

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

28TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

The Double-Edged Sword

If you visit the **Basilica of St Paul's Outside the Walls in Rome**, in the middle of the courtyard in front of the Basilica, you will see a huge marble statue of St Paul holding in his left hand a book symbolising his epistles which are included in the New Testament, and in his right hand a **long double-edged sword**. One reason for this is that he was martyred by the sword around 64 AD because he refused to offer incense to the false Roman gods. To have done so would have broken the First Commandment. The second reason is found in today's Second Reading from the **Letter to the Hebrews** (4:12-13), traditionally regarded as having been written by St Paul. Therefore the words, "*The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely*" refers to revelation as a whole and particularly Sacred Scripture, but it can also refer to Our Lord Himself, the **Word made flesh**. This is an interesting image with God's Word piercing and cutting to the very depths of our souls. A similar image is used in the book of the Apocalypse (1:6), where Christ appears with a sword in His mouth. This is a metaphor for the spoken word of JESUS because **every word that He uttered is the living and active word of God**. He is the Word made flesh Who speaks the word to us.

The Bible is the inspired word of God, but this doesn't mean God dictated every word. The books of the Bible were written by many different people such as Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, David, Matthew, Paul, John and so on. These authors made full use of their own faculties and powers to write exactly what God wanted. But they wrote according to their own times and cultures, using their own literary styles and expressions. But God is the true author because the writers were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

If God is the author, it follows **there can be no error in the Scriptures** because God cannot lie. He is Truth. But this doesn't mean we read everything in the Bible literally. The account of Creation in Genesis, for example, is not a scientific text book. The Song of Songs is a love poem, not to be read historically. So in attempting to overcome difficulties we mustn't follow false paths. Seeming contradictions are resolved when passages are interpreted in their proper context.

Continued on page 3



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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office@
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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 John XXIII

Please pray for those who have recently died

Vera Cunningham

Andrew Carr

Louisa Naomi

May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Kathleen Leakey

Joe Elsner

Phyllis Wood

Tony Lanza

Frank Mills

Brian Dzdudzewicz

Anne Moore

Allen Junio

Gisela Rodgers

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 9th Vigil Mass
6.00pm Carmela & Giovanni Brunetti RIP – PUBLIC MASS

Sun 10th 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
11.15am Andy Newbold (RIP) – **Confirmation Mass** – PUBLIC
2.30pm *Baptism*
4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

Mon 11th Pope St John XXIII (Memoria)
9.15am Intention for the living – PUBLIC MASS

Tues 12th St Wilfrid (Memoria)
9.15am Intention for the living
5.00pm *Reception of Vera Cunningham RIP*

Weds 13th St Edward the Confessor (Memoria)
11.00am *Funeral: Vera Cunningham RIP*
6.30pm Criseldo Castillo (RIP) (A) (Latin, old rite) – PUBLIC

Thurs 14th St Callistus (Memoria)
9.15am Hallam & Faulks families (RIP)

Fri 15th St Teresa of Avila (Memoria)
6.30pm Sylvia Attenborough (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS

Sat 16th St Margaret Mary (Memoria)
9.15am Elaine Smith (RIP)
10.30am **Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am**
2.30pm *Baptism*
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** Albert Rogers (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS

Sun 17th 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
11.15am Intention for the living – PUBLIC MASS
4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

This Sunday at the 11.15am Mass five young parishioners will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. There will be a small reception in the hall for the candidates after Mass.

First Holy Communions will be celebrated at Masses over the weekends of **Sunday 17th October to Sunday 31st October.**

PLEASE NOTE

Due to government regulations regarding personal data (GDPR), we are not able to publish name details of Mass intentions for the living in this online version of the newsletter.

Continued from front page

So how are we to interpret the Bible correctly? **It has to be read within “the living tradition of the whole Church”** (CCC #113) because there are many difficult things to understand. St Peter recognised this in his second epistle when he wrote, *“There are passages in them difficult to understand, and these like the rest of Scripture, are twisted into a wrong sense by ignorant and restless minds, to their own undoing”* (2 Peter 3:16). There are many things in the Bible which can be understood in different ways, and we need only look at the thousands of different Christian denominations each claiming their interpretation to be the correct one to show that we need an authoritative interpreter.

That interpreter is the Catholic Church to whom Christ said, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age”* (Matthew 28:18-20). If we keep these principles in mind, we will discover, as St Paul did, that, *“The word of God is something alive and active”* and that *“it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely.”* That is, it is not merely a book, but as the Word of God the Scriptures are alive, energetic, effective and life-giving.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Volunteer Fire Wardens for the Church: Now that the response to the national lockdown has been relaxed, we need to appoint and train fire wardens for the Church, to ensure that the Parish fire safety measures are adequate. Ideally, fire wardens need to be available for the weekend Masses and Masses on Holy Days of Obligation. We will need a number of fire wardens and professional training, lasting for 2 hours at a convenient time, will be provided. Volunteers need to be reasonably fit and mobile. The duties are largely to help to oversee the evacuation of the Church through the fire exits if the fire alarm is activated and to direct parishioners to one of the assembly points. There is no intention to stage rehearsals or tests of the alarm system during the course of any Masses. If you would like to help by volunteering, could you kindly let me know, or alternatively, let Elvira or Emily know? Many thanks. *Fr Paul*

Parish Finances for the Year Ending the 31st March 2021: The customary report on the Parish finances for the previous financial year (ending on the 31st March 2021) has been enclosed with this newsletter. Please take a copy of the report home and study it when you have a moment. The Pandemic created a number of difficulties for the Parish, but I am pleased to say that we made the necessary adjustments and that the financial position remains very reasonable.

Fr Paul

Year of St Joseph



VACANCIES

The Diocese of Nottingham has the following vacancies:

Safeguarding Officer/ Caseworker

Role: to promote excellent safeguarding practice, provide advice and respond to safeguarding referrals and allegations.

Hours: 3 days pw (24 hours)

Salary: £32,000 pa pro rata (£19,200 pa)

Safeguarding Training Officer

Role: to deliver training courses across the diocese to raise awareness of safeguarding children and adults.

Hours: 3 days pw (24 hours)

Salary: £28,000 pa pro rata (£16,800 pa)

Application packs available via <https://uk.indeed.com/safeguarding-jobs-in-nottingham>

Full job descriptions are available on the parish website under 'News' (in the right-hand column).

Closing date: 17/10/21

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.

Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, hail our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs of mourning, and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, O most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement! O loving! O sweet Virgin Mary!

A huge thank you to all for your donations to the Loughborough

Food bank and a particular mention to the students and staff at De Lisle College. A group of 6th form young people organised a collection from the school and their contributions were overwhelming; thanks to them too. The next collections leading up to Christmas will be on **Saturday 23rd October, Saturday 13th November** and **Saturday 11th December** in the church car park between 10.30 and 11am. Thank you.

Jane Monaghan



From the Saints

"The Old Testament is like a radio with its hidden voice announcing the One to come. The New Testament is like a television because the Word became both audible and visible."

(Venerable Fulton Sheen, 1895-1979)

Pre-booking places for Weekend Masses

Online bookings can be made on the diocesan website at

<https://massbooking.uk>

Telephone bookings can be made by calling

07554 603972

**Thursday & Friday
4pm – 6.30pm**

PLEASE NOTE: It is **no longer necessary** to book places for **weekday Masses**.

Please do not phone the Presbytery. 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

1st Collection:

£513 (£78 gift-aided)

CAFOD Climate Appeal:

£426 (£205 gift-aided) so far

Standing orders:

£833 @31/08 (£735 gift-aided)

Mass attendance: 310

Thank you