

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

**CORPUS
CHRISTI**

NEWSLETTER

The Miracle of the Holy Eucharist

Today's Feast of **Corpus Christi** goes way back to the thirteenth century. In the year 1263, a German priest by the name of **Peter of Prague** was going on a pilgrimage to Rome and he stopped off at the town of **Bolsena** in Italy to celebrate Mass. He was having problems believing that Christ was truly present in the Holy Eucharist. And so while pronouncing the words of Consecration, blood started to seep from the consecrated Host and trickle over his hands onto the altar and the corporal (a square linen cloth). Naturally he was stunned and at first tried to hide it. But then he interrupted the Mass to go and tell the Pope, **Urban IV** (1195-1264) who was staying over in the nearby town of **Orvieto**. The Pope listened to the priest's account and absolved him and ordered that the miraculous Host and the linen corporal stained with the Precious Blood be brought to Orvieto Cathedral. The blood stained corporal you can still see on display in the Cathedral today as a relic, and I have seen it myself. It was this miracle that prompted Pope Urban to ask **St Thomas Aquinas** (1225-74) to compose the Mass and Office (the psalms, readings and prayers priests have to say every day) in honour of the Holy Eucharist, and then one year later he instituted the great feast of Corpus Christi.

"Corpus Christi" means "the Body of Christ". The purpose of this Feast is to thank Our Lord for the great gift of the Holy Eucharist because it is truly His living Flesh and Blood. While it is true that on Maundy Thursday (the day before Good Friday) we commemorate the institution of the Holy Eucharist and the Priesthood, the atmosphere of sorrow that permeates the Holy Week ceremonies doesn't really allow us to express the great joy we feel at having Our Lord so close to us. But today the liturgical books call for a **Procession of the Blessed Sacrament** which we shall do at the end of the 11.15am Mass when we witness to our belief in the Real Presence of JESUS in the Blessed Sacrament. Many of the children making their First Holy Communion this weekend will also walk in the procession.



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

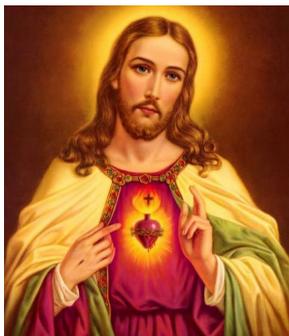
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Headteacher: Dr J F Pye

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www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk



Please pray for those
who are sick

for those who have
recently died

Pietro Lallo

Greg O'Connor

May they rest in peace

and for those whose
anniversaries occur at
this time

Irene Calus

Maria Talora

Martin Allaway

Richard Hönl

Andrew Marples

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 18th Vigil Mass
6.00pm Ann O'Rourke (RIP)

Sun 19th Corpus Christi (Solemnity)
9.00am James O'Rourke (RIP) *First Holy Communions*
11.15am For the Parish *First Holy Communions*
4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 20th Feria
9.15am Intention for the living

Tues 21st St Aloysius Gonzaga (Memoria)
9.15am Hallam & Faulks families (RIP)

Weds 22nd St Alban, Martyr
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*
6.30pm Family Intention (Latin, old rite)

Thurs 23rd Nativity of John the Baptist (Solemnity)
9.15am Intention for the living
5.00pm *Reception of Greg O'Connor (RIP)*

Fri 24th The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (Solemnity)
12.30pm *Requiem Mass: Greg O'Connor (RIP)*
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm For all Priests

Sat 25th The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary
10.00am Intention for the living **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:** Antonia Padalino (RIP)

Sun 26th Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Katarzyna Hönl (RIP)
4.00pm Italian Mass

This week at St Mary's

Weds 22nd UCM - 2.00pm in the Hall

Thurs 23rd RCIA - 7.00pm in the Library

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When Our Lord foretold the Holy Eucharist, not everyone believed. Many who had followed Him walked away. But as St Augustine said, we need unbelievers because they give us the opportunity of knowing more clearly what we believe. In chapter 6 of St John's Gospel, Our Lord explained the reality of the **Real Presence** and foretold He would give His own Flesh and Blood to His followers. *"Whoever eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood will have eternal life"* (John 6:54). His Flesh and Blood is the supernatural food for the soul. Over the centuries, almost all the major breaks with the Catholic Church have been over the interpretation of Christ's words of institution of the Eucharist. Over the bread, JESUS said, *"This is My Body which will be given up for you."* Over the chalice He said, *"This is the chalice of My Blood of the New Testament which will be poured out for many unto the remission of sins."* There is nothing in the text to suggest He meant it symbolically or figuratively. Bread and wine are not flesh and blood by their nature or by their use as symbols in any language or culture, either in Our Lord's time or in our own. The Second Person of the Blessed Trinity meant what He said, *"This is My Body, This is My Blood."* The clarity of these words do not allow His followers to misunderstand His meaning.

