

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

NEWSLETTER

A Saviour is Born

Christmas is not only the celebration of the birth of JESUS. It is also an important reminder that God never forgets or abandons His people no matter how much of a lost cause we were and no matter how steeped in sin we were. In His great mercy, God Himself chose to become one of us, live among us and then die on the cross for us in order to save us. What an amazing testimony of His love! The prophet Isaiah said, *“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined”* (9:2). We were the people walking in darkness and that great light is Christ. This is the great joy of Christmas, the coming of our Saviour into the world to redeem us and to make us children of the Light.

For the second year running, this Christmas may not turn out to be all would like it to be amid the ongoing Covid crisis, and as I write there is the possibility of another lockdown. But let us remember the first Christmas wasn't without its problems either. Mary and Joseph probably assumed that as they set out for the census in Bethlehem they would be able to find a place to stay. This was not to be the case as *“there was no room for them in the inn”* (Luke 2:7) and so they were forced to go into a stable without any friends or family around. They must have felt very isolated like many will all over the world this Christmas. Then after JESUS was born there was the danger of death as Herod set out to kill Him. But in spite of all this, Mary and Joseph trusted in God and realised that amid all the turmoil and chaos that something wonderful was happening and the Providence of God was at work in bringing about something truly amazing.

God is preparing us for Heaven which will be eternal joy and happiness beyond anything we can ever imagine here on earth. He

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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, OLV

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
T: 01509 268739
enquiries@delisle.leics.sch.uk
Headteacher: Dr J F Pye



Please pray for those who have recently died

Pany Tinker

May she rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Ian Merriman

Christine Temple

Norah Thurland

Mary Cochrane

Veronica Hammond-Young

Louis Madge

Peter Harvey

Linda Wagstaff

Estrella Hunter

Carmen DeSousa

Beatrice Onions

Brian Marchant

Jim Moreland

Frank Barraclough

Brian Smith

Robert Milnes

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

Fri 24th Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord
6.00pm Denise Kabala (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS

Sat 25th The Nativity of the Lord (Solemnity)
Midnight For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
9.00am Family Intention – PUBLIC MASS
11.15am Andy Newbold (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS

Sun 26th The Holy Family (Feast)
9.00am Andrew Carr (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS
11.15am For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

Mon 27th St John, Apostle & Evangelist (Feast)
10.30am Norah Thurland (RIP, Anniversary) – PUBLIC MASS

Tues 28th The Holy Innocents (Feast)
9.15am Intention for the living

Weds 29th St Thomas Becket (Feast)
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*
6.30pm Fr James Flynn (RIP) (Latin, sung) – PUBLIC MASS

Thurs 30th Sixth Day in Christmas Octave
9.15am Pany Tinker (RIP)

Fri 31st Seventh Day in Christmas Octave
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Intention for the living – PUBLIC MASS
7.15pm *Te Deum & Solemn Benediction*

Sat 1st Mary Mother of God (Solemnity)
10.30am Pasqual Giorgio (RIP)

Sun 2nd Second Sunday of Christmas
9.00am For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
11.15am Intention for the living – PUBLIC MASS
4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

Mon 3rd The Most Holy Name of Jesus
9.15am Intention for the living – PUBLIC MASS

NB: There is no Vigil Mass on 25th December or 1st January

Mass Intentions *(continued from previous page)*

Tues 4th Christmas Feria
9.15am For the Beatification of Sr Clare Crockett

Weds 5th Christmas Feria
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*
6.30pm Jim Moreland (RIP) – **NO PUBLIC MASS**

Thurs 6th The Epiphany of the Lord (Solemnity)
9.15am Crispin Castillo (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS
6.30pm Intention for the living – PUBLIC MASS

Fri 7th Friday after The Epiphany (First Friday)
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm For our Deceased Relatives & Friends – PUBLIC MASS

Sat 8th Saturday after The Epiphany
9.15am Brian Smith (RIP)
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
-12.30pm *with Confessions 10.30-11.30am*
6.00pm **Vigil:** May Hollingsworth (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS

Sun 9th The Baptism of the Lord (Feast)
9.00am For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
11.15am Nesia Orton (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS
4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

A Saviour is Born *(continued from front page)*

prepares us by testing us and allowing us to have trials. We read in the Letter to the Hebrews, *“For the sake of the joy which was still in the future, He [JESUS] endured the cross”* (12:2). It’s Heaven we are made for, and the stable at Bethlehem on that first Christmas night with JESUS, Mary and Joseph, the angels and the shepherds is a foretaste of Heaven. Don’t think you have to endure trials alone. God is always with us. He was born for us and He suffers and grieves with us. The light of Bethlehem overcomes the darkness of the world.

On behalf of all of us priests at St Mary’s, I wish you all a very happy and faith-filled Christmas, full of the presence of the Christ Child. May He come into your hearts in a new way as He reminds you that you are made to be with Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit, Our Lady and all the angels and saints for ever.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Christmas Greetings from Kwediboma

Received this week from the Health Centre - *“Thank you for being an important part in my life. The gift of love, the gift of peace, the gift of happiness and joy to you, your families and your co workers. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year 2022.”*

Sr Matilda Peter Shirima

To all our helpers

I think you will all agree the church looks magnificent. Many thanks to our wonderful team of flower arrangers and our very dedicated team of church cleaners who have all done a wonderful job. And once again a very big thank you to our very faithful team of stewards who enable us to keep the church open and ensure the smooth running of services. Thank you also to our teams of musicians, choristers and altar servers, who all make an invaluable contribution to the worthy celebration of the Sacred Liturgy. *Fr Paul*

Church cleaning: There will be no cleaning over the next two Fridays. Cleaning will resume on **Friday 14th January, 11am - 1pm**. Anyone is welcome to join the small team of volunteers. Thank you.

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.
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Covid Restrictions: The Bishops' Conference is not expecting any further updates for England regarding the current restrictions for the covid pandemic. If there are any changes these will be communicated as soon as possible.

Thank you for all your Christmas greetings, cards and gifts to the priests. We are very grateful, especially in these difficult times.

Fr Paul, Fr Simon, Fr David

The Crib, as is our tradition, will remain up for 40 days until **2nd February**, the traditional end of Christmastide. *Fr Paul*

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18-25 January 2022: This year's theme is inspired by the story of the Magi. Prayer resources and daily reflections can be found on the Churches Together website at <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022/>

Christmas Collection: The Christmas Day offering will be for Parish funds and will be used to support the priests, and maintenance of the presbytery and church. If you wish to make a personal offering for the priests, please use the IOC (white) envelopes. Thank you.

There will be no newsletter next weekend.



From the Saints

"In the last days the Father sent the Word. In His plan the Word was no longer to speak through the prophets. He was no longer to be a figure of conjecture, announced in an obscure way. He was to be manifested visibly, so that the world could see Him and be saved."
(St Hippolytus, died 236)

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: £563 (of which £91 was gift-aided)

Standing orders: £823 @30/11 (of which £716 was gift-aided)

Mass attendance: 251

Thank you
