

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

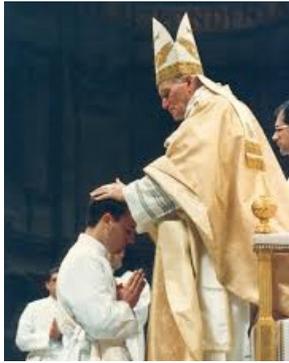
NEWSLETTER

Vocations Sunday

The Church has chosen this Sunday, also known as **'Good Shepherd Sunday'** because the readings are about God as the Good Shepherd, to pray for vocations to the priesthood. And so it is also **'Vocations Sunday'**. Christ called Himself the Good Shepherd (John 10:14) because He wants to take care of us all personally. *"The sheep that belong to Me listen to My voice: I know them and they follow Me. I give them eternal life"* (John 10:27-28). The priest is an 'alter Christus' or 'another Christ' whose task it is to bring those entrusted to his care to eternal salvation, to save their souls. Today, as we all know, there is a dire lack of priests, so this affects all of us, whether we like it or not.

St Maximilian Kolbe (1894-1941) was a Polish Franciscan priest imprisoned in Auschwitz Concentration Camp during the Second World War, where in spite of the appalling living conditions, he tried to set an example of faith for the other prisoners. He was always concerned for their eternal salvation. On July 31st, 1941, following a prisoner's escape, ten men were randomly selected to die by starvation as a reprisal. Father Kolbe offered himself in place of a young husband and father whom he had befriended. The German officer was shocked by his offer and asked him who he was, and his answer was simple, yet profound, *"I am a Catholic Priest"*. Fr Kolbe was no longer able to offer the Sacrifice of the Mass, and so he offered his own life as the sacrifice. The officer agreed and Fr Kolbe and the nine others were taken away to die. And Fr Kolbe was the last to die, having endured two weeks of starvation, thirst, and neglect, but along the way he had helped all the others prepare for death. All you heard in that cell while they were being starved were prayers and hymns. Interestingly, there is no known instance of any prisoner in Auschwitz dying in despair while Fr Kolbe was there. He himself died on the Vigil of the Assumption, 14th August 1941 by being injected with carbolic acid. A true priest who gave his life for his flock in imitation of the Master.

Today we complain about the seminaries being empty, and people even wonder if God has stopped calling men to the priesthood



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

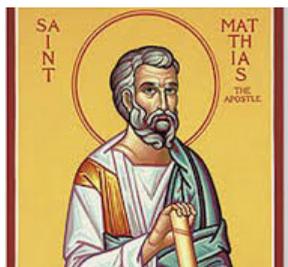
Headteacher: Miss P Jordan

De Lisle College

Thorpe Hill
Loughborough LE11 4SQ
01509 268739
enquiries@delisle.leics.sch.uk

Headteacher: Dr J F Pye

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St Matthias

Please pray for those
who are sick

for those who have
recently died

Greg O'Connor
May he rest in peace

and for those whose
anniversaries occur at
this time

Carmello Lallo
Rita Acierno
Joan Ramsden
Ivy Hall
Kath Brooks
Fr Terry Watson IC
Jean Walvin
Len Almond
Noelline Overlunde
Stan Trojan
Betty Stewart
Katie Wardle

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 7th Vigil Mass
6.00pm 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

Mon 9th Easter Feria
9.15am For the Parish

Tues 10th St John of Avila, Priest & Doctor (Memoria)
9.15am Pat Newby (RIP)

Weds 11th Ss Philip & James, Apostles & Martyrs
6.00-6.25pm Parish Rosary (in church)
6.30pm Betty Lane (RIP) (Latin, old rite)

Thurs 12th St Pancras, Martyr (Memoria)
9.15am Bernard Lee (RIP)

Fri 13th Our Lady of Fatima (Memoria)
6.00-6.25pm Confessions
6.30pm In honour of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Sat 14th St Matthias, Apostle (Feast)
10.00am Pat Newby (RIP)
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: Greg O'Connor (RIP)

Sun 15th Fifth Sunday of Easter
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Stella Gurney (RIP)
4.00pm Italian Mass

This week at St Mary's

Mon 9th First Holy Communion Class - 4.15pm in the Hall
Weds 11th UCM - 2pm in the Hall
Thurs 12th RCIA - 7pm in the Library

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because He wants the laity to take over. **No!** The Catholic Church needs priests to function otherwise it would not be the Church Christ founded. A Church without priests would be Protestant.

Our Lord founded a hierarchical Church with bishops and priests to offer the Sacrifice of the Mass, to administer the Sacraments and to teach and to govern. God keeps calling people to this life, but do people hear Him? There needs to be a fervent Catholic environment in families, and the young must be taught not to deny God whatever He asks for. We must pray continuously for vocations from our own homes and families and that those God is calling will hear that call.

St John Vianney (1786-1859) the Patron Saint of Parish Priests wrote, *“Without the Sacrament of Holy Orders, we would not have the Lord. Who put Him there in that tabernacle? The priest. Who welcomed your soul at the beginning of your life? The priest. Who feeds your soul and gives it strength for its journey? The priest. Who will prepare it to appear before God, bathing it one last time in the blood of JESUS Christ? The priest, always the priest. And if this soul should happen to die (as a result of sin) who will raise it up, who will restore its calm and peace? Again, the priest ... After God, the priest is everything! Only in Heaven will he fully realise what he is.”*

The Church and the world needs priests! Pray for your priests that we live up to our calling. **The Rosminian Order are having a Vocations Weekend at the Rosmini Centre on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd May.** You will find the details elsewhere in this newsletter. Could God be calling someone reading this to the priesthood or religious life? Do you know somebody who might make a good priest? Pray for them. Perhaps even suggest it to them. We can all be vocation promoters by helping those around us to live a Christian life. A priestly vocation could be depending on you!

Fr Paul Gillbam, IC

Procession of Our Lady: Today (**Sunday 8th**) at the beginning of the 11.15am Mass, weather permitting, we will have a short procession of Our Lady for the month of May.

The next Food Bank collection will be on **Saturday 21st May** in the church car park 10.30 - 11.00am. Items requested: microwave sachets of rice and noodles along with the usual staples of tea bags, small jars of coffee and drinking chocolate, long life milk, canned soup but no perishable foodstuffs. A huge thank you for your continued support of this venture. Your Easter contributions were one of the largest donations JSH had received.

Jane Monaghan

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.

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 to 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

Volunteers Needed! Your local **Marriage Care centre** is looking for a Centre Coordinator to lead and support the centre team, as well as Marriage Preparation Facilitators to help prepare couples for the Sacrament of Marriage. For details, visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk or email volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk



From the Saints

“What will you do with your life? What are your plans? Have you ever thought of committing your existence totally to Christ? Do you think that there can be anything greater than to bring JESUS to people and people to JESUS?”

Pope St John Paul II, 1920-2005

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 is available at: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/clf/>. Information about last year's first module is at: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/media/christian-leadership-formation-takes-off/>

The Second Collection today is for the Clergy Formation Fund.

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £692 (of which £251 was gift-aided)

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

Attendance: 328

Thank you