

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

NEWSLETTER

God's Style in Three Words

As we continue our pilgrimage into Lent, our Christian Spring and growing time, what would you say characterises God's style? Pope Francis in his reflections on Wednesday 3rd March while teaching about prayer, identified three words that indicate God's style:

Closeness, Compassion and Tenderness.

A style that we couldn't possibly know if it weren't for the revelation of Jesus. For it is Jesus who reveals God's heart. Jesus tells us through His life the extent to which God would be a Father to us all. No one is Father like He is. The parental care that is Closeness, Compassion and Tenderness, these are His ways. Only because of Jesus, the Holy Father, tells us can we imagine a God who loves us like this. Remembering God's words to His people repeated in Deuteronomy: "For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord God is to us?" This closeness of God is the revelation! In Jesus we see the only God who loves humanity with Closeness, Compassion and Tenderness.

We would never have had the courage to believe in Him, had we not had Jesus. For it's Jesus who tells us of the merciful father with the prodigal son and the shepherd who seeks for the lost, of the healer who reaches out and touches the 'unclean', of the compassionate who feeds the hungry crowd, raises the dead and what kind of God is prepared to die for people, even those who betray and desert Him? Which one? The one revealed by Jesus!

Last Wednesday the Holy Father explained that this Jesus, our Jesus, opens us to prayer, "to the immense sea of God who is love, close compassionate and tender." Without Him we really did not know how to pray, what words, what feelings and what language were appropriate for God. And we pray in our unworthiness as St Francis of Assisi put it, "No man is worthy of naming you." And don't we ourselves repeat at Mass, acknowledging our own poverty of faith and prayer, the Roman Centurion's sentiments when we pray: 'Lord, I am not worth that you should enter under my roof; but only say the word, and my soul will be healed.' (Mt8:8) Yet He longs to hear from us, from you and me, because He loves us.

In these special days of Lent when we try to be with God just a little more, at home, at Mass, at Adoration, Confession and the Station of the Cross, etc., we have to acknowledge we are not worthy of it, we have no rights to claim, we 'limp' with every word at times and every thought... But Jesus is the door that opens us to this conversation, this special time, with the God who He shows us is: Close, Compassionate and Tender to everyone who call upon Him. May we not disappoint such great love in our busyness. Make time!

Fr David Jones OLVJ



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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, OLVJ

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

**Please pray for those
who have recently
died:**

Barbara Stafford and
Rosina Matthews
May they rest in peace

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

Antonio Giampalma
Ray Owens
Osyp Szczur
John Simpson
Maura Barto
Winifred Howard
Laura Pietryzk
Hugh Peters
Kathleen McEnergy
Lucy Atkins,
Mary Steele
Margot Trojan
Christina Rugman
Gerrard Davidson
Tadeusz Popowicz
Suzanne Burdett
Americo Lallo

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 6th

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

Mon 8th

9.15am Joan Meynell RIP – PUBLIC MASS

Tues 9th

9.15am Intention for the living

11.00am *Requiem Mass for Vera Hurry RIP (by invitation only)*

Weds 10th

6.30pm Fr E R Wilcox RIP (Latin, old rite) – PUBLIC MASS

Thurs 11th

9.15am Emidio Chiavetta RIP

11.00am *Requiem Mass for Rosina Matthews RIP (by invitation only)*

Fri 12th

6.30pm Vera Hurry RIP – PUBLIC MASS

7.00pm Stations of the Cross followed by Confessions

Sat 13th

9.15am Vera Hurry RIP

10.30am **Private prayer with Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am**

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

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

Solemnity of St Joseph: Friday of next week, **19th March**, is the Solemnity of St Joseph. As this is a special Year of St Joseph there will be 2 Masses that day: a sung Latin Mass at 12 noon in the traditional rite and English Mass at 6.30pm after which we will recite the Litany of Joseph followed by Stations of the Cross. St Joseph was head of the Holy Family. So if God the Father was pleased to provide for His Divine Son through St Joseph, surely when we turn to him he will provide for us too. Pray to him to protect your family and the Church, both of which are titles in his litany. *Ite ad Joseph. "Go to Joseph" (Genesis 41:55).*

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"

Loughborough Food Bank: Very many thanks for the generous donations to the food bank. Once again St Mary's excelled. Thank you also for the cash donations; receipts for these are in the parish office. The food bank continues to provide a much needed service to families in the Loughborough area who are struggling during Covid. There will be another collection before Easter (date to be confirmed).

Jane Monaghan

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.



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.

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.

Bishop Patrick's Lenten Talks: You are invited to join Bishop Patrick and people from across the diocese this Lent in reflecting on our relationship with God. To be a disciple of Jesus means to know and love him, but to also know we are known and loved by him too. Bishop Patrick will give two talks on Zoom exploring God's Love for us and how we can respond to it: (1) Knowing the Heart of God - **Thursday 11th March**, at 7pm; (2) Knowing the Love of God - **Thursday 25th March**, at 7pm. Each talk will include input from Bishop Patrick, a time for Q&As, and small group discussion. You can register for one or both talks on the diocesan website: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk.



From the Saints

"Saints are ordinary people with the compassion of the Father in their souls, the humility of JESUS in their minds, and the love of the Spirit in their hearts" (Mother Angelica, 1923-2016).

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:

£640 of which

£176 was gift-aided

CAFOD:

£214 so far of which

£60 was gift-aided

Standing orders:

£791 (@31/01) of

which £702 was gift-aided

Mass attendance:

218

Thank you