

# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

SEVENTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER

# NEWSLETTER

## The Ascension and the Sacrament of Confirmation

We welcome Bishop Patrick who this Friday evening will be coming to St Mary's to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to 28 of our young parishioners. Therefore the Mass on Friday evening, due to the Covid-19 limitation on numbers, may only be attended by the candidates and their two nominated guests.

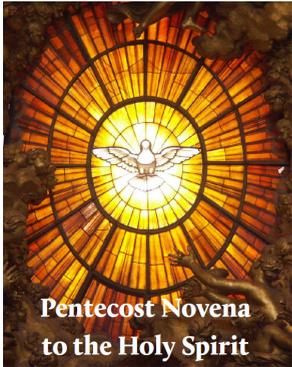
Confirmation is the completion of our Baptism, and this second anointing with the Holy Spirit (the first is given in Baptism) gives us over completely to Christ to bear witness to Him and the Gospel. Once we are confirmed we are no longer only children of God, but we bear witness to Him in the face of rejection, persecution, and even death. This is the special power of the Sacrament and one we surely need because it's not easy being a Christian in the world today. This power of the Holy Spirit was given to the Apostles at Pentecost which we will be celebrating next weekend. Before the coming of the Holy Spirit the Apostles were frightened, weak men who had gone into hiding because they were afraid of the Jews. But once they had received the Holy Spirit they became fearless witnesses to the Gospel and Christ's Resurrection.

Last Thursday we celebrated the Ascension of Our Lord into Heaven. He had told the Apostles at the Last Supper that He would soon have to leave them so as He might be nearer to them. He said, *"Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth"* (John 16:7,13).

By ascending to Heaven Our Lord would then no longer be to us an external person. Now it would be possible for Him to unite Himself to us completely by sending His Spirit to take up His abode within us. As Archbishop Fulton Sheen explains, *"It is through the Spirit received in Confirmation that Christ walks the earth again in each obedient Christian; it is through the Spirit that we are sanctified, comforted, and taught to pray."*

When we are confirmed the Bishop marks us with Sign of the Cross on our forehead with the sacred oil of Chrism. This is a very powerful

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**Pentecost Novena  
to the Holy Spirit**

### St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

97 Ashby Road  
Loughborough LE11 3AB  
01509 262123

office@  
stmaryloughborough.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 LE11 5AX  
01509 212621  
office@stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk  
**Headteacher:** Miss P Jordan

#### De Lisle College

Thorpe Hill  
Loughborough LE11 4SQ  
01509 268739  
enquiries@delisle.leics.sch.uk  
**Headteacher:** Dr J F Pye



## MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

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### Sat 15th

6.00pm Living/deceased of Kellighan, Waistel, Sheehan & Shiel Families – PUBLIC MASS

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### Sun 16th Seventh Sunday of Easter

9.00am For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS

11.15am Zita Roscoe RIP (Anniversary) – PUBLIC MASS

4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

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### Mon 17th

9.15am Vito Caruso RIP (Anniversary) – PUBLIC MASS

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### Tues 18th

9.15am Holy Souls

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### Weds 19th St Dunstan, Bishop (Memoria)

6.30pm Bishop James McGuinness RIP (Latin) – PUBLIC MASS

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### Thurs 20th

9.15am Mary Pitchford RIP – PUBLIC MASS

5.00pm Confirmation Rehearsal

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### Fri 21st

9.15am Lucia Sepede & Family RIP

7.00pm Confirmation Mass with Bishop Patrick

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### Sat 22nd St Rita of Cascia (Memoria)

9.15am Carol Anne Sharman RIP

10.30am Private prayer with Exposition of the

Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am

6.00pm Intention for the living – PUBLIC MASS

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### Sun 23rd Pentecost Sunday (Solemnity)

9.00am For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS

11.15am Gordon Henry Mee RIP (Anniv.) – PUBLIC MASS

4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

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**Today is Safeguarding Sunday** and there is a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Patrick on this topic which will be read at all Masses.

**Mass on Friday 21st May:** Please note this is the Confirmation Mass with Bishop Patrick and will not be open to the parish to attend

*Fr Paul*

**Mass Intentions:** If you would like a Mass offered on a particular date or weekend, you would be well advised to book at least 3 or 4 months in advance to avoid disappointment. The suggested diocesan offering is £10.

