

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

THIRD SUNDAY
OF EASTER

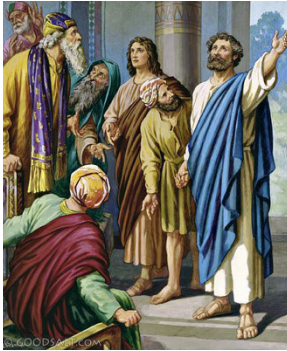
NEWSLETTER

Obey God rather than men

“**O**bedience to God comes before obedience to men” replied Peter in today’s First Reading (Acts 5:27-41) when the high priest had tried to prevent the Apostles preaching the Gospel. The Apostles, having seen the risen Christ, and also having been filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, went out into the streets of Jerusalem, the very place where Our Lord had been put to death and preached His Resurrection. Peter had already been arrested and thrown into gaol for this, and he knew that he may suffer a worse fate if he persisted in preaching Christ. But having seen the risen Christ he was now fearless and nothing would deter him. But after reaffirming the truth of the Gospel they had been preaching, the Apostles left the Sanhedrin *“glad to have had the honour of suffering for the sake of the name”*. The Church having been born at Pentecost, would now continue in her mission to bring the unadulterated Truth to her members till the end of the world, no matter who tried to prevent it.

While it is true that the Will of God and the will of man will not always conflict, sometimes they do and then we have to choose between them. **In such a scenario there are only two options – God or not God.** If we choose God, we will get two things: persecution and suffering in this life, but eternal happiness in the next. This is why the Apostles were *“glad to have had the honour of suffering for the sake of the name”*. **Suffering for Christ is a badge of honour.** But if we reject the Will of God we risk Heaven and our eternal salvation.

Standing up for the Truth will almost always bring hardship but it’s our duty to defend Christ. We may be intimidated by threats or prejudice, anti-Catholic laws may be passed. We may be mocked, ridiculed and ostracised and perhaps lose our employment. We might even be imprisoned. So we need to have the boldness of the Apostles. After all, Our Lord told us we must **preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth until the end of time** (Matthew 28:19-20). The message is very clear: **Repent and reform your lives and be baptised into the Church founded by Christ if you want to be saved.** That’s the basic message which doesn’t sit well with the world today.



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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office@
stmarysloughborough.org.uk

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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St Margaret Clitherow (English Martyr)

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 30th **Vigil Mass**
6.00pm For the Parish

Sun 1st **Third Sunday of Easter**
9.00am For Peace in Ukraine
11.15am Kathleen Merwick (RIP)
4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 2nd **St Athanasius (Memoria)**
10.30am* Intention for the living (*Time change due to Bank Holiday)

Tues 3rd **Ss Philip & James, Apostles (Feast)**
9.15am In Thanksgiving

Weds 4th **The 40 Martyrs of England & Wales (Feast)**
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*
6.30pm Clelia Paciolla (RIP) (Latin, old rite)

Thurs 5th **Easter Feria**
9.15am Pat Newby (RIP)

Fri 6th **Easter Feria (First Friday)**
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm For our Deceased Relatives & Friends

Sat 7th **Easter Feria (Five First Saturdays Devotion)**
10.00am Betty Lane (RIP)
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
-12.30pm *with Confessions 10.30-11.30am*
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** Rita & Rocco Acierno (RIP, Anniversary)

Sun 8th **Fourth Sunday of Easter**
9.00am Ines & Felixberto Cogal (RIP, Anniversary)
11.15am Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life
4.00pm Italian Mass

This week at St Mary's

Mon 2nd: First Holy Communion Class - 4.15pm in the Hall
Weds 3rd: Bible Study: Exploring the Gospel of Mark - 7.00pm in the Library

The month of May is Our Lady's month. This weekend we will crown her statue at all Masses.

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Betty Faulks and Irene Taylor
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Jo Ucar
Fr Stuart Allan
Pasqua Genco
Antonietta Perone
Rosemary Meredith
Lilian Fisher
Desmond O'Leary
Beatrice Roper
Kevin Mortell
Ernest Newton
Kath Ward

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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There have been many witnesses to this truth throughout the history of the Church. **St Thomas More** (1478-1535) was Chancellor of England and a friend of King Henry VIII. When the Church and the Pope wouldn't give in to Henry's marital demands, Henry declared himself the head of the Church in England, usurping the authority of the Pope, and granted himself the desired annulment of marriage, thus breaking with Rome. Almost all of England's bishops supported the king, but St Thomas More refused to go along with it. His family were threatened and tortured but he would not betray Christ's Church, and so he was executed. Thomas said, "*I die the king's good servant, but God's first*".

