

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

NEWSLETTER



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@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

The Good Shepherd Will Lead You to Eternal Life

This Sunday, the Fourth of Easter is also known as **Good Shepherd Sunday** and is the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. JESUS tells us in today's Gospel that He is the Good Shepherd Who knows His sheep and promises to lead them to eternal life so long as they remain safe in His care. Each member of the flock has free will and is capable of wandering away from Him and even rejecting Him. The world, the flesh and the devil are always trying to confuse us and lead us away from Our Lord. But if we pray and try to resist temptation He will guide us safely home. The Apostles risked their lives to preach this truth and in today's First Reading they boldly proclaim that JESUS is the only Name under which we can be saved (Acts 4:12) – perhaps not very politically correct these days when it is claimed all religions are equally good, but the Apostles preached the truth.

Satan has attacked many noble institutions to try and bring about our downfall. One of his targets in this has been the priesthood. We are all aware of the many scandals of recent decades involving either sex, money or power. Our Lord in today's Gospel speaks of the hired hands (a reference to the clergy), who when danger comes, either run away or behave like wolves in disguise. God will hold them accountable for their deeds, and for either abandoning their flocks or for deceiving the faithful by preaching false or compromised doctrines.

Vocations have also been under attack where Satan tries to prevent people from hearing and answering God's call. One reason for the shortage of priests and religious is that many whom God calls simply don't hear it because they are distracted by the attractions of this world, and with society having become so secular many are not interested in responding. The trap is that people can become so self-absorbed as to forget completely that we have to prepare now for eternity. It is for this reason the Church has an annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations so that the Church will have enough true shepherds to guide us, and all will realise they will only be truly happy when they answer the call of Our Lord. We are all members of Christ's flock and whatever state of life He calls us to - priesthood, religious, married or single, we have an important contribution to make to the life of the Church and in the saving of souls.

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St Catherine of Siena

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 24th

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

Mon 26th

9.15am Rosina Matthews RIP – PUBLIC MASS

Tues 27th

9.15am Holy Souls

1.00pm *Requiem Mass: Jan Adamek RIP (by invitation only)*

Weds 28th

6.30pm Wilfred & Gladys Orton RIP (Latin) - PUBLIC MASS

Thurs 29th **St Catherine of Siena (Feast)**

9.15am Rick & Dick Sheehan RIP

Fri 30th

1.00pm *Wedding*

6.30pm James & Mary Murphy RIP

Sat 1st **St Joseph the Worker**

10.00am Michael Hallam RIP - PUBLIC MASS

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

Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am

6.00pm For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS

Sun 2nd **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

9.00am Teresa Frankow RIP – PUBLIC MASS

11.15am Frances Ebong RIP – 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 any deceased relatives and friends who died before that year to be mentioned, please send their name(s) to the parish office to arrive no later than a week in advance.

Please pray for those who have recently died

Marcus Beddoe

Pauline Taylor

Jan Adamek

Denise Kabala

May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Monica Davidson

Barry Clarkson

Giovanni Di Cosmo

Barbara Carpenter

Danuta Ereminowicz

Jan Orzeszek

Norman Welband

Mark Hamilton

Dale Morrison

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JESUS is the Good Shepherd Who leads His sheep to safe pasture. Young people are attracted to the Church because they are seeking truth and the meaning of life, and JESUS and the Catholic Church which He founded is that truth. Let us pray ever more fervently for vocations to the priesthood and for male and female religious (the Prayer for Vocations is on the back of this newsletter) who will continue to feed the flock with the beauty of Christ's truth. There is no other truth. JESUS said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). Please also remember to pray for your priests that we be faithful servants of Our Lord and feed the flock entrusted to our care with that truth that leads to eternal life.

Fr Paul Gillbam, IC

The First Holy Communions last weekend went beautifully. Thank you to all who helped with the organisation. There will be three more groups this weekend and then one more at 11.15am Mass on **Sunday 2nd May**. Application forms for this year's First Holy Communions will be available soon after. *Fr Paul*

World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Sunday 25th April – Good Shepherd Sunday: This 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.

Month of Our Lady and Feast of St Joseph the Worker: Next Saturday is **1st May** and May is the month of Our Lady. Saturday is also the Feast of St Joseph the Worker. There will be an extra public Mass for this Feast on Saturday at 10am before Exposition and Confessions. St Joseph would have recognised the great sanctity of Our Lady and that she belonged totally to God. Many of the saints tell us that when St Joseph found out Mary was pregnant he would never have suspected her of any infidelity. On the contrary, he would have recognised that God was doing something very special through her. It is possible he even recognised the presence of Our Lord within her virginal womb just as St Elizabeth did at the Visitation. So let us never say, as we so often hear, that when St Joseph discovered Mary was with child he thought she had been unfaithful. NEVER!

Fr Paul

Year of St Joseph



VACANCIES

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.srscomat.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.

Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse 2021: Pope Francis has asked that each Bishops' Conference choose an appropriate day in their nation to hold a 'Day of Prayer' for the victims and survivors of sexual abuse. In England and Wales it will be on **Tuesday 4th May**. Let us pray for healing and reconciliation.

Crowning Our Lady: As next weekend is the first in May, we will have the traditional crowning of the the statue of Our Lady of Fatima at all Masses. *Fr Paul*



From the Saints

"The end for which God has instituted the priesthood has been to appoint on earth public persons to watch over the honour of His divine majesty, and to procure the salvation of souls"

(St Alphonsus Liguori, 1696-1787).

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: £406, of which £60 was gift-aided

Standing orders: £812 @31/03, of which £714 was gift-aided

Mass attendance: 307

Thank you