

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

THIRD SUNDAY
OF LENT

NEWSLETTER

Mary our Mother and Protector

This Friday 25th March, we celebrate our Patronal Feast – the **Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. Although we commonly call our church ‘St Mary’s’, its full title is ‘**St Mary of the Annunciation**’. You can see the scene depicted outside, above the entrance of the main door, on the large painting on the left-hand wall in the Lady Chapel and also on the stained glass window above the left-hand confessional.

The Annunciation celebrates the **Incarnation** – God becoming man in the womb of the Immaculate Virgin Mary. The Angel Gabriel announced to Mary the Will of God - that she conceive and bear a Son by the power of the Holy Spirit who would be the Son of the Most High. Then at her “*fiat*”, that is her “*yes*”, “*the Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us*”. So from the earliest days of the Church, Our Lady has been referred to as the **Mother of God**. This does not mean that Mary created God in her womb. Rather we mean that the Child she carried in her womb was the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Mary gave JESUS His flesh and blood and God created His human soul. The human and the divine were **hypostatically** joined, and so from the moment of conception, the Child in her womb was also God, and so Mary gave birth to God. Mary, therefore, truly is the **Mother of God** or ‘**Theotokos**’ which is the Greek word meaning ‘**God bearer**’.

On **Thursday 24th March**, the Vigil of the Annunciation, we will have a second Holy Hour for peace in Ukraine at 6.30pm during which we will recite the **Holy Rosary** in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. As I mentioned here two weeks ago, Our Lady of Fatima requested the Consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart by the Pope in union with the bishops of the world. She promised that if her requests are carried out, there will be peace in the world and Russia will be converted “*following this day of prayer and worldwide reparation*”. **The Vatican announced last Tuesday that Pope Francis will make the Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary this coming Friday at 5pm** (that is 6pm here), the Solemnity of the Annunciation. The Papal Legate, Cardinal Krajewski, will do the same in Fatima on the Pope’s



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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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The Annunciation

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 19th **Vigil Mass**
6.00pm Gino Romano (RIP)

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

Mon 21st **Lenten Feria**
9.15am Norah Lillian Hutchings (RIP)

Tues 22nd **Lenten Feria**
9.15am Greg Baker (RIP)

Weds 23rd **Lenten Feria**
5.00pm *Reception of Pat Newby RIP*
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*
6.30pm In Thanksgiving (Latin, old rite)

Thurs 24th **Lenten Feria**
9.15am Mario Sepede (RIP)
1.00pm *Requiem Mass for Pat Newby RIP*
6.30pm *Holy Hour for peace in Ukraine*

Fri 25th **The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)**
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Bernard & Liz Concannon (RIP) - Solemn Mass
7.30pm *Stations of the Cross*

Sat 26th **Lenten Feria**
10.00am Vera & Tom Sparks (RIP)
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
-12.30pm *with Confessions 10.30-11.30am*
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** Rosie Woodcock (RIP)

Sun 27th **Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare)**
9.00am Greg Baker (RIP)
11.15am Patrick Tunney (RIP)
4.00pm Italian 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

Please pray for those who have recently died

Betty Lane and Pat Newby
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Kath Spencer
Claire Coburn
Stefania Mszyca
John Kilyon
Joan Hodgson

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.

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behalf. As I write (Friday), it is being reported that the Pope will ask the world's bishops to join him in the Consecration. Various popes since the 1940s have made various consecrations to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, but there has always been something missing from what Our Lady asked. She said, ***"If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted and there will be peace; if not she will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be annihilated. In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she shall be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world."***

As the war escalates in Ukraine and there is an increasing risk it could develop into something truly terrible for the whole world, let us all pray now in earnest that this Consecration of Pope Francis will be done according to Our Lady's instructions and will be in union with the world's bishops, and bring about true peace, the conversion of Russia and an *authentic* renewal of the Church, which Our Lady of Fatima, the Mother of God, 'Theotokos', promised would come about as a result of this Consecration. **Please make every effort to attend the Holy Hour on Thursday.** It would be wonderful to see the church full.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Ukraine Appeal: A big thank you and congratulations to our university students who organised a very successful appeal for aid to Ukraine last Saturday. A lot of goods were brought to the parish hall and have now been transported to Poland. Thank you to all of you who so generously contributed items and also for gaining the support of local shops.

Fr Paul

Food Bank: We will continue with our food bank collections at St Mary's and the next date is **Saturday 9th April** 10.30am to 11.00am in the church car park.. Seasonal Easter treats will be greatly appreciated, eg mini eggs, chocolate bars, small Easter eggs along with toiletries, personal hygiene products and kitchen detergents. Thank you.

Jane Monaghan

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 **Ways you can help**

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 provide food, water, first aid, medicines, warm clothes and shelter. Go to <https://donate.redcross.org.uk>.

Novena Prayer for the Consecration of Russia: We are praying this prayer **every day up to March 25th**. You will find copies at the entrance and exits of the church and also on the parish website. This is very important, so please join us in saying it. *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.

Knights of St Columba: There will be an enactment of the events of Holy Week by young adults of the Loughborough area parishes again this year, as their contribution to the ceremonies of Holy Week. It will be held here in St Mary's on **Palm Sunday, 10th April, starting at 7.00pm**. Undergraduates and students in Years 5 to 13 willing to participate are asked to contact Richard Mitchell (07812 997847 or Rmitchell@constructivebusiness.com) **before Sunday evening 27th March**. Thank you.

Mount St Bernard Monastery: Daily confessions have now resumed at the Monastery between 2.30 and 3.00pm. Also, last Sunday, 13th March, 'Songs of Praise' came from there. If you missed it you can watch it on BBC iPlayer.

Marie Brookes will be selling cakes, jams, bric-a-brac and other items after Sunday Masses next weekend (**27th March**) and donating the proceeds to the Ukrainian Crisis Appeal. Offers of help would be greatly appreciated.

From the Saints

"Only after the Last Judgment will Mary get any rest; from now until then, she is much too busy with her children."

(St John Marie 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.

The Solemnity of the Annunciation falls on **Friday 25th March** and is our Patronal Feast. The 6.30pm Mass on this day will be a Solemn Mass, followed by Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm.

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*

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £474 (of which £105 was gift-aided)

CAFOD Lent collection: £297 (of which £95 was gift-aided)

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

Attendance: 309

Thank you
