

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

SECOND SUNDAY
OF LENT

NEWSLETTER

The world needs prayer

I think we would all agree that the world today is in great turmoil and things are extremely uncertain, and I'm not only referring to what is happening in Ukraine. There is great moral and spiritual confusion too, and there has been for a long time. But God is not simply going to raise His hand and everything become fine. No, the much needed spiritual renewal has to begin with us. In other words **we need to become holy** and then everything else will follow. This was the main call of the Second Vatican Council – **personal holiness**, so that we can have a positive effect in the world. So the best way to begin this Lent, if you haven't already done so, is to make a good examination of conscience followed by a good, humble Confession.

Our Lord said, Not everyone who says to me, *“Lord, Lord shall enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father Who is in Heaven”* (Matthew 7:21). He also tells us to enter through the narrow gate because wide is the road that leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13-14). So it's not as easy to get to Heaven as people often like to think. We have to do God's Will and obey His commands, but because we are fallen creatures and have a natural inclination to sin, we can't do it by ourselves. We need God! We need His **grace** to help us. This grace comes to us initially through the Sacraments, but most often through **prayer. Prayer is essential for salvation.** The saints have told us this over and over again, so it's the key thing we should be doing.

We often think we haven't got time for prayer. **Venerable Fulton Sheen** used to say, *“I pray because I don't have time!”* He found that when he prayed he had more time for his other duties. Our Lord Himself spent hours in prayer in spite of His long days of preaching and healing and performing miracles. He was never too busy to pray. Some will only pray when they're undergoing a crisis, and then once the problem is solved they stop praying again until the next crisis. We shouldn't only pray in these situations. We are all **bound** to pray for our neighbour. It's one of the **spiritual works of mercy** to pray for the sick, the homeless, those in war-torn areas, those who are



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 Joseph

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

Americo Lallo
Eva Guarasci
Elsie Walmsley
Lucy Antill
Polikarp Ereminowicz
John Saunders
Fr Eddie Murphy
Ray Wainwright
Joan Hammond
Ann Ludlow
Paddy Mills

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 12th Vigil Mass
6.00pm Katarzyna Hönl (RIP)

Sun 13th Second Sunday of Lent
9.00am Victor, Lucy, Joseph, James & Martin (RIP)
11.15am For the Parish
4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 14th Lenten Feria
9.15am Clelia Paciolla (RIP)
12.30pm *Requiem Mass for Biasina Sepede RIP*

Tues 15th Lenten Feria
9.15am Matta Ngo Thi Nhuong (RIP)

Weds 16th Lenten Feria
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*
6.30pm Ray Wainwright (RIP, Anniversary)

Thurs 17th St Patrick, Patron of Ireland (Feast)
9.15am John McEnery (RIP)

Fri 18th Lenten Feria (Commem St Cyril of Jerusalem)
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Jamie Cardwell (RIP)
7.10pm *Stations of the Cross*

Sat 19th St Joseph, Spouse of the BVM (Solemnity)
10.00am Vicent Nguyen Hoang Tuan (RIP) **PUBLIC**
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
-12.30pm *with Confessions 10.30-11.30am*
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** Gino Romano (RIP)

Sun 20th Third Sunday of Lent
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Greg Baker (RIP)
4.00pm Italian Mass

This week at St Mary's

Mon 14th: First Holy Communion Class - 4.15pm in the Hall

Thurs 17th: RCIA - 7.00pm in the Library

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far from God and living in darkness. Our Lady of Fatima said, *“Pray and make sacrifices for sinners. Many souls go to hell because there is no one to pray for them.”* While God hears every prayer we make, He won't necessarily answer it in the way we want, but we can trust that God will organise things better than we can. And we shouldn't think that if we make the time to pray our lives will suddenly become a bed of roses. On the contrary, Our Lord said we must **take up our cross daily** and follow Him (Luke 9:23). So we have to pray for the grace to bear whatever crosses and trials the Lord sends us patiently, and then unite them with His sufferings so that they have a real supernatural value. We can obtain many graces for ourselves and others in this way. Suffering patiently on earth brings greater glory to us in Heaven.

Our prayers have a very special power when we come before Our Lord in the **Blessed Sacrament** because He is really there! This is what is essential in today's crisis. Throughout history the saints recognised this. St Mary's is open now most of the time during the day. Drop in to have a word with Him even if only for a few minutes. And don't forget **Adoration on Saturdays between 10.30am and 12.30pm**. But don't say you're too busy. The saints were busy, and probably busier than most of us, but they always found the time and this was the source of their strength and perseverance.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

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.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: There will be a meeting for Extraordinary Ministers on **Tuesday 29th March** at 10.15am in the library. Thank you *Fr Paul*

The Diocesan Draft Response to the Synod is on the parish website (see address below). If you have any responses to the draft, please email them to Fr David Cain by **Saturday 19th March**; his email address is given in the document.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, 4th-8th July 2022. From £495 incl. flights, transfers and full board accommodation. You can sign up via tangney-tours.com/nottingham.

UKRAINE CRISIS

Collections for refugees

Please see the notice boards at the back of church for information about the items being collected for the Ukrainian refugees in Poland and where they can be taken. Collections are being organised by the **Polish Social Club** in Loughborough.

Appeals for money

If you wish to make a financial contribution to help the Church minister to those suffering in Ukraine, one way to do this is through **Aid to the Church in Need**. Go to <https://acnuk.org/>

CAFOD is working closely with Caritas Ukraine, Caritas Poland and others, who are already there delivering practical help to those most in need. To give to CAFOD's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal go to <https://cafod.org.uk/Ukraine>.

As the security situation allows, the **Ukrainian Red Cross Society** and the **International Committee of the Red Cross** will continue to respond to humanitarian needs. Your donation could help someone affected get food, water, first aid, medicines, warm clothes and shelter. Go to <https://donate.redcross.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.

The visiting group wishes to express their profound gratitude to its founder Mrs Angela Pearson for the good work she has done with the group. This group checks up on families of bereaved parishioners with home visits or telephone contacts to offer a word of prayer, chat etc. If you would like to know more about the group, do contact Cynthia Tuuli on 07756217229 or Fr Paul.

Amherst School are having an Open Day on Saturday 19th March from 8.30am. Anyone interested should contact the school registrar, Katie Sidwell, at k.sidwell@lsf.org.

Vacancy: English Martyrs' Catholic Voluntary Academy, Leicester are seeking to recruit a deputy headteacher. For further information please visit: www.aquinas-cmat.org/vacancies. Closing date: **Friday 18th March 2022.**

From the Saints

"We have not deserved to pray, but God in His goodness has permitted us to speak to Him."

(St John Vianney, 1786-1859)



Public Masses

All Masses with the exception of the 10.00am Mass on Saturday - unless otherwise stated in the newsletter - are now open to the public.

A very happy St Patrick's Day to all our Irish parishioners on Thursday.

Solemnity of St Joseph.

The 10am Mass on **Saturday 19th March** will be a public Mass for this great feast. St Joseph is Patron of the Universal Church.

The Solemnity of the

Annunciation falls on **Friday 25th March** and is our Patronal Feast. The full name of our church is St Mary of the Annunciation. The 6.30pm Mass on this day will be a Solemn Mass, followed by Stations of the Cross.

The envelopes from the CAFOD Family Fast Day will be collected this weekend.

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £611 (of which £136 was gift-aided)

Standing orders: £818 @28/02 (of which £710 was gift-aided)

Attendance: 329

Thank you