

# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

6th SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME

# NEWSLETTER

## Getting ready for Lent



### 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

In the **traditional** Roman calendar, as opposed to the modern one, this Sunday is **Septuagesima** Sunday. It means seventy days before Easter during which purple vestments are worn and the Gloria and Alleluia are omitted to help get us ready for Lent. Numbers are very important and symbolic in the Bible. The number **seven** signifies completion and perfection. There are seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, seven days of the week and there are seven Sacraments instituted by Our Lord. The number **twelve** also has meaning. In the Old Testament there were twelve sons of Jacob who led the twelve tribes of Israel, and in the New Testament there were twelve Apostles who were the source and foundation of the new Israel – the Catholic Church. The number **forty** is also highly symbolic – it points to a time of affliction and penance. In the time of Noah it rained for forty days and forty nights. The Jews roamed the desert for forty years until they eventually entered the Promised Land. And Our Lord Himself spent forty days and forty nights fasting and praying in the desert as He prepared to do combat with Satan.

Then **seventy** symbolises a time of exile. Israel was exiled for seventy years as a punishment for idolatry and for disobeying many of God's commands and laws. Through Adam the whole human race was exiled from the Garden of Eden or Paradise for disobeying God. And so all of us, not just the Jews, are exiles under the curse of Original Sin. And even after receiving the Sacrament of Baptism which opens the gates of Heaven to us, we are still destined to spend time wondering in the wilderness, so to speak, until our earthly life ends, and then hopefully we will enter eternal life in Heaven. So this period of Septuagesima (approximately seventy days), gives us time to meditate on the fact that we are exiles. Seventy days to consider that we are the "*poor banished children of Eve*" until we reach the liturgical celebration of Easter which is eternal glory.

So traditionally, this period has penitential aspects and helps us to prepare for the Lenten period of forty days (Quadragesima). I think

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*Ss Cyril & Methodius*

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

Marta Moson

Joyce Concannon

Costantino Lallo

*May they rest in peace*

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

Olive Chapman

Teresa Frankow

Emily Heath

Maria Richardson

Cliff Brookes

Ellen Spurr

Nina Juszkievicz

**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 12th Vigil Mass**  
6.00pm Terence John Foister (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS

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**Sun 13th Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
9.00am Teresa Frankow (RIP, Anniversary) – PUBLIC MASS  
11.15am Cliff Brookes (RIP, Anniversary) – PUBLIC MASS  
*Confirmation*  
4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

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**Mon 14th Ss Cyril & Methodius, Patrons of Europe (Feast)**  
9.15am Ellen Monaghan (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS

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**Tues 15th Feria**  
9.15am For the Parish

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**Weds 16th Feria**  
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*  
6.30pm Special Intention - **NO PUBLIC MASS**

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**Thurs 17th Seven Holy Founders of the Servites (Memoria)**  
9.15am Stephen Pallett (RIP)

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**Fri 18th Feria**  
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*  
6.30pm Intention for the living – PUBLIC MASS

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**Sat 19th Saturday Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
10.00am Martin Maloney (RIP)  
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*  
-12.30pm *with Confessions 10.30-11.30am*  
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS

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**Sun 20th Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
9.00am Richard Hönl (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS  
11.15am Family Intention – PUBLIC MASS  
4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

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**Please note: There will be no public (Latin) Mass on Wednesday 16th February.**

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**This week at St Mary's**

**Thurs 17th: RCIA – 7.30pm in the Library**

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it's a pity Septuagesima is not included in the modern calendar. We need signs and symbols to point us towards **Lent** and to help us prepare for it. Nowadays it can take us by surprise and may end up being less fruitful than it might be. Incidentally, Fr David has told me that Septuagesima is still observed in his Ordinariate Rite. We too, therefore, can still make good preparations for Lent. We just need to be reminded of its approach. **Ash Wednesday this year falls on 2nd March.**

**Lent is a time of penance and mortification** (dying to ourselves). Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of **fasting and abstinence**. But this isn't enough for most of us because we are slaves to our passions. We love our comforts and pleasures. So our Lenten penances should be things that hurt us a little, but not too much. We need to keep a sense of balance. Giving up some food can be good and we can try and attend Mass an extra time in the week and say extra prayers like the Rosary or make the Stations of the Cross. You can give alms. Children could give away some toys to the less fortunate.