Similarly, many in the Church today fear the opinions of men more than God. Not enough bishops speak out and so the Church is being humiliated by **relativism**, and our once Christian society is being completely eroded. **But the Church is divine and belongs to Christ**. In these trials where many of the shepherds have become ravaging wolves, we must remain faithful by our prayers and penances, by the frequent reception of the Sacraments, especially Penance and Holy Communion and by our good works. We must also really study our Faith. In this way we will contribute to the renewal of Holy Mother Church. May She once again become radiant in all her beauty for the whole world to see.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Next Saturday 7th May is the first Saturday of the month when we make the devotion of the Five First Saturdays asked for by Our Lady of Fatima. Our Lady told Sister Lucia, "*Look My daughter, at My Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce Me at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You, at least, try to console Me, and announce in My Name that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with all graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturdays of five consecutive months, confess, receive Holy Communion, recite the Rosary and keep Me company for fifteen minutes meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary with the intention of making reparation to Me.*" Join us for Mass at 10am followed by the Rosary and Confessions. *Fr Paul*

Exploring the Gospel of Mark: Would you like to have heard St Peter tell about his experiences with Jesus? What it was like to watch and listen as Jesus taught, healed, and travelled through Palestine? That's what we'll do with Fr David, as we explore the Gospel of Mark. We begin on **Tuesday 3rd May** at 7pm in the Church Library. (Bring your Bible if you have one.) Everyone is welcome.

Church cleaning: Our weekly cleaning is carried out **every Friday, from 11am to 12.30pm**. New volunteers are always welcome. *Emily*

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. To donate, go to <https://donate.redcross.org.uk>.

De Lisle College Open Days 2022

10th, 11th, 12th May. Three sessions: 9.00am, 9.15am & 10.00am.

To book, call 01509 268739, or email enquiries@delisle.leics.sch.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.

Fr General's Visit: Fr Marco Tanghetti, the new Rosminian Father General (this means he is the Head of the Rosminian Order) very much enjoyed his visit to the parish last weekend and was very pleased to meet so many of you. Please keep him in your prayers as he begins to guide the Institute, and hopefully to more vocations.

Rosminian Vocations: "Come, follow Me", says the Lord. Come and discern whether you may have a call to follow Him along the splendid path marked by Blessed Antonio Rosmini. We live in communities, helping each other along the way to holiness. We have set aside a weekend for anyone thinking of giving his life to the Lord. The venue is the Rosmini Centre House of Prayer, 433 Fosse Way, Ratcliffe-on-the-Wreake LE7 4SJ on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd May. Starts 11am Saturday and finishes 4pm Sunday. Please call 01509 813078 or e-mail aabelsito@hotmail.com or office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk



From the Saints

"It is an error to believe that Christ did not teach a determined body of doctrine applicable to all times and to all men, but rather that He inaugurated a religious movement adapted, or to be adapted, to different times and different places."

Pope St Pius X, 1835-1914

The Next KSC Quiz:

The Knights of St Columba are holding their next quiz in Sacred Heart Parish Hall at 7.30pm on **Saturday 7th May**. Cost: £7 adults, £3 children and students, to include a cheese supper, wine and soft drinks. All profits will be donated to Operation Smile UK, which funds life changing cleft lip and cleft palate operations for children around the world. If you would like to come please call Will Holland on 07811 353 248. This helps with the catering and ensures sensible social distancing between tables.

A new 'then and now' booklet with 20 photos of St Mary's Church taken in 1931 and 2022 respectively is available now. This fascinating historical printed record can be picked up from the back of the church, price £2.

Missio have written to thank St Mary's Red Box holders for collecting £981 in 2021.

Last Week's Finance

First Collection: £622 (of which £89 was gift-aided)

Standing orders: £808 @31/03 (of which £700 was gift-aided)

Attendance: 356

Thank you
