

# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

THIRD SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

# NEWSLETTER

## Rejoice, the Lord is near!



### St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Loughborough LE11 3AB  
01509 262123

office@  
stmarysloughborough.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

**A**dvent is a penitential season, although less so than Lent. Hence the Liturgy is more subdued. There are no flowers, the Gloria is not said and purple vestments are worn as a sign of our **repentance**. Three of the candles on the Advent wreath are purple, and last Sunday we heard **St John the Baptist** calling us to repentance to prepare for the coming of the Lord.

But this Third Sunday of Advent, we lay aside the penitential purple, and use **rose coloured vestments** instead. Flowers are restored and a **rose coloured candle** is lit on the Advent wreath and we are exhorted to rejoice, because now the Lord is very near. The Introit or Entrance Antiphon and the Second Reading for today's Mass which are taken from St Paul to the Philippians 4:4-5 expresses this: "*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near.*" The Latin word for rejoice is 'gaudete', and hence this Sunday is also known as '**Gaudete Sunday**'.

But does this rejoicing because the Lord is near refer to His present nearness or to His Second Coming? The answer is it refers to both, because both are a cause for rejoicing. But how can we rejoice "always" with all the troubles, the pains and trials of life? We know we can't always rejoice and always be happy, but we can rejoice because the Lord is near right now. He is with us always and He's with us especially in our troubles and trials, whether it be illness, financial problems or whatever. Did He Himself not say, "*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted*" (Matthew 5:4). **Yes, our sufferings can be blessings if we see God's hand in them and accept them in faith and trust**, and surrender ourselves to His perfect Will. That's what the saints did. If we practice doing this in small things, offering up the little pains and annoyances of day to day life, we will find it easier in the big things. This has tremendous power with God. We can't choose not to feel terrible, but we can choose to trust in God when

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*St John of the Cross*

**Please pray for those who have recently died**

Jean-Pierre Hemmiche and Pany Tinker

*May they rest in peace*

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

Lawrence Rayburn

Fr Kit Cunningham

Peter Stonehouse

Giuseppe Sacchetta

Hryhori Westyn

Luisa deBlasio

Veronica Burton

Donald Riste Clemerson

## MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

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**Sat 11th Vigil Mass**  
6.00pm Catherine Connolly (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS

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**Sun 12th Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)**  
9.00am For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS  
11.15am Wladyslaw Franciszek Moson (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS  
4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

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**Mon 13th St Lucy (Memoria)**  
9.15am Vito Caruso (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS

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**Tues 14th St John of the Cross (Memoria)**  
9.15am Paula & Luigi Bellofatto (RIP)

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**Weds 15th Advent Feria**  
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*  
6.30pm Special Intentions

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**Thurs 16th Advent Feria**  
9.15am James O'Rourke (RIP)

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**Fri 17th Advent Feria**  
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*  
6.30pm Vera Cunningham (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS

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**Sat 18th Advent Feria**  
9.15am Family Intention  
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am*  
-12.30pm  
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS

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**Sun 19th Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
9.00am Michael Smith (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS  
11.15am Anthony Richard Hutchings (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS  
3.00pm\* Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS  
4.30pm Carols by Candlelight

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**NB:** It is now a legal requirement to wear a face mask in church unless you are exempt for medical reasons.

**Please note** that the Italian Mass on **Sunday 19th December** will be at 3.00pm.

**Forthcoming events at St Mary's**

**Sun 19th:** Refreshments in the Hall following Carols by Candlelight

### 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.

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we do. Remember, God is all powerful, all loving and all knowing, and even if we can't see it right now, our trials can be blessings in disguise if only we can believe it in faith. This is the peace of God which St Paul says today, "*is so much greater than we can understand.*"

So we leave ourselves completely in the hands of God. **St Teresa of Avila** (1515-1582) wrote about this in a poem when she said:

*"Let nothing trouble you, let nothing frighten you.  
Everything passes, God never changes.  
Patience obtains all.  
Whoever has God wants for nothing.  
God alone is enough."*

*Fr Paul Gillbam, IC*

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**This Sunday is Bambinelli Sunday.** I forgot to put in last weekend's newsletter that we will bless your cribs or Baby Jesus figures at the end of all three weekend Masses. I've tried to let as many people as possible know. Please bring them if you would like them blessed. *Fr Paul*

**Latin Mass:** There will be no Latin Mass this coming Wednesday. The next one will be on **Wednesday 22nd December** at 6.30pm. *Fr Paul*

**Christmas and New Year Masses:** This is an advance notice that there will be **no 6pm Mass on Christmas Day or New Year's Day**, both of which are Saturdays. On New Year's Day, **Saturday 1st January**, there will be a 10.30am Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Sunday Masses will remain as normal at 9am and 11.15am. *Fr Paul*

**Church Opening:** Provided one of the priests is in the presbytery, the church is now 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. *Fr Paul*

**Mass Intentions** are now fully booked until the end of the first week of February.



## **Kwediboma Support Group**

I have been part of the Kwediboma Support Group in the parish for more than 12 years but now I am stepping down from my role within the group and am seeking one or two volunteers to take over the tasks I have performed. These tasks include liaising with the Sisters at the Kwediboma Health Centre, updating the parish on developments at the Centre and fund raising projects, co-ordinating bank transfers to Kwediboma through the Parish Priest and Finance Committee, and supporting the Union of Catholic Mothers with their fund raising activities for Kwediboma. If you are interested in taking up this role or would like to discuss further what is involved, please contact me via the Parish Office. Thank you

*Terry Spicer*

## 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.

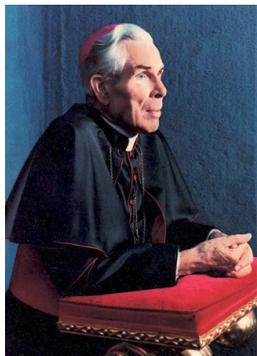
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**Christmas Raffle:** Tickets on sale after all Masses this weekend.

**Christmas cards** with the times of Christmas and New Year services are available this weekend. Please take one. *Fr Paul*

**St Mary's 2022 diaries** are now available to buy for £1.

**The second collection this weekend** is for Poor & Needy Parishes.



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## From the Saints

*“God walks into your soul with silent step. God comes to you more than you go to Him. Never will His coming be what you expect and yet never will it disappoint. The more you respond to His gentle pressure, the greater will be your freedom.”*

(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*

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## Last Week's Finance

**Collection:** £639 (of which £323 was gift-aided)

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

**Mass attendance:** 319

*Thank you*