

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

NEWSLETTER

Are you prepared ...



The prophet Malachi says, “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse” (4:5-6). With these words the Old Testament ends. Then the New Testament (Mark’s Gospel) opens with **John the Baptist** of whom Our Lord says, “He is Elijah who is to come” (Matthew 11:14). John the Baptist is the fulfilment of the prophecy of Malachi because he was an Elijah-type figure who came to prepare the people for the great coming of the Messiah.

The Gospel tells us, “He [John] went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins”, and then he quotes the prophet Isaiah, “Prepare a way for the Lord, make His paths straight.” **The good news of the coming of Christ our Saviour is only good news if we acknowledge that we are sinners and that we need redeeming.** If we say we are without sin, then we have no need of a Saviour and the whole of Christianity becomes meaningless.

“Prepare the way of the Lord.” It’s a hectic time and we’re all trying to get ready for Christmas, getting our shopping done, buying presents and maybe even going to parties if it’s allowed this year. But are we preparing ourselves spiritually? We make sure we’re on time for planes and trains, we spend years preparing for a career. So why don’t we spend more time getting ready for God, because the one thing that is certain is that one day we will stand before Him and He will judge us? Careers and promotions are not certain but death and judgement are. Are you ready? St Paul tells us the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:2). Now is the time to prepare! Don’t be caught off guard.

If it’s more than a few months since your last Confession, now is the time to go. Make a good and thorough examination of conscience in light of the **Ten Commandments** and the **teaching of the Church**. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you identify some of the crooked paths in your life, to help you straighten them out and make the rough roads smooth (Isaiah 40:4). **Confession banishes the**

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

Continued on page 3



The Immaculate Conception

Please pray for those who have recently died

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

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Margaret Sheaf
Fernado Buttarazzi
Bill Flatley
Dorothy Fellows
Elizabeth Kendall
James Callan
Cyril Dale
Arthur Makey,
Salvatore Corbinzolu
Terry Oliver
Teresa Denton,
James Slevin
Mavis Maguire

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 4th 6.00pm	Vigil Mass Charles Connolly (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS
Sun 5th 9.00am 11.15am 4.00pm	Second Sunday of Advent (Year C) Carmela Brunetti (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS Lidia & Fernando Buttarazzi (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS
Mon 6th 9.15am	St Nicholas (Memoria) For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
Tues 7th 9.15am	St Ambrose (Memoria) Venancio Castillo Jr (RIP, Anniversary)
Weds 8th 9.15am 6.00-6.25pm 6.30pm	The Immaculate Conception (Solemnity) Vera Cunningham (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS <i>Parish Rosary (in church)</i> Paula & Luigi Bellofatto (RIP): Sung Latin Mass, old rite – PUBLIC MASS
Thurs 9th 9.15am	Advent Feria Family Intention
Fri 10th 6.45am 6.00-6.25pm 6.30pm	Rorate Mass – Advent Mass of Our Lady Louisa Naomi (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS <i>Confessions</i> NO MASS
Sat 11th 9.15am 10.30am -12.30pm 6.00pm	St Damasus I (Memoria) Donald Riste Clemerson (RIP, Anniversary) <i>Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am</i> Vigil Mass: Catherine Connolly (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS
Sun 12th 9.00am 11.15am 4.00pm	Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS Wladyslaw Franciszek Moson (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

NB: Under Health & Safety law, the wearing of face masks is once again mandatory in church; exceptions are allowed for medical reasons.

Forthcoming events at St Mary's
Fri 10th: RCIA – 7.30pm in the Library
Sun 19th: Parish Carol Service by Candlelight – 4.30pm

Continued from front page

darkness and reignites the light of Christ in our souls, dimmed by venial sin or completely extinguished by mortal sin. In the Sacrament, as you hear the priest say the words, *“I absolve you from your sins”* you will have the certainty that God has pardoned you. We cannot absolve ourselves, but unabsolved guilt always gnaws away at us until it is finally absolved in the way Christ instituted, and that is Confession. The fear of mentioning an embarrassing sin cannot compare with the relief one feels once it has been confessed.

Some people don't like me mentioning confession as often as I do, but of this I can be certain - **Our Lord wishes to meet many of you in the confessional this Advent.** I hope you respond to his invitation.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Rorate Mass: This is when a Votive Mass of Our Lady for Advent is celebrated at dawn by candlelight. It has proved very popular in previous years. This year's Mass will be at 6.45am this coming **Friday 10th December**, and as usual, I will celebrate 'ad orientem', facing East, as we look together towards the Coming of the Lord.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady falls this **Wednesday 8th December**. It is not a Holyday of Obligation but there will be an extra Mass at 9.15am as well as the usual Latin Mass at 6.30pm. This great Feast also brings to an end the Year of St Joseph. At the conclusion of both Masses we will recite the Litany of St Joseph at his altar.

Fr Paul

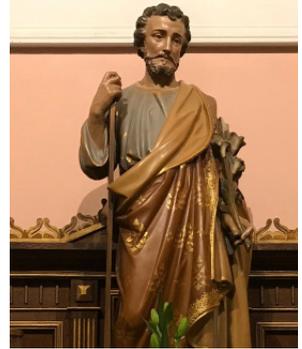
Christmas and New Year Masses: This is an advance notice that there will be **no 6pm Mass on Christmas Day or New Year's Day**, both of which are Saturdays. On New Year's Day, **Saturday 1st January**, there will be a 10.30am Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Sunday Masses will remain as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

Loughborough Food Bank collection: Saturday 11th December in the church car park between 10.30 and 11.00am. This is a Christmas collection and the following will be greatly appreciated: chocolate biscuits, sweets, selection boxes, shower gels, soap, washing machine liquid and household cleaning products. Thank you.

Year of St Joseph



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.
-

The popular ‘Walk with Me’ booklets with daily meditations for Advent are available at the entrance of the church. They are free, but you may make a donation to cover costs if you wish. *Fr Paul*

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

Sale of Christmas cakes, mince pies etc in the hall after Sunday Masses this weekend.

Ride and Stride: Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust has paid £291.75 to St Mary’s, half the amount raised by parishioner Felix Ng for participating in this year’s Ride and Stride. Thank you to both. *Fr Paul*

Ratcliffe College Christmas Carol Service: Sunday 12th December at 4:00pm followed by refreshments in the College Refectory.

Staff from the St Thomas Aquinas Multi Academy Trust will be speaking briefly at Masses this weekend, appealing for support for the Catholic Life Hardship Fund. This is a fund which will support the most vulnerable in our schools across the CMAT including students at St Mary’s, Sacred Heart and De Lisle, to be able to access all the enriching experiences our wonderful schools have to offer. Your support is very much appreciated and if you have any questions please do speak to one of us or contact me at De Lisle on ruth.jackson@delisle.leics.sch.uk. *Ruth Jackson*

From the Saints

“Frequent confession is the cause of great good to the soul, because it purifies it, heals it, and confirms it in the service of God. We ought not therefore to omit confession on our fixed days for any business whatsoever; but go to confession first, and to business afterwards, and the first will help the last.”

(St Philip Neri, 1515-1595)



www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk

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: £504 (of which £114 was gift-aided)

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

Mass attendance: 292

Thank you
