

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

SIXTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

NEWSLETTER

Councils of the Catholic Church

The First Reading at Mass today (Acts 15:1-2, 22-29) recalls the **Council of Jerusalem** which was the very first Council held by the Church around 50 AD. In this Council we have a very **Catholic** model of how matters of doctrine and pastoral practice are to be dealt with, and the Church has used this model right up to the present day. The last Council of the Church was the **Second Vatican Council** held from 1962-1965.

A Council of the Church is a gathering of bishops presided over by the pope where matters are considered and maybe even debated. The Council of Jerusalem, presided over by Peter, the first Pope, decided two things: **firstly** that circumcision was not necessary for salvation (not included in today's reading), and **secondly**, *"to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication."* It's true that today we eat blood meat, but the Church makes the distinction between decrees which are binding for all time, like circumcision not being necessary for salvation, and other decrees, where pastoral provisions are specific to a particular time and place, such as to abstain from eating meat with blood in it, because it was offensive to the Jewish Christians who had always obeyed the law of Moses. This part of the Apostolic Decree was never intended to be a universal decree for the whole Church. They didn't send the letter to all the churches throughout the world, but only to a specific set of churches that were dealing with this particular conflict between Jews and Gentiles. So there is this important distinction. **But Peter is the one who arises to settle the matter** (Acts 15:7) because the Apostles were divided. This is the charge Peter had received from Our Lord when He prophesied, *"Simon, Simon, behold Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, confirm your brethren"* (Luke 22:31-32). Peter at the Council of Jerusalem fulfils this text, as he will again in the future, and as will every pope after him. Notice here how the Decree is worded, *"It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and ourselves..."* (15:28). So the dogmatic teaching of the Church on matters of faith and morals when proclaimed solemnly by the Church



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

97 Ashby Road
Loughborough LE11 3AB
01509 262123

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

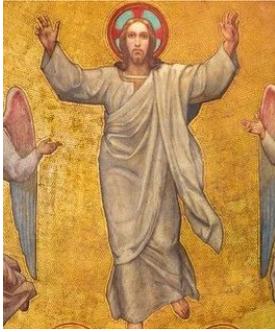
De Lisle College

Thorpe Hill
Loughborough LE11 4SQ
01509 268739

enquiries@delisle.leics.sch.uk

Headteacher: Dr J F Pye

Continued on page 3



MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 21st Vigil Mass
 6.00pm Keith Newton (RIP)

Sun 22nd Sixth Sunday of Easter
 9.00am Tadeusz & Joanna Kalinowski (RIP)
 11.15am Intention for the living
 4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 23rd Easter Feria
 9.15am Gordon Henry Mee (RIP, Anniversary)

Tues 24th Easter Feria
 9.15am Rogelio Gunhuran (RIP, Anniversary)

Weds 25th St Bede the Venerable (Memoria)
 6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*
 6.30pm Vera Hurry (RIP) (Latin, old rite) **Mass of the Ascension**

Thurs 26th The Ascension of the Lord (Solemnity)
 9.15am Pat Newby (RIP)
 6.30pm James O'Rourke (RIP)

Fri 27th St Augustine of Canterbury (Feast)
 6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
 6.30pm Jan & Lidia Orzeszek (RIP)

Sat 28th Easter Feria
 10.00am David Betts Intention **No Public Mass**
 10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
 -12.30pm *with Confessions 10.30-11.30am*
 2.30pm *Baptism*
 6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** Filomena Gobi Varallo (RIP)

Sun 29th Seventh Sunday of Easter
 9.00am For the Parish
 11.15am Eamon Johnston (RIP)
 4.00pm Italian Mass

This week at St Mary's

Mon 23rd First Holy Communion Class - 4.15pm in the Hall
Tues 24th Exploring the Gospel of Mark - 7.00pm in the Library
Weds 25th UCM - 2.00pm in the Hall
Fri 27th RCIA - 7.30pm in the Library

Please pray for those
 who are sick

for those who have
 recently died

Tony Jackson
 Giuseppina Giorgio
 Greg O'Connor
May they rest in peace

and for those whose
 anniversaries occur at
 this time

Giovanni D'Amato
 Noreen Glendon
 Winnie Culley
 Tadeusz Misiura
 Barbara Finch
 Eamon Johnston
 Sr Mary Agatha O'Flaherty
 Monica Davison
 Beryl Ward
 George Scrivens

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.

