

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

SEVENTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

NEWSLETTER

Last Thursday Christianity got strange

In the readings for Ascension Day Jesus tells the Apostles about wild signs that will accompany believers, and then He rises up into the clouds and disappears. It might seem a bit much. But if you think through the claims being made, they do make sense.

First, about those signs ... they are literally true. *“These signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons,”* Jesus tells the apostles. *“They will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover”* (Mark 16:17). Imagine Jesus had said instead *“These signs will accompany people in the 21st century: They will map the human genome. They will walk on the moon. They will wrestle alligators, and they will cure deadly plagues.”*

That wouldn't bother us. We know that people have done all these things. We wouldn't expect that **every** or even **most** people would do each of them. After all, at the beginning of the Gospel, Jesus says, *“Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature”* — but no one expects every Christian to literally travel the entire world preaching, telling every single person about Jesus. As it happens Jesus's followers, as a group, have in fact gone out into the whole world. They have driven out demons; spoken new languages; I personally know of several sick people who were healed; St. Paul was unharmed by a serpent; and the Christian community includes poison survivors, too.

But the signs are also spiritually true. As St Gregory the Great put it, *“Holy Church does every day in spirit what then the Apostles did in body.”* When we speak the mysteries of God, we speak a *“new language,”* he said. When we warn people away from evil, we *“take up serpents;”* when we resist *“words of pestilent persuasion”* we survive poison. And every time we successfully encourage a neighbour to holiness, we have healed a sick person. *“These miracles are greater,”* he said, *“as they are spiritual, and by them souls and not bodies are raised.”* So, in both senses — the literal and the spiritual — this Gospel has been fulfilled as Christ said.



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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The Visitation

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

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

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Scott Walker
 Giovanna Palmieri
 Vito Caruso
 Andrew Derby
 Ryszard Stabik
 Pasqualino Cassella

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 28th Vigil Mass
 6.00pm Filomena Gobi Varallo (RIP)

Sun 29th Seventh Sunday of Easter
 9.00am For the Parish
 11.15am Eamon Johnston (RIP)
 2.30pm *Baptism*
 4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 30th Easter Feria
 9.15am Margaret Boyle (RIP)

Tues 31st Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Feast)
 9.15am Clelia Paciolla (RIP)
 1.30pm *Requiem Mass: Giuseppina Giorgio (RIP)*

Weds 1st St Angela Merici, Virgin
 6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*
 6.30pm Hilda Rawlins (RIP) (Latin, old rite)

Thurs 2nd Ss Marcellinus & Peter (Memoria)
 9.15am Kelly York (RIP)

Fri 3rd Ss Charles Lwanga & Companions (First Friday)
 6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
 6.30pm For our Deceased Relatives & Friends

Sat 4th Easter Feria (Five First Saturdays devotion)
 10.00am Pat Newby (RIP) **Public Mass**
 10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am*
 -12.30pm **Vigil Mass:** Andrew Carr (RIP)

Sun 5th Pentecost
 9.00am Charles O'Toole (RIP)
 11.15am For the Parish
Confirmation
 4.00pm Italian Mass

This week at St Mary's

Mon 30th Finance Committee meeting: 7.00pm

The second collection this weekend is for World Communications.

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But what about Jesus ascending into heaven?

If it seems odd or uncharacteristic for Jesus that *“as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight,”* it’s important to remember a few things. Jesus had to walk a fine line. He was both man and God, but that reality was too mind-blowing for people to grasp. So, throughout His whole life on earth, He had to demonstrate He was God while preaching His message very carefully. This is why He did a few things like multiplying loaves, walking on water and raising the dead, while saying a lot of things that only God could say — about the kingdom of God, the meaning of love, and the purpose of life. But when it came time for him to depart, He no longer had to walk a fine line. Now He had to show plainly who He was and what He had come for — to form a group of people who would proclaim His name to every end of the earth.

People often ask, in frustration, *“If Jesus was really God, why didn’t He just speak plainly about it and show who He was?”*

Well, He does just that in the Ascension. In Matthew 28:18 He tells the Apostles that all authority in heaven and earth had been given to Him. Then He ascends, showing it to be true.

Ultimately, the message of the readings is that Yes, Christianity is strange. Or, better, *mysterious*. We profess it every week at Mass:

“He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.” Our whole faith is predicated on belief that Almighty God came down from heaven to gather us up and bring us back there with Him. In His public ministry, Jesus showed us that God could dwell and walk with us. In the Ascension, He shows that we can dwell and walk with God.

How? *“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you,”* He said.

Stay tuned for next week ...

Fr David Jones OLV

Forty Hours Devotion: The Loughborough Deanery will be celebrating Forty Hours Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament leading up to the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. Mass will be celebrated each day at 9.30am followed by all day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament concluding with Benediction at 8pm. The dates and venues are as follows: **Monday 13th June** at Holy Cross, Whitwick; **Tuesday 14th June** at St Mary’s Loughborough; **Thursday 16th June** at St Wilfrid’s, Coalville; and **Friday 17th June** at Loughborough University Chaplaincy. I hope many parishioners will support this especially here and at the University which falls within the parish. Signing up sheets for St Mary’s are at the entrance to the church.

Fr Paul

The Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The Bishops’ Conference has requested that the following prayer be prayed for Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee.

Almighty God, we pray that your servant Elizabeth, our Queen, who, by your providence has received the governance of this realm, may continue to grow in every virtue, that, imbued with your heavenly grace, she may be preserved from all that is harmful and evil and, being blessed with your favour may, with the royal family, come at last into your presence, through Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life and who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Study, Reflect, and Celebrate our Synodal Journey is being held on **Thursday 9th June**, at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Nottingham, 6pm – 9pm, and is open to all parishioners involved in the Synod. Please book as soon as you can (as places are limited) by emailing simon.gillespie@dioceseofnottingham.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.
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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

"A work of art represents the mind of the maker... look at His Creation!"

St Thomas Aquinas (1225 - 1274)

Nexr weekend we celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the Church. Masses will be at the normal times: Saturday at 6.00pm; Sunday at 9.00am and 11.15am.

This coming month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

First Holy Communions will take place at both Masses on **Sunday 19th June**. The 11.15am Mass will be followed by a short Corpus Christi Procession and Benediction.

Happy & Glorious: Bishop Patrick warmly invites you to a joyful celebration to mark the life and service of Her Majesty the Queen on **Thursday 2nd June**, at 7pm, in St Barnabas Cathedral. See the poster on the noticeboard.

Last Rites does not mean Last Minute! As soon as a person begins to be in danger of death because of illness, injury or old age, the time for anointing has surely already come.

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £584 (of which £257 was gift-aided)

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

Attendance: 361

Thank you
