

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

FIFTH SUNDAY
OF LENT

NEWSLETTER

Receiving Forgiveness

Today we hear from St John's Gospel of Our Lord's encounter with the woman caught in the act of adultery (8:1-11). The Scribes and Pharisees brought the woman and paraded her sin in front of the crowd JESUS was preaching to. They were trying to catch Him out by asking whether she should be stoned. The Law of Moses said she should be, while the Roman law reserved to itself the right to put anyone to death. So either way, they thought they would catch Him out. But of course, He was God, and no one gets one over on God. He replied, "*Let be who is without sin cast the first stone*".

Our Lord here shows Himself to be a friend of sinners, but only to those who admitted they were sinners. As her accusers went on their way, Our Lord asked, "*Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? ... Neither do I condemn you*". Our Lord is not making light of sin here. On the contrary, He hated sin so much that He took all our sins upon Himself and paid the price of it on Calvary. Although the woman's sin is forgiven, JESUS expects her to live a life of grace from now on by saying, "*Go and sin no more*". And this is the attitude we should have when we come to **Confession**. We must have a **firm purpose of amendment** which means to have a strong intention to amend our lives and not carry on committing the same sins. We may fall in moments of weakness, but we can only be genuinely sorry if we have a firm intention not to sin again.

So how should we go to confession? Firstly, when you come into church, ask the Holy Spirit to help you make a good confession.

Your confession should be humble, sincere and entire. Then you make an **examination of conscience**. There are purple leaflets at the back of the church to help you do this. Think of the Ten Commandments and of the Church's laws and if you have violated them. Think back to your last good confession and your serious sins will stand out. **You must confess all mortal sins in number and kind**, and it is always good to confess venial sins too. The number of times is important to say, because there is a big difference between committing a sin once and fifty times.

Then when you enter the confessional, kneel down, which is an act



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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MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 2nd **Vigil Mass**
6.00pm For the Parish

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

Mon 4th **Lenten Feria (commem St Isidore)**
9.15am Richard Hönl (RIP)

Tues 5th **Lenten Feria (commem St Vincent Ferrer)**
9.15am Danny Kelly (RIP)

Weds 6th **Lenten Feria**
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*
6.30pm Special Intention (Latin, old rite)

Thurs 7th **Lenten Feria (commem St John Baptist de la Salle)**
9.15am Cecilia Noyce (RIP)

Fri 8th **Lenten Feria**
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Lamberto Castillo (RIP)
7.10pm *Stations of the Cross*

Sat 9th **Lenten Feria**
10.00am Terence John Foister (RIP) **NOT PUBLIC**
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
-12.30pm *with Confessions 10.30-11.30am*
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** Clelia Paciolla (RIP)

Sun 10th **Palm Sunday**
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Genina & Giuseppe Romano (RIP)
4.00pm Italian Mass

This week at St Mary's

Mon 4th First Confessions - 4.15pm in Church

Please pray for those who have recently died

Charles O'Toole

May he rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Edward Connell

Maria Carecci

Kenneth Holden

Graham Embleton

Tony D'Amato

John Adamek

Kevin Chapman

Joan Pears

Janice Hammond

Pete Malone

Barry Hurd

Anne Wade

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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of humility, and say, *“Bless me Father, for I have sinned. My last confession was 2 months ago”*. Don't worry about forgetting the words because there is a card on the wall to prompt you. Then you tell your sins. When telling your sins, you do not need to go into lots of unnecessary details, but you should give any circumstances that may change the nature of the sin. But only confess the things which either take away or add to the seriousness of the act. Remember, other people may be waiting to come in after you. So confess what you need to confess – no more and no less. Also, be sure to confess only **your** sins. Don't make excuses by saying, *“I did X because my husband or wife did Y”*. When you have finished, say something like, *“For these and all my sins I am heartily sorry”*. The priest may give you some advice and then he will give you a penance. Then he will give you the absolution saying, **“I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”** Make the sign of the cross as he does so. Remember it is Christ Who is absolving you. On leaving the confessional say your penance immediately in case you forget, and thank the Lord for His great mercy in this Sacrament. *“Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more.”*

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Congratulations to Miles Routledge who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last week.

This year's enactment of the events of Holy Week by young adults of the Loughborough parishes will take place at 7.00pm here in St Mary's on **Palm Sunday (10th April)**. We hope you will as usual support them with your participation in this liturgy. Thank you.

The Chrism Mass will be at the Cathedral on **Wednesday 13th April** at 11.30am.

Readers' list: There is a signing-up list at the back of the church for Holy Week.

The March for Life will take place in London on **Saturday 3rd September**. Details to follow.

The Pope's Prayer for Ukraine: A copy of the prayer is available on the parish website.

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>.

Marie Brookes would like to thank everyone who supported her sale of cakes last weekend. It raised **£193** which will be donated to CAFOD'S Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

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.

Passiontide: Today we begin Passiontide which lasts two weeks. The grave and dramatic nature of this time is marked by the veiling of all the statues in the church. Even the cross is veiled to remind us that Our Lord had to go into hiding so as not to be stoned by the Jews. These signs are there to help us contemplate the great mystery of our redemption, the horror of sin and the necessity of expiating it, and God's great love for us.

Children's Liturgy: There will be a Children's Liturgy at the 9.00am Mass on **Palm Sunday, 10th April**, and Children's Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at 10am in the hall.

A new 'then and now' booklet with 20 photos of St Mary's Church taken in 1931 and 2022 respectively, is available from this weekend. This fascinating historical record has been put together by Elvira who also took the present day photos. Price £2 from the back of the church.

Fr Paul

From the Saints

"The minister to whom confession is made is the delegate of Christ, Who is the Judge of the living and the dead."

St Thomas Aquinas, 1225-1274



Saturday Mass: The Saturday Mass at 10am is currently only open to the public on the first Saturday of the month and when specified in the newsletter.

If there are any sick and housebound parishioners

who would like to make their Confession or receive Holy Communion, please contact the parish office. With the easing of Covid restrictions, we can now resume regular home visits.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

The minutes of the meeting are at the back of the church for you to take.

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.

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £568 (of which £122 was gift-aided)

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

Attendance: 377

Thank you
