.uk.

Grub Club Thanks to all those who have volunteered to help with summer Grub Club. We will advise on training and a meeting after Easter. *The Grub Club team*

The next food bank collection will be on Saturday 27th March 10.30-11.00am in the church car park. The following items will be much appreciated: tea bags, instant coffee, drinking chocolate, cans of soup, cans of fruit, longlife milk, chocolate biscuits, mini Easter eggs. Thank you for your constant support in this venture.

Jane Monaghan

Stewards: Thank you again to our stewards who continue to do such an excellent job in keeping the church open and safe for people to attend. There have been many extra services recently with funerals, the Feast of St Joseph and then this week the Annunciation. They always make themselves available for which we are all very grateful. *Fr Paul*

Year of St Joseph



VACANCIES

The Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Education Service is seeking to appoint a **Deputy Director of Education**. 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 **30/3/21**.

The Catholic Diocese of Nottingham is seeking to appoint a **Senior Safeguarding Officer**. This is a key senior role, central to the commitment of the Diocese to minimise safeguarding risks and enable a protected, supportive environment. For more information and an application pack email: office@dioceseofnottingham.uk. Closing date **11/4/21**.

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

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 are available at the back of the church. The Bishops have decreed that there can be no Watching after Mass on Maundy Thursday this year. Good Friday at 3pm is now full. **Please Note: you will not need to book online if you sign up on the sheets.**



From the Saints

"If you have not made sacrifices, you will have nothing to harvest... The day is coming when we shall discover that nothing we did to earn Heaven was too much"
(St John Marie Vianney, 1786-1859).

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:

£496 of which

£91 was gift-aided

Standing orders:

£794 (@28/02) of

which £705 was gift-aided

Mass attendance:

232

Thank you