*Fr Paul*

### Please pray for those who have recently died

Fr Kevin Alban, O Carm  
*May he rest in peace*

### and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Peter Darleston  
 Vito Caruso  
 Anna Pelosi  
 Anna Krause  
 Irene Callis  
 Tony Wade  
 Jo Sparano  
 Ellen Ramsbottom  
 Harry Oakley  
 Lidia Orzeszek  
 Patricia Drane  
 Katie Mercer  
 Zita Roscoe

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sign. By it may we all be emboldened so that nothing may deter us from publicly confessing Christ. Let us pray especially this week of the Pentecost Novena that this may be so for our young parishioners receiving the Sacrament, and indeed for all of us.

*Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

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**First Holy Communions 2021:** Application forms for this year's First Holy Communions are now available in the church and must be returned by **Sunday 30th May at the latest**. No applications will be accepted after this date as classes need to commence very soon after.

*Fr Paul*

**Kindle the fire: Pentecost online prayer - Saturday 22nd May 2021 at 4.00 p.m.** "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor." (Luke 4: 18). Join online prayer for the eve of Pentecost with Bishop Patrick, parishioners and Caritas volunteers from around the Diocese of Nottingham. We'll be marking the launch of **Caritas**, the new ministry supporting charitable service in parishes in Nottingham diocese, and justice, peace and care for creation in the wider world. Meet fellow Catholics and find out how Caritas can help you live the Gospel: book your place at [dioceseofnottingham.uk/kindlethefire](http://dioceseofnottingham.uk/kindlethefire).

**The Word and the Common Good:** Join Catholics from around the Diocese for an interactive online course over six Monday evenings from **7th June at 7.00pm**. As life starts afresh after lockdown: **discover** how Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching can help us seize this moment and build a society that reflects God's Kingdom; **build bridges** following a year of social distancing and foster a new 'culture of encounter'; **form new friendships**, renew old ones, and help to build our parish communities for mission. You're welcome to drop in and find out more at an Open Evening on **Monday 17th May**. Visit [dioceseofnottingham.uk/here-now-us](http://dioceseofnottingham.uk/here-now-us) for further details and to book your place.

**Getting Married:** If you intend getting married at St Mary's, you must contact the Parish Priest at least 6 months in advance. You should not book a venue for the reception before you have spoken with him as the church may not be available.

*Fr Paul*

**Last Rites does not mean Last Minute!** As soon as a person begins to be in danger of death because of illness, injury or old age, the time for anointing has surely already come.

*Fr Paul*

## Year of St Joseph



**The Food Bank** continues to operate at John Storer House and the next collection will be on Saturday **5th June** 10.30 to 11.00am. As usual we will be in the car park with masks and gloves. Suggested items for donations are washing machine liquids (medium sized bottles), shower gels, soaps, shampoo, cleaning materials, tea bags, instant coffee (medium and small jars) drinking chocolate, long life milk, along with the usual treats of chocolate and plain biscuits. Thank you once again.

*Jane Monaghan*

## 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.

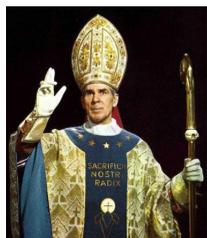
**Prayer to Saint Michael:** Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all the wicked spirits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

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**Gift Aid:** New boxes of numbered envelopes for UK tax-paying parishioners will be available at the back of church for all Masses during the weekends of 16th & 23rd May. Please remember to take your box. If anyone else would like to join this scheme please complete one of the yellow forms & drop it into the collection or church post box. All gift-aiders will receive their annual letter, either directly or by post. Our G/A income continued to earn an extra £11k last year. Any member of our congregation currently paying UK tax on their income could easily join this effective form of fundraising. Please help to reduce the slump in our regular collection income that the lockdowns have caused, complete one of the yellow forms at the exit points or Repository & drop it into the collection or church post box. Thank you.

*Geoff Mercer*

**This Sunday** is World Communications Day. The second collection will be for the Catholic Communications Network.



## From the Saints

*“Every Sacrament is related to the death of Christ, but Confirmation intensifies that resemblance. Confirmation urges him to fight to preserve it against the three great enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil”*

(Venerable Fulton Sheen, 1895-1979)

## 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*

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## Last Week's Finance

**Collection:** £532, of which £117 was gift-aided

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

**Mass attendance:** 254

*Thank you*