

# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

# NEWSLETTER

## Blessings for Epiphany



### 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, 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  
01509 268739  
enquiries@delisle.leics.sch.uk  
**Headteacher:** Dr J F Pye

Last Thursday we celebrated the Solemnity of the Epiphany, the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus in Bethlehem. Gentiles, like us, outside the Hebrew people of Israel, seeking and recognizing the Saviour of Mankind. While the Solemnity of the Epiphany in the Western Roman Rite is primarily focused on the visit of the Magi, historically it was more focused on the baptism of Jesus Christ in the Jordan River. Something we celebrate this Sunday. For this reason, there developed a special  **blessing of Epiphany water**  in memory of Jesus sanctifying the waters of Baptism.

This blessing of water on Epiphany is maintained by Eastern Rite Catholics and those of the Ordinariates but mainstream Roman Catholics also have an optional ceremony that was approved in 1890 that did homage to this tradition.

The emphasis of the blessing, however, was less on the commemoration of Jesus' baptism and more on the **sacramental nature of blessed water as a purifying and protecting agent**. In this way, the **blessing of Epiphany water** is used to cast out **Satan** and all his **demonic** angels. A means of protecting us and our homes from those who would lure us away from our faith in Christ. Like the **chalking** of our doors, it invokes **God's blessing and protection** upon us at the beginning of a New Year.

It is a powerful blessing, one that uses strong language to **invoke the power of God over evil and the powers of darkness**. It reminds us of the spiritual power of holy water and encourages us to use it in faith, trusting in the protecting help of God over our spiritual enemies. Here is an excerpt from the long prayer:

*In the name of our Lord Jesus + Christ and by His power, we cast you out, every unclean spirit, every devilish power; begone and stay far from the Church of God and all who are redeemed by the precious blood of the divine + Lamb of God.....*

Remember Holy Water is available for you to take at the side of the Sanctuary to bless yourselves, your loved ones, and your homes. May God protect and guides us through this New Year and may the love of Jesus grow in all our hearts and lives.

*Fr David Jones OLV*



*Adoration of the Magi*

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

Sr Mary Winefride Brien,  
Patrick Ready, Maria Ciocco  
and Pany Tinker

*May they rest in peace*

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

Marie Paparozzi  
Tony Kennedy  
Helly Claydon  
Laurie Devaney  
Mary Brookes  
Margaret Woodhouse  
Clarice Ryder  
Amelia Blake  
Carmela Brunetti  
Helen McGreechan  
Annie Heath  
Ian North  
Paul Turner  
Fr Joe Mullen IC  
Eamon Keating

**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 8th Vigil Mass**  
6.00pm 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

---

**Mon 10th Feria**  
9.15am Cynthia Freeman (RIP, Anniversary) – PUBLIC MASS

---

**Tues 11th Feria**  
9.15am Fr James Flynn (RIP)

---

**Weds 12th Feria – Mass of the Epiphany**  
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*  
6.30pm Carmela Brunetti (RIP, Anniversary) (Latin, old rite) – PUBLIC MASS

---

**Thurs 13th St Hilary (Memoria)**  
9.15am Vivincia Castillo (RIP)

---

**Fri 14th Feria**  
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*  
6.30pm Gloria Chambers (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS

---

**Sat 15th Saturday Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
10.00am Jimmy McDonagh (RIP)  
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

---

**Sun 16th Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
9.00am Adolorata Corbo (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS  
11.15am Deceased members of the Lavery & Swan families – PUBLIC MASS  
4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

---

### This week at St Mary's

**Weds 12th:** UCM - 2.00pm in the Hall  
**Thurs 13th:** RCIA - 7.00pm in the Library

---

## Grub Club

Grub Club has run for three years now, initially providing hot lunches and activities for children and their families during school holidays, more recently because of the pandemic, providing food and financial support to families in need, identified by primary school heads. I have decided to step down as Chair, so if Grub Club is to continue we need a volunteer to take on the organisational and leadership tasks involved. This includes: liaising with schools and families; organising the training of volunteers; working with the activity lead; setting up kitchen provision with schools/local authority; communicating with the parish; finding volunteers; supporting fundraising. This work is vital, not just to the families who benefit, but also for the opportunities it provides to promote Catholic social teaching in action. If you are interested please contact me via the parish office.

*Catherine Brady*

---

## Christmas Raffle

The following raffle prizes remain unclaimed and can be collected from the presbytery:

- Basket of wine: Pink tickets 401-405
- Christmas pudding: Pink tickets 76-80
- Tin of gingerbread: Yellow tickets 586-590

**The Crib** will remain up until **2nd February**, the traditional end of Christmastide.

*Fr Paul*

**Epiphany Chalk**, blessed on the Epiphany, is available for you to take, together with the instructions to inscribe the traditional blessing on your homes.

*Fr Paul*

---

**Exaireo** have written to thank you for the **£519** you contributed to their Christmas fund.

**Thank you also to Marie Brookes** who raised **£143** for parish funds from the sale of her cakes and jams.

*Fr Paul*

---

## Can you help?

**The Exaireo Trust** are currently supporting a couple who are expecting a baby at the start of May. They would like to live in Loughborough but are struggling to find suitable accommodation. They urgently need a 1 or 2 bedroom property to rent and can afford a rent of up to £650. If you have or know of properties to let please call Lynda at the Exaireo Trust on 01509 266422 or 07739 637922, or email [Lynda@exaireo.org](mailto:Lynda@exaireo.org).

## We have heard from a parishioner

whose daughter and granddaughter have to leave their rented house by 22nd January (as the owner is selling the property) and are desperately seeking alternative accommodation. The council has so far been unable to help. Please contact the parish office if you can help or know of someone who can.

---

## Last Rites does not mean Last Minute!

As soon as a person begins to be in danger of death because of illness, injury or old age, the time for anointing has surely already come.

*Fr Paul*

---

## 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.

---

## Christmas Collections

- Christmas Offering:** £485 (of which £125 was gift-aided)
- Collection on 26th December:** £912 (of which £192 was gift-aided)
- Collection on 2nd January:** £345 (of which £92 was gift-aided)
- Standing orders (both Sundays):** £823 @30/11  
(of which £716 was gift-aided)

*Thank you*



## From the Saints

*"The victory of truth is seen in love."*

St Augustine of Hippo, 354-430

---

## 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*

---

**Thank you very much** for all your Christmas greetings, cards and gifts. You have been most generous.

May God bless you all.

*Fr Paul, Fr Simon, Fr David*

---