

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY

NEWSLETTER

Mary, true Ark of the Covenant

The Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven is a very great and ancient Feast. When we say Mary was assumed into Heaven, we don't only acknowledge her soul being taken up into Heaven as is the case with everyone else who has made it there. Mary, at the conclusion of her earthly life was taken up soul and body into Heaven. In other words, her body never turned to dust in the grave. Just as Adam and Eve would not have turned to dust had they not sinned, so Mary, being immaculately conceived and having never sinned retained the gift which Eve lost by sinning, and so her body suffered no corruption.

One of Our Lady's titles is '**Ark of the Covenant**'. Today's First Reading from the book of the Apocalypse (11:19, 12:1-6, 10) opens with John's vision of Heaven in which he sees the Ark of the Covenant there. "*The sanctuary of God in Heaven opened, and the Ark of the Covenant could be seen inside it.*" The Ark of the Covenant in the Old Testament had been lost for centuries before the birth of Our Lord, and now it suddenly appears in Heaven in this reading. The Ark of the Old Testament was a **pre-figuring of Mary, the true Ark of the Covenant**. Whereas the Ark of the Old Testament contained the stone tablets upon which the Ten Commandments were written, the manna (sweet bread) with which God fed the Israelites in the wilderness, and the rod of Aaron the High Priest, Mary contained in her womb JESUS the *living* Word of God (not just written on stone), JESUS the Bread of Life and fulfilment of the Old Testament manna, and JESUS the *eternal* High Priest. The Ark was also made of acacia wood which is incorruptible and doesn't rot. So just like the Ark was made of incorruptible wood, Mary's body is incorruptible. It is not going to rot in a tomb but rather be taken up into Heaven.

And so as soon as John sees the Ark in the sanctuary in Heaven, all of a sudden the image switches, and now he sees a **woman** in Heaven, almost as if the two images are superimposed on one another. "*Now a great sign appeared in Heaven, a woman adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown.*" The 'woman' here is clearly Mary and she is in Heaven.



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 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



Pope St Pius X

Please pray for those who have recently died

May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Elizabeth Mallon

Anna Madge

Norah Fay

Maria Camara

David Taylor

Joan Van Ristell-Brown

Jeffrey Barrington

Vittorio Acierno

Heather Saunders

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 14th Vigil Mass
6.00pm Heather Saunders RIP (Anniversary) – PUBLIC MASS

Sun 15th Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)
9.00am Denise Kabala RIP – PUBLIC MASS
11.15am For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
4.00pm **No Italian Mass**

Mon 16th St Stephen of Hungary (Memoria)
9.15am Jennifer Russell RIP – PUBLIC MASS

Tues 17th Feria
9.15am Vito Caruso RIP

Weds 18th Feria
6.30pm Marian Kotarta RIP (Latin, old rite) – PUBLIC MASS

Thurs 19th St John Eudes (Memoria)
9.15am Keith Newton RIP

Fri 20th St Bernard (Memoria)
6.30pm Holy Souls – PUBLIC MASS

Sat 21st St Pius X, Pope (Memoria)
9.15am Oliver Fahey RIP
10.30am **Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am**
-12.30pm **Vigil:** For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
6.00pm

Sun 22nd 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Carmela Brunetti RIP – PUBLIC MASS
11.15am Andy Newbold RIP – PUBLIC MASS
4.00pm **No Italian Mass**

The next Italian Mass will on Sunday 29th August at 4pm.

Sunday Mass Obligation: The Bishops of England and Wales have said the Sunday Mass obligation will remain suspended until at least the First Sunday of Advent which is the weekend of **27th/28th November 2021.**

Mass Times/Intentions: Although the times of Masses are all shown in the 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.

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This is how Pope Benedict XVI put it in his homily for the Feast in 2011: *“The passage from the Book of the Apocalypse also indicates another important aspect of Mary’s reality. As the living Ark of the Covenant, she has an extraordinary destiny of glory because she is so closely united to the Son whom she welcomed in faith and generated in the flesh, as to share fully in His glory in Heaven. This is what the words we have heard suggest: ‘A great sign appeared in Heaven, a woman adorned with the sun ...’ (Apoc 12:1) ... Mary, Mother of God, full of grace, fully docile to the action of the Holy Spirit, already lives in God’s Heaven with her whole being, body and soul.”*

But what does all this matter to us? What Mary has now, we hope to enjoy one day. As St Alphonsus Liguori said, *“JESUS did not wish to have the body of Mary corrupted after death, since it would have redounded to His own dishonour to have her virginal flesh, from which He Himself had assumed flesh, reduced to dust.”*

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Year of St Joseph



St Pius X

St Pius X, whose memoria we celebrate on Saturday, was born to a poor family in the Italian village of Riese near Venice in 1835 and was the second of ten children. He entered the seminary in Padua at the age of 15 and was given a dispensation to be ordained priest at the very young age of 23. He was successively curate, parish priest, bishop of Mantua and Patriarch of Venice. He was well known for helping the poor and was strong on Catholic Social Action. And then much against his wishes, he was elected Pope on August 4, 1903, and took the name of Pius because he said, *“As I shall suffer, I shall take the name of those popes who also suffered.”* He took as his papal motto, *“To restore all things in Christ”*.

As Pope he was less formal than his predecessors and invited priests to dinner in the Vatican each evening and would often sneak out to visit the sick in local hospitals. He improved priestly formation, and promoted sacred music, particularly Gregorian Chant. He insisted on quality preaching from his priests and bishops and also modernised Canon Law. In 1910, Pius X issued his famous decree which lowered the age for First Holy Communion for children and advocated its frequent reception. St Pius X is probably best known for the heroic steps he took to combat the heresy which he called ‘modernism’ which is to try and adapt the Faith to the mood of the

times. He called it the *“synthesis of all heresies”* which unfortunately continues down to our own day in many areas of the Church. He preached forcefully against war and violence and had visions that a war would break out in 1914 killing many innocent people that turned out to accurately describe World War I.

In the last years of his life a number of miraculous cures were worked by him. He died on 20th August 1914. The Italian press wrote, *“Saint is Dead”*. He was canonised in 1954 by Pope Pius XII.

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.

Organ Recital: Our own Dominic Remedios will be giving an organ recital at All Saints Parish Church in Loughborough on **Sunday 22nd August** at 6pm. Music will be by Bach, Buxtehude and Mendelssohn. Please support him if you can. *Fr Paul*

Weekly cleaning of the church takes place every Friday between 10.30am and 12.30pm. New volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Fr Paul or Emily if you would like to help, or just turn up any Friday. We would appreciate having more volunteers on the rota. Thank you.



From the Saints

“By her Assumption is meant that not only her soul, but her body also, was taken up to Heaven on her death, so that there was no long period of her sleeping in the grave, as is the case with others, even great Saints, who wait for the last day for the resurrection of their bodies”

(St John Henry Newman, 1801-90)

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 & Wednesday

2pm – 4pm or

Thursday & 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: £490, of which £110 was gift-aided

Standing orders: £826 @30/06, of which £726 was gift-aided

Mass attendance: 242

Thank you