

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

DIVINE MERCY
SUNDAY

NEWSLETTER

Divine Mercy sets us free

It is easy to think of Divine Mercy as no big deal at all. We never doubt God's mercy. We take it as a given – and we assume it would take us doing something really extraordinarily wicked to lose that mercy. But as Holy Week has reminded us, it is not as easy as that.

Divine Mercy depends on the Resurrection.

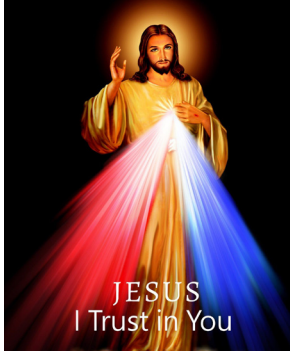
St Paul tells the Corinthians “If Christ is not risen from the dead, then our preaching is useless, and so is our faith,”(1Cor 15:15) We have to remember: “Men do not die for things they doubt.” The entire Christian faith is built on the **certainty** of the Resurrection – the certainty of the Apostles and the witness of the early Christians is a key to that. **These Christians did not doubt. Neither should we! Many died for holding this truth.**

The Church celebrates **Easter Sunday** for eight days in a row – culminating on a day that has only recently been called the **Feast of Divine Mercy, this Sunday**. This is a great reminder that without the Resurrection, there is no hope for mercy.

But Divine Mercy sets us free. A central tension in the film, **‘Paul, Apostle of Christ,’** is between Paul and a prominent Roman opponent who gets upset at Paul when he can't promise him a miracle. *“You have certain powers, but claim to have no authority of your own,”* he said. *“You sound more like a slave than a leader.”* *“All men are a slave to something,”* Paul answers. *“The question is – what?”*

This is the **key question of Divine Mercy Sunday**, when God grants the Apostles the power to forgive sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation: *“He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.’”* (John 20:22)

This is the great gift the Passion of Christ paid for – this gift of forgiveness that sets us free from slavery to sin. But notice what Jesus says: Some sins will be forgiven; some will be retained. There are many ways to retain our sins – making them habits, not trying to



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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St George

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 23rd Vigil Mass
6.00pm Pat Newby (RIP)

Sun 24th Divine Mercy Sunday
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Andy Newbold (RIP)
2.30pm Baptism
4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 25th St Mark, Evangelist (Feast)
9.15am John P Merwick Jr (RIP)

Tues 26th St George, Patron of England (Solemnity)
9.15am Peggy Henry (RIP)

Weds 27th St Peter Canisius, Confessor & Doctor of the Church
6.00-6.25pm Parish Rosary (in church)
6.30pm Intention for the living (Latin, old rite)

Thurs 28th St Louis de Montfort, Priest (Memoria)
9.15am Michael Fitzgerald (RIP)

Fri 29th St Catherine of Siena, Patron of Europe (Feast)
6.00-6.25pm Confessions
6.30pm Pat Newby (RIP)

Sat 30th St Pius V, Pope (Memoria)
10.00am Dale Morrison (RIP, Anniversary) **No public Mass**
10.30am Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
-12.30pm with Confessions 10.30-11.30am
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** For the Parish

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

This week at St Mary's

Mon 25th: First Holy Communion Class - 4.15pm in the Hall

Weds 27th: UCM - 2.00pm in the Hall

Thurs 28th: RCIA - 7.00pm in the Library

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

Monica Davidson
Barry Clarkson
Giovanni Di Cosmo
Barbara Carpenter
Danuta Ereminowicz
Jan Orzeszek
Norman Welband
Mark Hamilton
Dale Morrison

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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end them, never confessing them. But there is only one way to see them forgiven – **confession**, with a **firm purpose of amendment** to change our lives.

Divine Mercy sets us free – but only if we step out of our cage and ask for it.

Divine Mercy entails our own works of mercy too, passing on what we have received.

In addition to following God's commandments in our own life, love & faith, requires more. We have to touch others with the mercy and love we have received:

*“Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are **spiritual works of mercy**, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The **corporal works of mercy** consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead ... [and] giving alms to the poor” (CCC 2447).*

St Faustina asked us to pray, **‘Jesus, I trust in you’**. And we need to make sure it shows. **Don't let all the blessings of this weekend go to waste, grasp them with thankful hands!!**

Fr David Jones OLV

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? Well, that's what we're going to 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.

Thank you to all who worked so hard to make our Holy Week and Easter services so beautiful. Thank you to our flower arrangers, church cleaners, our altar servers, readers and musicians, and of course our stewards who over the past two years have worked so hard to enable us to be open for services. *Fr Paul*

The priests would like to thank you for your prayers and good wishes and also for your cards and Easter gifts. We are so grateful to you all.

Church cleaning: Many thanks to everyone who took part in the cleaning during Holy Week. Thank you also to our regular cleaners, your commitment is greatly appreciated. Our weekly cleaning resumes this Friday 29th April, 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: We welcome Fr Marco Tanghetti, the recently elected Father General of the Rosminians, who is making a two week visit to the English Province of the Order. He will be staying with us for part of the weekend and will also be visiting the Rosminian Sisters of Providence.

Journey in Hope is a series for members of parish outreach groups who would like to explore new mission challenges after Covid-19. Six reflective Eastertide sessions, inspired by Scripture and the writings of Pope Francis, take place on Zoom on Tuesdays at 7.00pm from 3rd May. You can find out more at bit.ly/JourneyinHopeSessions, and book your place at bit.ly/JourneyinHopeZoom.



From the Saints

'Humanity will not find peace until it turns trustfully to divine mercy.'

From the Diary of St Faustina (1905-1938), p132

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.

Last Week's Finance

First Collection: £1096 (of which £231 was gift-aided)

Second collection for holy places: £107

IOC: £175 (of which £100 was gift-aided)

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

Attendance: 594

Thank you