

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

NEWSLETTER

Christ our Judge



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
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Headteacher: Miss P Jordan

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Headteacher: Dr J F Pye

I can scarcely believe that we have already arrived at the **First Sunday of Advent**, the first day of the new liturgical year. Advent, of course, is the time to prepare for the birth of Our Lord JESUS Christ Who is Saviour and Redeemer of the world. But let us not forget that He will also come to **judge** us.

Today we light the first candle on our **Advent wreath**. This wreath is symbolic of Our Lord, firstly because **He is the Light**. As St John writes at the beginning of his Gospel, *"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it"* (John 1:14-5). The Advent wreath is also made in a circle with green leaves. This is a symbol of eternity because JESUS is true God, equal to the Father and the Holy Spirit and is therefore eternal. Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Then you may think of the three **purple candles** as representing JESUS Christ as Judge, JESUS Christ as King, and JESUS Christ as Saviour of the world. The **rose candle** lit on the Third Sunday of Advent we may think of as rejoicing because the Lord is near. And the One Who is near is the One Who will judge us.

Yes, it is a fact that when Christ returns He will judge us. This is referred to in today's Gospel: *"And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory"* (Luke 21:27). JESUS is going to return in all His glory and majesty and judge us. Many of us tend to forget about this, but isn't it interesting that this is the first image the Church gives us of Our Lord in the new liturgical year! So let us not fall into the temptation of thinking of JESUS only as our Saviour. He certainly is our Saviour – He is the only Saviour, but we also say in the Creed every week, *"He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead"*. And He Himself tells us, *"The Father Himself judges no one, but has assigned all judgment to the Son, so that all men may honour the Son just as they honour the Father"* (John 5:22,23, 27).

The resurrection of all the dead will precede the Last

Judgment; those who have done good to the resurrection of life and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment (John 5:28-29). And at this time, all will see their life as they lived it placed

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November: month of the Holy Souls

Please pray for those who have recently died

Fr James Flynn (10th Father General of the Rosminians),
Pany Tinker
Vincenzo Guarasci
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Paul Adkin
Dominko Horvathova
Barnardo Messoro
Beverley Ryder
Robert Di-Niro

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.

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 27th Vigil Mass
6.00pm For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS

Sun 28th First Sunday of Advent (Year C)
9.00am Christopher Dover (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS
11.15am Mario Sepede (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS
4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

Mon 29th Advent Feria
9.15am Keith Bowles (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS

Tues 30th St Andrew, Apostle (Feast)
9.15am Holy Souls
1.00pm *Requiem Mass for Vincenzo Guarasci RIP*

Weds 1st St Ralph Sherwin
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*
6.30pm Deceased members of the Myers family (RIP) (Latin, old rite) – PUBLIC MASS

Thurs 2nd Advent Feria
9.15am Ken Anderson (RIP)

Fri 3rd St Francis Xavier (Memoria) (First Friday)
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm For our deceased Relatives and Friends – PUBLIC MASS

Sat 4th Advent Mass of the BVM (Five First Saturdays)
10.00am George Rogers (RIP)
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am*
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** Charles Connolly (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS

Sun 5th Second Sunday of Advent
9.00am Carmela Brunetti (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS
11.15am Lidia & Fernando Buttarazzi (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS
4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

Congratulations to Aldi, Chloe and Shikha who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last weekend. *Fr Paul*

Forthcoming events at St Mary's

Weds 1st: UCM – 2.00pm in the Library

Fri 10th: Rorate Mass – 6.45am (no Mass at 6.30pm that day)

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before Christ the Just Judge Who sees everything. At death we will all undergo the **'particular judgment'**, but at the Last Judgment, the 'particular judgment' will be made public - all the good we have done and all the evil we have done will be made known to everyone – the sins of commission as well as the sins of omission. **This thought need not frighten us if we repent of our sins.**

So this doctrine of the Last Judgment is really a **call to conversion and reform of our lives.** We need to see everything in the light of eternity. Don't be caught off guard! St Paul tells us the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. In other words we don't know the day or the hour when the Son of Man will return. So let us not sleep but be awake and sober (Thessalonians 5:2,6) so that we will be able *"to stand with confidence before the Son of Man"* (Luke 21:36). **This is an excellent time to make a good, humble confession of our sins.**

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

First Holy Communions 2022: Application forms for next year's First Holy Communions are now available directly from me. Please complete and return to the Parish Office by **Sunday 5th December.** No applications will be accepted after this date. *Fr Paul*

Church Opening: From this coming week, provided one of the priests is in the presbytery, the church will be open for private prayer from **8am on Wednesdays and Saturdays and on Friday afternoons from 2pm.** The church will be closed after the evening Mass. Why only on these days? There is a requirement that the church be cleaned properly each day it is open. As we already have an evening Mass on these days, there will be no extra burden placed on our already very committed stewards and cleaners. *Fr Paul*

'Christmas Voices from the Holy Land' is a collection of Christ-centred prayer resources for Advent and Christmas. Available now from <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/shop/advent-book-2021>. All funds raised from the sale will be used in the charitable activities of Friends of the Holy Land, and so help those who have suffered in Gaza, the West Bank (including east Jerusalem), and the divided communities in Israel.

Invitation from Ratcliffe College: We would like to invite you and members of your parish community to our Christmas Carol Service on **Sunday 12th December.** The Service will begin at 4:00pm and there will be refreshments served in the College Refectory afterwards.

Year of St Joseph



Missio: Please could all Missio collection boxes be returned to the church repository by **next Sunday (5th December).** Thank you. *Marie Brookes*

Mailing mix up: Due to an error in the software used to send out the online version of the newsletter last week, many (if not all) of you who subscribe will have received an email that was addressed to someone else. I have been assured by the software company that this error has now been corrected. *Louise*

Sunday Mass obligation: The Bishops of England and Wales have decided to delay the reintroduction of the Sunday Mass obligation, originally intended to return this weekend, due to the increase in Covid-19 infections. There are some copies of the statement at the back of the church if you would like to read it. You will also find it posted on the parish website. It is called 'Honouring Sunday'.

Fr Paul

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.

Mass Intentions: A few people have been asking when the Masses they have asked for are going to be celebrated. As things stand at the moment, there is a 6-8 week wait from when you ask, but the Masses you have asked for will be offered. A reminder that there is no point in asking for a particular date a week before. It will most certainly already be taken.

Fr Paul

The second collection this weekend is for **Exaireo**, a local Christian charity that houses and finds work for homeless people. Money raised contributes to a Christmas meal for them. There are currently 43 people benefitting from Exaireo's care.

Christmas Raffle: Tickets on sale after all Masses next weekend.

From the Saints

"Everyone, past present and future – will be judged. Now, then, is the time for mercy, while the time to come will be the time for justice only. For that reason, the present time is ours, but the future time will be God's only."

(St Thomas Aquinas, 1225-1274)



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

Collection: £564 (of which £93 was gift-aided)

Standing orders: £819 @31/10 (of which £721 was gift-aided)

Mass attendance: 322

Thank you
