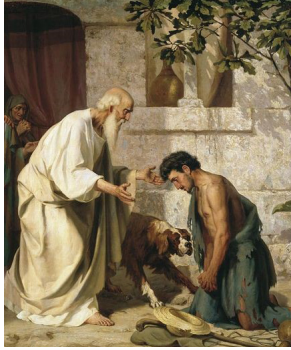


St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

LAETARE SUNDAY
(FOURTH OF LENT)

NEWSLETTER

Breaking out for Jesus



This Sunday is ‘**Laetare Sunday**’, the Sunday in which the entrance antiphon of the Mass begins with the word “laetare”. ‘Laetare’ means ‘**rejoice**’. Midway through our Lenten journey towards Christ’s Passion and Resurrection, **the Church invites us to rejoice He’s going to win the victory. Soon! But Christian joy is different** than normal joy.

Normal joy **goes away**, because **the things that cause it** - like football championships and snowy days - **go away**. But Christian joy is based on something that **never** goes away: friendship with Jesus Christ. Loving Jesus and being loved by Him - that’s friendship! And it doesn’t change with the seasons. **He is always faithful**. This explains why Christians can sing hymns even in the most trying of circumstances and situations.

That’s the kind of joy the Church invites us to renew today. And we do need to **renew it**. For most of us, if we’re honest, have to admit that we don’t always **feel** that joy. Why not? **What’s the obstacle?** We have **faith**, that’s why we’re here. We **believe** Jesus loves us. So why don’t we **experience** Christian joy more **deeply**, more **constantly?** **The obstacle to Christian joy is routine.** It’s falling into routine in our **relationship with God**. That’s what happened to **the younger son** in the Gospel parable this week. He went looking for joy in all the wrong places, because he got tired of living with his dad. He became **self-centred**, and that made him **bored**. That’s exactly what happens to us when we go looking for happiness in sinful places and deeds, in disobedience to God’s loving will.

The **older son** also lost sight of his father’s goodness. He let the **routine of life** embitter his heart. He forgot that his father was actually giving him everything. Sometimes we do the same thing; on the **outside** we are good Catholics, but on the **inside, we are angry and critical**, because we’re just going through the motions. We have **let the fire go out** of our friendship with Jesus, the fire and enthusiasm of our faith in Him.

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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office@
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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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Please pray for those who have recently died

Betty Lane & Charles O'Toole
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Antony Askew
Richard Allan
Arthur Clarke
Yvonne Dyson
Barry Clarkeson
Olga Maker
Maria DiGirolano
Raymond Johnson
Beryl Flatley
Salvatore Chiaramonte
Pauline Taylor
Terry Sweeney
Rita Preston

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 Rosie Woodcock (RIP)

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

Mon 28th Lenten Feria
9.15am Intention for the living

Tues 29th Lenten Feria
9.15am Pasqualina Calardo (RIP) & Family

Weds 30th Lenten Feria
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*
6.30pm Fr John Whelton (RIP) (Latin, old rite)

Thurs 31st Lenten Feria
9.15am Margaret Miller (RIP)

Fri 1st Lenten Feria (First Friday)
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm For our Deceased Relatives & Friends
7.10pm *Stations of the Cross*

Sat 2nd Lenten Feria (Five First Saturdays Devotion) PUBLIC MASS
10.00am Venancio Castillo Sr (RIP)
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
with Confessions 10.30-11.30am
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** For the Parish

Sun 3rd Fifth Sunday of Lent
9.00am Laura & Samuel Sagrada (RIP, Anniversary)
11.15am Anthony Richard Hutchings (RIP)
4.00pm Italian Mass

This week at St Mary's

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

Thurs 31st: RCIA - 7.00pm in the Library

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Routine in our relationship with God is the **obstacle** to our experiencing Christian joy. Lent is all about **breaking out of the routine** in our relationship with Christ Jesus. Today, let's **ask God** to give us the grace we need to **break out** of our routines, and to **help others** who may not be here today do the same.

One easy way to do something is to **go out of our way for someone** every day this coming week. We can go out of our way to help someone **in little things** - like giving up the better parking space or taking time to actually find information for someone instead of just pointing them to the website. We can also go out of our way to help someone **in bigger things**, like taking the family to visit a sick relative in the hospital or the nursing home or inviting the new family at church or school round to your place to make them welcome. Or volunteering your most precious resource - **time...** to help one of our local support groups.

When we **go out of our way**, out of our routine, for someone, we **show them some of God's goodness, the goodness we have and do receive**. And through those efforts, **God** will be able to **reach out** to the **many prodigal sons and daughters** who are afraid to come home.

And if God is working so closely and powerfully through us, it will also help **renew our own friendship** with Jesus, who is, and is to be, our **joy**, our **Laetare!**

Fr David Jones, OLVW

Mother's Day: *"The most important person on earth is a mother. Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature; God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation. What on God's earth is more glorious than this: to be a mother?"* (Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty, 1892-1975).

Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers, and let us always remember to pray for our mothers who have passed on from this life. Flowers will be distributed at this weekend's Masses for children to give to their mothers.

Food Bank: The next collection at St Mary's will be on **Saturday 9th April** from 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>.

Grub Club: For various reasons the Catholic Social Action team has decided to suspend the Grub Club operation this summer. We hope to resume at some point in the future. Thanks to all our volunteers and supporters; we will keep in touch.

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.

From the Saints

"When spiritual joy fills hearts, the Serpent throws off his deadly poison in vain. The devils cannot harm the servant of Christ when they see he is filled with holy joy."

St Francis of Assisi, 1181-1226



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.

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*

Marie Brookes will be selling cakes, jams, bric-a-brac and other items after Sunday Masses **this weekend** and donating the proceeds to the Ukrainian Crisis Appeal.

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £530 (of which £256 was gift-aided)

Total CAFOD collection: £404 (of which £195 was gift-aided)

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

Attendance: 325