Penances should also be discreet and not done for show, because you lose the merit of it by taking the glory for yourself rather than giving it to God. So don't tell other people what you're doing. Choose a couple of things you know you can sustain for forty days as opposed to many things which you will end up doing only half-heartedly. So I recommend you begin thinking now about what you will do, so that when you receive the ashes on your forehead on Ash Wednesday you will already have a plan of action.

*Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

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**Pilgrimage to Lourdes May 28th - 4th June 2022:** Travelling by coach and ferry. Accommodation at Hotel Esplanade: full board. Cost: approx £525 still to be confirmed. If you're interested or would like more information, please call David or Joy on 01509 230384.

**SPUC:** There is a Second Collection today for SPUC, (Society for the Protection of Unborn Children) to support their vital work. As the tragedy of DIY home abortions continues, your prayers are asked for SPUC to help bring an end to this evil regime. If you're aged between 16 and 35, it's not too late to sign up for the SPUC Youth Conference from **25th-27th February** this year in Stone, Staffordshire. Details at [www.spuc.org.uk](http://www.spuc.org.uk)

## VACANCIES

**The Exaireo Trust has the following vacancies** (See noticeboard at the back of church for salary and contact information)

**ReUse Project workshop supervisor:** to supervise the workshop, supporting and training volunteers. Experience of sanding and painting required. Initial fixed-term 3 month contract, but may lead to more permanent work. *Closing date: 18th February*

**Women's rehabilitation project worker:** supporting clients in Exaireo's women only recovery house, to maintain their licence agreement and enable them to move on to live independently. Must have own transport. *Closing date: 28th February*

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### Evening Prayer (Vespers) with Synodal Sharing:

Everyone is invited to gather with Bishop Patrick for Evening Prayer on **Tuesday 22nd February**, from 7pm – 8.30pm in Saint Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham (NG1 5AE) during which each deanery will say a little about their Synodal Journey so far, and the Bishop's Draft Dicoesan Response will be presented. All are very welcome!

## 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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**An Annual Requiem Mass for the Loss of Children** will be celebrated on Friday 4th March at 6pm in Saint Joseph's church, Matlock. The Mass will be celebrated in memory of our children who have died whatever age or how long ago - the hope is that this will be a source of hope and grace to us all. Everyone is most welcome to attend this beautiful Mass and Ceremony of Light, celebrated by Father Robbie O'Callaghan. There is also an opportunity to send a message through the parish website (<http://matlockcatholicchurch.org.uk/> : just fill in the form) and we shall be honoured to light a candle for your loved ones.

**Church cleaning** takes place on Fridays from 11am to 1.30pm. We currently have a small team of volunteers on rota. If you are able to join us, please leave your contact details with Fr Paul, or just turn up. Thank you.

*Emily*



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## From the Saints

*"The devil tempts so that he may ruin; God tests so that He may crown."*

St Ambrose of Milan, 340-397

## Suspension of Mass bookings

Following the easing of Covid restrictions, from **Saturday 19th February** pre-booking for Mass at the weekends will be suspended. For the time being however a number of safety measures will remain in place. Socially distanced seating will remain available and, although no longer mandatory, face coverings are still recommended.

Hand sanitisers will be available on entry and exit, the Holy water in the stoups will be changed regularly and Holy Communion remains under one kind only.

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:** £676 (of which £127 was gift-aided)

**Standing orders:** £816 @31/01 (of which £710 was gift-aided)

**Attendance:** 269

*Thank you*

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