

# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

4th SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME

# NEWSLETTER

## You too must be a Prophet!



In today's First Reading from the **prophet Jeremiah** (1:4-5,17-19), God warns him, that like all true prophets he will be hated and feared. God doesn't send prophets to give people a pat on the back and tell them they're nice! **Prophets are always counter-cultural**, and God sends them when mankind rationalises and justifies things that are deeply sinful and then glories in them. So He tells Jeremiah, "*Brace yourself for action. Stand up and tell them all I command you.*" This is precisely what Jeremiah did. He said continuously to the people, "*If you don't repent, Babylon is going to come and destroy the Temple.*" Well, they didn't repent, they rejected Jeremiah and they tried to kill him. His prophecy was fulfilled because eventually Jerusalem was destroyed and the Temple was burned to the ground. **Jeremiah is a pre-figuring of Christ.** Similar to Our Lord, he was beaten up, rejected, thrown down a well, and according to tradition was stoned to death, and all because he was calling the people to repentance.

We, by virtue of our Baptism and Confirmation, are Christ's soldiers and ambassadors. We are the members of His army. **We have to be prophets in the world today.** We have to announce Christ's Kingdom. It's not always going to be easy, but God's command to Jeremiah is also addressed to each one of us. "*I have appointed you as prophet to the nations. So now brace yourself for action. Stand up and tell them all I command you.*" This is affirmed by the **Second Vatican Council** (1962-65) which taught, "*Christ, fulfils this prophetic office, not only by the hierarchy ... but also by the laity*" (Lumen gentium #35).

Sometimes our role as prophet requires us to use words, and at other times we inspire people through our actions - that is through our love, and sometimes love has to be tough. **St Teresa of Calcutta** (1910-1997) practised this love by caring for the people dying in the streets. She and her sisters would go and pick up the dying men and women, both young and old, wash them and feed them and help them to die with dignity, knowing they had been loved. Then, at the same time, she would say to governments and powers things they didn't want to hear: "*Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use violence to get what they want. This is why the greatest*

### 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

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[www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk](http://www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk)



*"The Light to lighten the Gentiles"*

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

Clelia Paciolla  
 Greg Baker  
 Costantino Lallo  
 Patrick Ready  
*May they rest in peace*

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

Mary Embleton  
 Christina O'Sullivan  
 Matthew Galvin  
 Pat Lavery  
 Tony Benincasa  
 Eliza Aldiss  
 David Hibbin  
 Gladys Orton  
 Hugh Mead

**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 29th Vigil Mass**  
 6.00pm Colette McDermott (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS

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**Sun 30th Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 9.00am For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS  
 11.15am Intention for the living – PUBLIC MASS  
 4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

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**Mon 31st St John Bosco (Memoria)**  
 9.15am Brian & Kitty McDermott (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS

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**Tues 1st Feria**  
 9.15am Fr Isidore Clark, OP (RIP)

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**Weds 2nd Candlemas (Feast)**  
 9.15am Barry Hallam (RIP, Anniversary) – PUBLIC MASS  
 Attended by St Mary's Primary School  
 6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*  
 6.30pm For Vocations (Latin, old rite, sung) – PUBLIC MASS

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**Thurs 3rd St Blaise (Memoria)**  
 9.15am Mary John Nedumakal (RIP, Anniversary)  
 4.30pm *Reception of Greg Baker (RIP)*

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**Fri 4th St Gilbert of Sempringham (Memoria) (First Friday)**  
 12 noon *Requiem Mass for Greg Baker (RIP)*  
 6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*  
 6.30pm For our deceased Relatives & Friends – PUBLIC MASS

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**Sat 5th St Agatha (Memoria) (Five First Saturdays)**  
 10.00am George Houston (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS  
 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 6th Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 9.00am Derrick Baxter (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS  
 11.15am Matta Ngo Thi Nhuong (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS  
 4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

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### This week at St Mary's

**Thurs 3rd:** RCIA – 7.00pm in the Library

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*destroyer of love and peace is abortion.” This and similar sayings of hers offended many, but then Christ also offended many, not because He was setting out to offend them, but because He wanted to save their souls. He offended the Jews in today’s Gospel to such an extent that they intended to throw Him from the cliff, “but He slipped through the crowd and walked away.”*

**So you are called to be a prophet in the world today.** This is your mission. Our Lord is constantly trying to reach others through us. Who in your life needs to hear the message of Christ? Promise Our Lord that when the opportunity presents itself, you will courageously speak the truth in love.

*Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

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**Candlemas:** Wednesday this week is Candlemas or the Purification of Our Lady or the Presentation of Our Lord. Whichever you prefer to call it, it is the end of Christmastide, and so the crib will be taken down the next day. It is also the day we bless the candles for the year. **There will be two public Masses.** The 9.15am will be attended by St Mary’s School. A small section of the church will be reserved for parishioners wishing to attend. The 6.30pm will be the usual Latin Mass which on this occasion will be sung. *Fr Paul*

**Assisted Suicide:** An amendment has been tabled to the Health and Social Care Bill by Lord Forsyth which would force the Government to lay an assisted suicide bill before Parliament within a year of the Bill passing into law. This is yet another attempt by the assisted suicide lobby to build momentum for a change in the law which would pose a serious risk to the sick and vulnerable and make assisted suicide available on the NHS. Bishop Patrick McKinney is encouraging everyone to write to peers and urge them to oppose Lord Forsyth’s amendment which is expected to be debated next **Wednesday, 2nd February.** The organisation Right to Life can support you with this via their website: Ask Peers to oppose assisted suicide next week ([www.righttolife.org.uk](http://www.righttolife.org.uk)). Please act now and ensure that England and Wales does not allow a lethal prescription to become an established part of health care.

**Blessing of throats:** Thursday is the Feast of St Blaise, the patron saint of throats. The priest will bless throats after Mass on Wednesday, the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord (or Candlemas). *Fr Paul*

**The Christmas Raffle** raised £336 for Kwediboma. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets or donated prizes. *Bernie McEnergy*

## VACANCY

**St Mary’s Catholic Primary School** has a vacancy for a Year 1 Teacher. This is a fixed term maternity cover post. **Grade:** NQT to MPS  
**Contract Type:** Full time, 32.5 hours per week  
**Closing Date: Friday, 4th February 2022 at 9.00am**  
For more information and to apply, call the school office: 01509 212621.

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**Catholic teachers working outside Catholic Education** are invited to find out more about the opportunities in Catholic education within the Diocese of Nottingham at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday 8th February**, 7.00pm - 8.30pm. To reserve a place email [julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk](mailto:julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk). See noticeboard at the back of church for more information.

**The next Food Bank collection will be on Saturday 12th February** in the church car park from 10.30 to 11.00am. Items in great demand include shower gels, shampoo, soap, toilet roll, washing detergents, cleaning products, tea, small jars of coffee and drinking chocolate, long life milk. Thank you all for your generosity. *Jane Monaghan*

## 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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**Covid Guidance for Churches:** Following the government's lifting of 'Plan B' on 27th January, the Bishops' Conference has given more guidance. Firstly, anyone displaying Covid-19 symptoms should stay at home. There is now no need for formal social distancing in church although we should be sensitive to the needs of those around us. Good ventilation of the building will continue. Face masks, although no longer mandatory, are still recommended and we will keep hand sanitiser on entry and exit. Holy water will now return to the stoups but will be changed regularly. Holy Communion remains under one kind only. Parish social activities may resume. Although we are trying to return to normality, everyone is asked to continue to take responsibility for their personal safety. *Fr Paul*



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## From the Saints

*"Be devoted to God and do not fear, for no wounds can come to those who follow Christ. Even if they take away the life of your body, Christ is still with you."*

(St Ambrose, 340-397)

## 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:** £494 (of which £85 was gift-aided)

**Standing orders:** £824 @31/12 (of which £715 was gift-aided)

**Attendance:** 316

*Thank you*