

# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

# NEWSLETTER

## Ready for Jesus ...



### St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

97 Ashby Road  
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

You know Advent has four weeks, right? Well, sort of. It always has four Sundays, and the last week – usually only partial – varies in length. It depends on when Advent begins anywhere from 27th November to 3rd December.

There's a deep mystical meaning to the structure of Advent. The word '**advent**' is originally a Latin word meaning '**coming**'. The purpose of Advent, then, is to prepare for the coming of Christ.

The French liturgical expert, **Dom Gueranger**, points out that *"the new birth of our Redeemer takes place after four weeks, as the first nativity happened after four thousand years"*, according to the chronology in the Old Testament. We are invited in Advent to unite spiritually with the Old Testament believers who awaited the coming of the Messiah over the course of roughly 4,000 years. Remember we only understand Jesus as our Saviour when we engage with what we call 'The Old Testament'. **Jacobus de Voragine**, in *The Golden Legend*, records another medieval interpretation: *"Advent is celebrated for four weeks, to signify that this coming of the Lord is fourfold."*

He says that Jesus comes ...

1. *"in the flesh"*, when He was born of Mary in Bethlehem
2. *"into our hearts"*, when we become members of His Church by Baptism, and are united with Him by grace
3. *"in death"*, when each of us is called individually to appear before Him
4. *"at the Last Judgment"*, when He will return again in glory, *"to judge the living and the dead"* and call us and all the faithful to Heaven with the Blessed Mary and the Saints.

The Church, in the Gospel readings she assigns for each of the four Sundays of Advent, is preparing us for each of these **four** comings.

- The **First Sunday of Advent** focuses on the coming of Christ **at the Last Judgment**. In this year's Gospel we are reminded of the signs that will precede this coming and warned that *"that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth"*.

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**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**

Carmel Berridge

Peter Robinson

Brian Stack

Russell Lomotos

Dorothy Ginns

Margaret Dawson

Mary Black

Denise Carnell

Christopher Hubbard,

Giuseppe Calardo,

John McGeechan

Giovanni Brunette

Liz Prentice

John Moore

Sue Moreland

John Barson

Vivincia Castillo

#### **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**

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**Sat 18th Vigil Mass**  
6.00pm 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  
4.30-5.15pm Church open for private prayer - no Carol Service\*

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**Mon 20th Advent Feria**  
9.15am Family Intention – PUBLIC MASS

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**Tues 21st St Peter Canisius**  
9.15am John Barson (RIP, Anniversary)

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**Weds 22nd Advent Feria**  
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*  
6.30pm Fr Solleza (RIP) (Latin, old rite) – PUBLIC MASS

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**Thurs 23rd St John of Kanty**  
9.15am Vivincia Castillo (RIP, Anniversary)

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

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**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

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**Sun 26th The Holy Family (Feast)**  
9.00am Andrew Carr (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS  
11.15am For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS  
4.00pm NO ITALIAN MASS

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**\*Due to the current surge in Covid cases, the Carols by Candlelight Service this Sunday has been cancelled.** The church will however be open for private prayer from 4.30 to 5.15pm. The Carols & Readings at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve have also been cancelled.

**Please note there will be no Vigil Mass on Christmas Day.**

**A reminder that it is required by law to wear a facemask in church unless you have an exemption.** You are also advised to wrap up warm in church as it will be important to keep the church well ventilated during Mass. Thank you.

*Fr Paul*

*Continued from front page*

- The Gospel for the **Second Sunday** shows us **John the Baptist** “*proclaiming a baptism of repentance*”. The Church is here preparing us for the coming of Christ at our death.
- The Gospel of the **Third Sunday** continues that of the Second Sunday. Here John gives counsel when people ask him, “*What should we do?*” John the Baptist is brought forth to prepare us, too, for the coming of Christ into our hearts.
- On this **final Sunday** of Advent, the Gospel reading is the story of the Visitation. The coming of Christ in history; and the Church shows us Mary as the model of one who “*believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled*”. Mary was the first Bethlehem, for it was into her womb that Christ first came.

**St Bernard of Clairvaux** teaches that these comings are mystically linked together. The Son of God united Himself to our human **nature in history**, so that He might unite us to Himself by coming **into our hearts**, and in this way prepare us to stand before Him **in death** and in the **Last Judgment**, so that we might share His glory in heaven forever.

**Come Lord Jesus & may our hearts and homes receive you with joy!**

*Fr David Jones OLV*

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**Church cleaning for Christmas: Thursday 23rd December, 11am - 1pm.** Anyone is welcome to join our small team of volunteers. Thank you.

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

**A huge thank you** to all who contributed to the **Christmas food bank collection**. Staff at JSH commented that it took up to three hours to place our donations on the shelves, thus denoting the generosity of parishioners at St Mary's. A special mention to the staff and children of St Mary's School and De Lisle College who gave tremendous support for the venture. All round, a thoroughly brilliant response.

*Jane Monaghan*

**‘Have your say: Synod 21-23’ - 9th January 2022, 4.00 pm** via Zoom - An invitation from LACY (Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth) especially to young people, their families and friends. An opportunity for young people in our Church to input about the Synod. Discussion, fun time and a short liturgy will be shared together. The link-in details will be available on LACY's Facebook page, or from Pauline Payne: paulinepayne@hotmail.com.



## **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 cards** with the times of Christmas and New Year services are available at the church exits. Please take one. *Fr Paul*

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

**Christmas Collection:** This year 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.

**Next week's newsletter** will be a double issue, covering the weeks **26th December-1st January** and **2nd-8th January**. If you have any notices for this period, please send them in by **Wednesday 22nd December**. Thank you.



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## From the Saints

*'The language God hears best is the silent love of adoration.'*

St John of the Cross 1542-1591

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## 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

**1st Collection:** £375 (of which £120 was gift-aided)

**Poor & Needy Parishes:** £237

**Standing orders:** £823

@30/11 (of which £716 was gift-aided)

*Thank you*

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