There was no doubt in the mind of the early Church that what Christ instituted at the Last Supper was His Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist. One of many such testimonies is from **St Justin Martyr** writing around 150 AD. *"We receive [the Eucharist] not as ordinary bread or ordinary drink, but just as our Redeemer JESUS Christ became incarnate by the Word of God and took on Flesh and Blood for the sake of our salvation, so as we have been taught the food which has been Eucharistized ... is both the Flesh and Blood of that same Incarnate JESUS."*

O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament divine! All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment Thine!

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

First Holy Communions will be held at the 9.00am and 11.15am Masses this weekend. There will be a Corpus Christi Procession after the 11.15am Mass which will include walking around the school playground; there will therefore be fewer parking spaces available at that Mass.

World Meeting of Families: This Sunday there is a Pastoral Letter from the Bishop on the forthcoming World Meeting of Families. Due to the First Communions this weekend the letter will not be read out, but copies will be provided for all.

Church collections

A decision to reinstate the Church collections, which were suspended during the period when the pandemic was prevalent, has now been taken. Thankfully, an adequate number of counters are now available and those who **already** have experience of the activity and the related systems will be asked to undertake counting in the first weeks. Training will shortly be arranged for those **who have kindly volunteered to count and who had not undertaken counting before the pandemic started.**

Moreover, a roster of the counters' duty weekends will shortly be compiled and distributed.

To allow the necessary arrangements to be made, it is likely that the counting will start again from the weekend of the **25th and 26th June 2022.** The rosters that are produced will be for those who undertake counting only; this continues the practice followed when the Church collections took place before the pandemic started. When the collections restart, no rosters will be produced for those who kindly help to ensure that the collection plates/bags are taken to the congregations at the weekend Masses.

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.

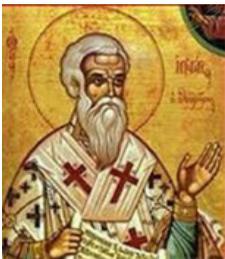
Parish Census: Information about completing a parish census form can be found at www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk/parish-census.

Ministries: When the pandemic started in the United Kingdom, the Parish had a number of parishioners who kindly undertook voluntary tasks, including the compilation of rosters for weekend reading, welcoming, handing out Mass sheets, newsletters and hymn books and helping with the main and second collections. As a number of these helpful activities were suspended during the pandemic period, and the Parish needs to reinstate them, **could those who kindly undertook the activities and would be willing to do so again, please let Fr Paul know within the next week.** Many thanks.

An exciting opportunity has arisen to support the work of Bishop Patrick as the Bishop's Personal Assistant. For more information and an application pack email office@dioceseofnottingham.uk.

Forty Hours: Thank you to all parishioners who supported the Forty Hours Devotion last Tuesday, and to all the St Mary's school children who visited throughout the day. One class even came twice!

Fr Paul



From the Saints

"I have no taste for corruptible food nor for the pleasures of this life. I desire the bread of God, which is the Flesh of JESUS Christ, who was of the seed of David; and for drink I desire His Blood which is love incorruptible."

St Ignatius of Antioch, died 107 AD

Diocesan e-news. The first edition of the brand new diocesan e-news is on the horizon; sign up to make sure you don't miss it. It only takes 60 seconds! Register via dioceseofnottingham.uk/news/maillinglist, by emailing naomi.roberts@dioceseofnottingham.uk or by scanning the QR code on the poster at the back of the church.

Loughborough Deanery

Roadshow: The second Deanery Roadshow, discussing the Synod and Parish amalgamations, will be at Sacred Heart Parish Hall at 7.00pm on **Monday 20th June**.

Mass intentions are now fully booked until mid August.

Church Cleaning: For this week only, cleaning is changed to **Thursday 23rd June**, from 11am to 12.30pm. No cleaning this Friday due to a funeral being held in the church. Thank you.

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £498 (of which £113 was gift-aided)

Standing orders: £786 @31/05 (of which £650 was gift-aided)

Attendance: 414

Thank you