Continued from front page

come from the Holy Spirit and they are **infallible** and therefore irreformable. . **They are for all times and all places.**

Although the pope under very strict conditions can pronounce infallibly on matters of faith and morals, this does not mean popes can never make mistakes. In the Bible itself we have Paul's famous rebuke of Peter in Antioch (Galatians 2:11-14). All popes are bound by what has been handed down, and we call it **Tradition**. No pope can ever define a novel doctrine that was never part of the Church's Magisterium. **This is taught by the First Vatican Council** (1868-1870): "*For the Holy Spirit was not promised to the successors of Peter that they might disclose a new doctrine by his revelation, but rather that, with his assistance, they might reverently guard and faithfully explain that revelation or deposit of faith that was handed down through the Apostles.*" Novel ideas can have no place for a believing Catholic.

The controversial ideas concerning sexuality and marriage are very alive within the Church today. But on these and other questions on which the Church has already given an answer invoking Apostolic authority, She can never change her answers or contradict what She has previously taught. The reason for this apparent 'rigidity' is not because the Church claims too much authority, but because **She has no authority to dissent from the teaching of Her Divine Founder, Who is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity.** As the Letter to the Hebrews puts it: "*JESUS Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever*" (13:8).

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

St Mary's School: Very well done to Priscilla Jordan and the staff team at St Mary's following the recent OFSTED inspection. The report reflected the hard work and commitment of the children, their families and all the staff. A highlight of the report is that the school serves the community at a highly effective level. Hearty congratulations to all; we are proud of you. *Jane Monaghan*

Gift Aid: New boxed sets of envelopes for UK tax-paying parishioners are available at weekend Masses on **15th and 22nd May. Please remember to take home the box bearing your name.** All gift-aiders will receive their annual letter, by either hand or post. Our gift-aided income for 2021/22 exceeded £46K which brought in £11.3k refunds from HMRC. **Any member of our congregation** currently paying UK tax on their income can join this effective (painless) form of fundraising. Please help to increase our regular collection income that slumped during the lockdowns. Complete the yellow form at the Repository and drop it into the collection or church post box. Thank you. *Geoff Mervet*

Grub Club: We are pleased to announce that Grub Club will reopen, after all, for four or five weeks this summer. Working with John Storer House and The Bridge, we are running sessions at the very well-equipped United Reform Church community rooms on Frederick Street. To support the initiative we are looking for volunteers, 18 or older, to commit to at least three sessions for the whole period. We need people for meet & greet, kitchen duties, activities and general housekeeping. Full training will be given. Interested? Get in touch. All you need is enthusiasm and a desire to help families who may struggle to feed and entertain their young children this summer.

Contact Catherine Brady: catherinemarybrady@gmail.com or Eileen Smith: egs46@aol.com.

Ascension: This Thursday is Ascension Thursday and a Holyday of Obligation. Masses are at 9.15am and 6.30pm. The Latin Mass on Wednesday evening will also be of the Ascension and will be sung. *Fr Paul*

The second collection next weekend will be for World Communications.

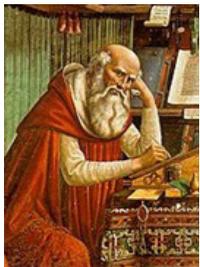
Prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life

- 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.
-

Calling Foundations Governors: Bishop Patrick McKinney is seeking to appoint new foundation governors to our diocesan schools. Anyone interested is invited to attend a (virtual) event on **Wednesday 22nd June** to find out more. See the poster on the notice board for further information.

Sunday Mass Obligation: The Bishops' Conference have issued a letter about returning in person to Mass at Pentecost (**Sunday 5th June**). You will find the letter on the parish website and there are also copies at the back of the church.

Parish Census: As it is over 10 years since we carried out the last Parish Census, our parishioner database urgently needs updating. We are therefore inviting all households to complete the Parish Census Form issued by the Diocese, copies of which can be collected from the back of the church. A copy is also available to download from the website. Even if you have provided the information requested on the form in the past, we would ask you to do so again so that we can check that the details we hold for you are correct. Please return your completed form to the presbytery as soon as possible and no later than **31st July 2022**. If we have not heard from you by that date, any information you have previously provided will be removed from the database.



From the Saints

“The teaching of the Church has indeed been handed down through an order of succession from the Apostles and remains in the churches even to the present time. That alone is to be believed as the truth which is in no way at variance with ecclesiastical and Apostolic Tradition.” Origen, ca 185-253 AD

The Christian Leadership Formation Programme

is running again, and is open to applications from students in Lower Sixth (Year12), with a deadline of **Friday 3rd June**. The programme is for students who are actively committed to their faith, intellectually gifted, and who are committed to shaping a Christian society through their careers. It provides a spiritual and philosophical/theological formation in the Catholic tradition around themes relating to the common good, as well as workshops in skills pertaining to public life. Scholarships are available. More information and the application form are available at: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/clf/>. Information about last year's first module is at: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/media/christian-leadership-formation-takes-off/>

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £523 (of which £96 was gift-aided)

Standing orders: £813 @30/04 (of which £700 was gift-aided)

Attendance: 355

Thank you
