

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

THIRD SUNDAY
OF EASTER

NEWSLETTER

Pope St Pius X and First Holy Communion

Last Tuesday I was given a relic of Pope St Pius X (1835-1914), and so I took this as a providential sign that I should write something about this great Pope as we begin our First Holy Communion Masses, because it was St Pius X who granted permission for children to receive Holy Communion at a young age. Prior to his becoming Pope, children had to wait until they were eleven or twelve to receive for the first time. In 1910 Pope Pius decreed that as soon as children had reached the age of reason (usually around seven but in some instances even younger) and could understand that the Host was no ordinary bread and that they were truly receiving JESUS, they could come to the altar rail.

One day a mother came to speak with the Pope and her very small son sat in the corner out of the way. And when the Pope had finished speaking with the mother, he called the boy over to meet him. Pope Pius asked the mother, "How old is your child?" "He's just four" she replied, "but I hope in a couple of years time he will make his First Communion." The Pope looked down at the child and asked him, "What does one receive in Holy Communion?" "JESUS Christ" the boy answered. "And who is JESUS Christ?" continued the Pope. "Our dear God" was the answer. The boy had passed the test with flying colours, and so the Pope said to his mother, "Bring your child to my Mass tomorrow morning, and I myself will give him his First Holy Communion."

St Pius X wrote his own catechism and in it he posed the question, "Why do you believe that in the Eucharist JESUS Christ is really present?" And his answer was, "I believe that in the Eucharist JESUS Christ is really present, because He Himself has said it and holy Church teaches it" (Catechism of St Pius X). And when did JESUS say it? He said it when He said, "I am the living bread which came down from Heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live for ever. The bread that I will give is My flesh for the life of the world" (John 6:51). In other words, faith teaches us this truth. Our faith is so precious and so we must guard it and act as if we believe it. This is why the Church surrounds the Holy Eucharist with such care and reverence. It is why we have sanctuary lamps, silk curtains in our tabernacles and why we carefully guard the tabernacle key. It is why we genuflect and use incense before the Blessed Sacrament.

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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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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

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enquiries@delisle.leics.sch.uk

Headteacher: Dr J F Pye



Please pray for those who have recently died

HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Jan Adamek and Denise Kabala
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Mary Walsh
Daniel O'Connell
Jack Brady
Edward Connell
Peter Cawley
Jeff Field
Robert Misiura
John Brain

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 17th

6.00pm Vera Hurry RIP – PUBLIC MASS

Sun 18th Third Sunday of Easter

9.00am For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS

11.15am Vera Hurry RIP – PUBLIC MASS

4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

Mon 19th

9.15am In Thanksgiving – PUBLIC MASS

Tues 20th

9.15am Intention for the living

Weds 21st

6.30pm Family intention (Latin) - PUBLIC MASS

Thurs 22nd

9.15am Intention for the living

Fri 23rd St George, Martyr, Patron of England (Solemnity)

9.15am Eileen Martin RIP

6.30pm **Requiem for HRH Prince Philip RIP - PUBLIC MASS**

Sat 24th

9.15am Intention for the living

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

Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am

6.00pm For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS

Sun 25th Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)

9.00am Arthur Clarke RIP – PUBLIC MASS

11.15am For Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life – PUBLIC MASS

4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

Anniversaries: Please note that, due to limitations of space in the printed newsletter, the list of anniversaries now only includes parishioners who have died in the years from (and including) 2010. If you would like the names of deceased relatives and friends who died before that year to be mentioned, please send your request to the parish office no later than one week in advance.

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The Church knows that these things that we can see and touch help safeguard our faith.

So let us always be careful to make our genuflections real acts of faith and love in Our Lord's Real Presence and teach our children to do the same. If they see you do it, you will be strengthening their faith. Let us therefore keep all our children making their First Holy Communion over the next few weeks and their families in our prayers. May they always preserve their childlike faith in Our Lord's Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Requiem Mass for Prince Philip: It seems fitting that following the death of the Duke of Edinburgh we celebrate a Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul. This will take place next **Friday 23rd April** at the 6.30pm Mass which is the Solemnity of St George, Patron of England.

Fr Paul

World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Sunday 25th April – Good Shepherd Sunday: Next Sunday is our yearly opportunity to reflect on the Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life. Also, we can contribute to the Clergy Formation Fund which helps train our future priests and contributes to our priests continuing formation. Please pray for the priests who serve you and encourage the young men [and may be the unattached young at heart!] to either consider the call to priesthood for themselves or encourage among their peers those whom they think would make good priests.

Sponsored Walk. In May, Fr Joe Wheat, one of our Vicar Generals, is walking 80 miles (130km) over 5 consecutive days to raise money for Rainbows Hospice, Loughborough and the Lewis Sewell Memorial Trust. Lewis died last year aged 18 and was the son of friends of Fr Joe. He was an aspiring young actor, so a group are walking between the theatres in Nottingham, Leicester and Derby, taking in the hospice in Loughborough and Lewis' home village of Castle Donnington. If you want to sponsor Fr Joe, visit www.justgiving.com/campaign/WalkforLewis18milesfor18years Monies raised will be split equally between the hospice where Lewis died and the Memorial Trust set up in his name to support young actors.

The next collection for the Loughborough Food Bank will take place on Saturday **24th April** 10.30 to 11.00am in the church car park. This is a correction to the date given in last week's newsletter.

Jane Monaghan

Year of St Joseph



VACANCIES

St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Loughborough (primary) have a vacancy for a **deputy headteacher** commencing August 2021, 3 days non-teaching / 2 days teaching. For further details please visit www.aquinas-cmat.org/vacancies. Closing date: **19/4/2021**

Lead Lay Chaplain Required: There are vacancies for two Lead Lay Chaplains within the Diocese of Nottingham, at the St Thérèse of Lisieux Catholic Multi Academy Trust and also the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust. Further details are available at www.stl-cmat.org.uk/vacancies or www.srscmat.co.uk/vacancies Closing date: **4/5/2021**

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.

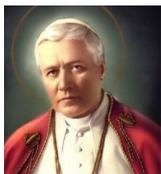
Prayer to Saint Michael: Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all the wicked spirits 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.

First Holy Communions from last year will take place at the weekend Masses from **17th April until 2nd May** which means there will be fewer places available for the remainder of the parish on those weekends. Application forms for this years First Holy Communions will be made available soon after.

Thank you again for your greetings and offerings to the priests for Easter. We are very grateful.

Fr Paul



From the Saints

"If the Angels could envy, they would envy us for Holy Communion."

(St Pius X, 1835-1914).

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: £583, of which £57 was gift-aided

Standing orders: £794, of which £705 gift-aided

Mass attendance: 258
Thank you