

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

7th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

Judging Others

One of the most frequently taken out of context Bible verses must be this one from today's Gospel: "Do not judge and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn and you will not be condemned yourselves" (Luke 6: 37). This is a favourite verse that the secular world, and people who know nothing about religion, Christ or His Church like to bash us with! It's like a Biblical proof text of **relativism** - the "you're okay, I'm okay" mentality. If, for example, we state that certain activities, usually in the sexual arena, are morally wrong, we often receive a response along the lines of, "Stop judging me because JESUS said we shouldn't judge others." And we have fingers wagged at us. After all, didn't Pope Francis say, "Who am I to judge?" Now when people talk like this, it is clearly an attempt to shut down all discussion and to **shame** the Christian or the Church into silence. But correcting or admonishing the sinner is one of the **'spiritual works of mercy'** and Scripture constantly counsels us to correct sin. (See, for example, Matthew 18:15-18, James 5:19).

Nowadays, too many are terrified to say anything at all in case someone will accuse them of being judgmental, fascist or rigid when they call attention to sin or wrongdoing. "How dare you say such a thing! Who are you to judge someone else?" This is a misrepresentation of Our Lord's teaching. It is very clear that Our Lord is not saying you cannot judge the moral value of an action. Such an assertion would be absurd. What He means (if you read it in context with the second half of the verse) is that **you cannot pass judgment on the state of a person's soul**. Whereas **'judgment'** can be applied **by us** to a person or an action, **'condemnation'** or pronouncing a **final verdict** on someone is something **only God** can do. He is the final judge of all. But people need time to repent, and a correction or a rebuke should be an aid to this process, and not a means to intimidate or humiliate a person. And so at the end of this Gospel reading, Our Lord further warns, "*the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.*" In other words, if we are unnecessarily harsh or severe with others, God will mete out to us the same treatment. In the words of **St James**, "*Judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy*" (James 2:13).

Continued on page 3

www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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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



Chair of St Peter

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 19th Vigil Mass
6.00pm For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS

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

Mon 21st St Peter Damian (Memoria)
9.15am Colette McDermott (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS

Tues 22nd Chair of St Peter (Feast)
9.15am John McEnery (RIP)

Weds 23rd St Polycarp (Memoria)
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*
6.30pm Intention for the living – **NO PUBLIC MASS**

Thurs 24th Feria
9.15am Paddy Pearson (RIP)

Fri 25th Feria
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Maria Angela Ciocca (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS

Sat 26th Saturday Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary
10.00am Baby Rose Woodcock (RIP) and Family Intention
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
-12.30pm *with Confessions 10.30-11.30am*
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** Fr James Flynn (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS

Sun 27th Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Matthew Galvin & Dennis Thurland (RIP, Anniversary)
– PUBLIC MASS
11.15am For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

This week at St Mary's

Mon 21st: First Holy Communion Class - 4.15pm in the Hall
Weds 23rd: UCM – 2.00pm in the Hall

This weekend there is a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Patrick which will be read at all Masses

Please pray for those who have recently died

Pat Newby
Biasina Sepede
Joyce Concannon
Costantino Lallo
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Rosina Matthews
Paul Want
Les Prentice
Audrey Wilbram
Stephen Scott
Linus Linkevicius
Zbigniew Czybai

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.

Continued from front page

Another reason the secular interpretation of Our Lord's words on judging is wrong, is the fact that after having said not to condemn, He says you must pardon or forgive if someone has wronged you. Now you cannot forgive someone unless they have actually done something wrong. **So this presupposes moral absolutes.** In other words **JESUS is not a relativist!**

Finally, when someone criticises you for correcting or 'judging', notice they are doing precisely the same thing with you. We should recognise this hypocrisy and not be fooled by this false interpretation of Our Lord's words.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Lent is approaching. Ash Wednesday falls on **2nd March**. Be sure to work out in advance your Lenten plan of action. *Fr Paul*

The KSC quizzes are back! The Knights of St Columba are holding a quiz in Sacred Heart Parish Hall at 7.30pm on **Saturday 5th March**. The cost is £7 a head, £3 for children and students, to include a cheese supper, wine and soft drinks. All profits will go to Operation Smile UK, a charity that provides life changing cleft lip and cleft palate operations for children around the world. Booking advised. Please call Will Holland on 07811 353 248 - this helps with the catering and will ensure social distancing is maintained.

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. For more information, please call David or Joy on 01509 230384.

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!

The Bridge and their drive to support people suffering Fuel Poverty: The Bridge have recently issued a press release detailing their drive to help local people who suffering from fuel poverty. You can see the press release via <https://www.thebridge-eastmidlands.org.uk/press/urgent-supported-needed-following-56-rise-in-the-cost-of-gas-electric>. The press release also includes a link to their Just Giving page for donations. Any money raised via this page will be solely used to help to alleviate fuel poverty.

VACANCY

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

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*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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*

John Storer House Charnwood is a charity that provides food to those in need. St Mary's monthly food collection goes to their store. They are currently looking for a couple of volunteers to help. Opening hours are 10am til 2pm. If you are interested pop into JSH, ring 01509 631750 or see the website johnstorercharnwood.org.uk.

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.

An Annual Requiem Mass for the Loss of Children will be celebrated on **Friday 4th March** at 6pm in Saint Joseph's church, Matlock. It will be celebrated in memory of our children who have died whatever age or however long ago. Everyone is welcome to attend this beautiful Mass and Ceremony of Light and there is also an opportunity to send a message through the parish website (<http://matlockcatholicchurch.org.uk/>: just fill in the form) and a candle will be lit for your loved ones.

Men's and Women's Lenten Retreats: The Diocese is organising a retreat for women on **Saturday 12th March** (at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Nottingham) and a retreat for men on **Saturday 19th March** (at the Briars in Crich). Please email adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk for more information and to book your place.



From the Saints

"Reprimand and rebuke should be accepted as healing remedies for vice and as conducive to good health. From this it is clear that those who pretend to be tolerant because they wish to flatter – those who thus fail to correct sinners – actually cause them to suffer supreme loss, and plot the destruction of that life which is their true life."

St Basil the Great, 329-379

Attending Mass

Following the easing of Covid restrictions, **the online/telephone booking service has been discontinued.** 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 will remain under one kind only. While the Sunday Mass obligation remains suspended, you are encouraged to take advantage of attending Mass during the week if possible to help ease the numbers at the weekend.

Fr Paul

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £501 (of which £92 was gift-aided)

SPUC: £325

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

Attendance: 317

Thank you