

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

8th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

Stations of the Cross

Lent begins this Wednesday, and the '**Via Crucis**' or '**Way of the Cross**' is a very popular devotion during the Lenten season. The story of the '**Stations of the Cross**' goes right back to the first **Good Friday**, when the apostles, disciples and followers of Our Lord began to tread the very same '**Via dolorosa**' or '**Way of Sorrows**'. Our Lord Himself walked to save us. In the early centuries, Christians from all over the world would come to Jerusalem to walk the same holy road. But then Jerusalem fell into the hands of the Muslims and so this devotion became very dangerous and eventually impossible. So the Church decided that the devotion could be performed in individual parish churches.

From the earliest days this devotion was promoted by the **Franciscans**. St Francis had a great devotion to Our Lord's Passion and was the first to bear the **stigmata** (the wounds of Christ). The Church attached **Indulgences** to making the Stations, at first only for the Franciscans, but then **Pope Benedict XIII** in 1726 extended this to the whole Church and it became commonplace to see the Stations of the Cross in all Catholic churches.

Traditionally there are **fourteen** Stations, and most of the episodes are described in the Gospels. A few are not, such as JESUS' three falls, His meeting with His Mother, and Veronica wiping His face. These incidents are part of **tradition** which is also a sound source of history.

Every time you make the Stations of the Cross you may gain a Plenary Indulgence. The Catechism describes an Indulgence as the remission of **temporal punishment** due to sin whose guilt is already forgiven in Confession (CCC #1471). Every sin has two consequences: **guilt** and **debt**. In the Sacrament of Penance we confess our sins, receive God's forgiveness and perform a penance. So through a good Confession the **guilt** of our sins is removed, and if we have committed a **mortal** or **grave** sin which cuts us off from God, we are restored to God's grace and thus we avoid Hell. **But the debt still has to be paid**. That debt is paid either in this life or in **Purgatory** where God heals us and undoes the damage we have



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

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www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk



St David

Please pray for those who have recently died

Jamie Cardwell

Pat Newby

Biasina Sepede

May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Michael Wartire

Jan Wisniewski

Margaret Jackson

Vivienne Ashleigh

Eddie Weightman,

Antonietta Saccheta

Anna Corbinzolu

Gary Clarke

Lillian Sweeney

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 26th Vigil Mass
6.00pm 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

Mon 28th Feria
9.15am Family Intention (GE) – PUBLIC MASS

Tues 1st St David (Feast)
9.15am In Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart

Weds 2nd Ash Wednesday
9.15am Family Intention – PUBLIC MASS
12noon Special Intention (old rite, sung Latin) – PUBLIC MASS
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*
6.30pm For Peace in Ukraine (sung English) – PUBLIC MASS

Thurs 3rd Lenten Feria
9.15am Sr Mary Winefride O'Brien (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS

Fri 4th Lenten Feria (First Friday)
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm For our Deceased Relatives & Friends – PUBLIC MASS
7.10pm *Stations of the Cross*

Sat 5th Lenten Feria (Five First Saturdays)
10.00am Costantino Lallo (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am*
2.30pm *Baptism: Freddie Arnold*
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** John Saunders (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS

Sun 6th First Sunday of Lent
9.00am Lavinia Molly Bedell (RIP) – PUBLIC MASS
11.15am For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS
4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

This week at St Mary's

Mon 28th: First Holy Communion Class - 4.15pm in the Hall

Thurs 3rd: RCIA – 7.00pm in the Library

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done. This is where Indulgences help us, because they help us to pay the debt of sin in *this* life. So it's a good idea to try and gain as many Indulgences as we can. We may also apply any Indulgences we gain to the **Holy Souls in Purgatory**.

So how do you gain an Indulgence by making the Stations of the Cross? The Stations must be lawfully erected, which they are in St Mary's. There must be fourteen crosses and we must meditate on the Passion and Death of Our Lord at each Station. Those unable to come to church may also gain the Indulgence by spending 15 minutes in devout reading and meditation on Our Lord's Passion. In addition to making the Stations, one must be in a state of grace, have a detachment from all sin, even venial sin, make a sacramental Confession within a week either before or after, receive Holy Communion, and pray for the Pope's intentions which we do at the end of the Stations anyway. If one doesn't fulfil all these conditions, the Indulgence is **partial**, but one must be in a state of grace. You can fulfil all these conditions on a Friday evening by making your Confession before the 6.30pm Mass, receiving Holy Communion at Mass, followed by making the Stations.

This devotion helps us to think of what Our Lord did for us and the great love He showed in doing it. By devoutly making the Stations, it helps us to return some of that love. Be sure to try and gain the Indulgence at least once this Lent.

Fr Paul Gillbam, IC

This Wednesday 2nd March is Ash Wednesday

It is a day of fasting and abstinence and Pope Francis has asked that it be **a day of fasting for peace**. Catholics who are 18 years old and up until their 59th birthday (when they begin their 60th year) are bound to fast (1 full meal and perhaps a little food at a couple of points during the day). This is also the case for Good Friday. Catholics who are 14 years old and above are bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and on ALL Fridays throughout the year unless it is a Solemnity (major feast).

Fr Paul

Ash Wednesday Masses: 9.15am, 12 noon (old rite, sung Latin) and 6.30pm (sung English).

Weekdays Masses: As a further move towards returning to normality, from Ash Wednesday onwards, in addition to Monday, Wednesday and Friday, weekday Masses on Tuesday and Thursday will also be open to parishioners to attend. See page 2 for the times.

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated on Fridays in Lent after the 6.30pm Mass for which you may gain a Plenary Indulgence under the usual conditions.

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.

The Baldwin Trust, a charity offering affordable boats trips on local waterways, are looking for volunteers. They need more skippers, crew, admin, fundraisers, and training & support staff. Free training, uniform and drinks provided. To find out more or apply, visit www.baldwintrust.co.uk (where you will find an application form) email volunteers@baldwintrust.co.uk or call 07763 736906.

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.

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.

The Bridge have launched a drive to help local people suffering from **fuel poverty** and have set up a Just Giving page for donations. Any money raised via this page will be solely used to help to alleviate fuel poverty. To donate, go to <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/fuel-poverty>.

Marie Brookes will be selling cakes and jams in the Hall after Masses this Sunday to raise money for the Bridge's appeal.



From the Saints

“Apart from the Cross there is no other ladder by which we may get to Heaven.”

St Rose of Lima, 1586-1617

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: £359 (of which £113 was gift-aided)

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

Attendance: 315

Thank you
