

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

17th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

The Wonder of Baptism

Priests get to baptise a lot of babies, but I was thinking that over the past couple of years I have baptised a number of adults, more than I have done in the past. This is a great privilege, as God, after a number of years of a person's earthly life is bringing them to a completely new supernatural life through this most essential of all the Sacraments. **The day of our Baptism is far more important than the day of our birth**, because whereas our earthly life peters out and we die, Baptism gives us everlasting life.

St Paul, in today's Second Reading (Colossians 2:12-14) tells us that before Baptism we were dead in sin. Sin to the soul is what sickness is to the body, and mortal sin is to the soul what death is to the body. The fact is that we were not born into this world pure and spotless. We inherited **Original Sin** (the sin of our first parents Adam and Eve) and were born without supernatural life in our souls, that is without the life and grace of God. So Original Sin is not something we have *personally* done, it is rather our *state* when we are born, because we are all descendants of Adam. God created our first parents **supernaturally alive**, but they lost this supernatural life through disobeying God. And that is the state into which we are all born. So, we either have God's life in our soul or we don't, and Baptism is what gives it to us. St Paul doesn't see Baptism as merely an official and public incorporation into the Christian community. No. He sees it as **a death and a resurrection** - being born to new life in Christ - transitioning from the old creation into the new. Through Baptism we die to the old creation and rise in the new and all our sins are washed away. Should we have the misfortune of falling into **mortal sin** after Baptism, Christ in His mercy has instituted the **Sacrament of Penance** (Confession) for the forgiveness of sins after Baptism so that we may regain our state of grace.

St Paul goes on to say that Christ, "*cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay [debt of sin] ... by nailing it to the cross.*" This is a powerful image. As you know from the Gospel accounts of the Passion, the



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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www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk



St Martha

Please pray for those
who are sick

for those who have
recently died

Derek Whymark
May he rest in peace

and for those whose
anniversaries occur at this
time

Norman Denton
Helen Mitchell
Carmelo Lopez-Lopez
Carmen Langley
Gerrard Nicholson
Bernie Wyatt
Liberato (Len) Sepede

PLEASE NOTE

Due to government regulations regarding personal data (UK-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 23rd Vigil Mass
6.00pm Holy Souls

Sun 24th Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Giuseppina Giorgio (RIP)
4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 25th St James, Apostle (Feast)
9.15am Estrella Marti (RIP, Anniversary)

Tues 26th Ss Joachim & Anne, parents of the BVM (Memoria)
9.15am Natalie Gillham (RIP, Anniversary)

Weds 27th Feria
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*
6.30pm Moira Webb (RIP) (Latin, old rite)

Thurs 28th Feria
9.15am Andrew Carr (RIP)

Fri 29th St Martha (Memoria)
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Liberato, Giovanni & Palmerino Sepede and Carmella Paparozzi (RIP)

Sat 30th Saturday Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary
10.00am Clelia Paciolla (RIP) **NO PUBLIC MASS**
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
-12.30pm *with Confessions 10.30-11.30am*
2.00pm *Diamond Wedding Blessing*
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** For the Parish

Sun 31st Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Deceased members of the Galvin & Thurland families
11.15am Derek Whymark (RIP)
4.00pm **No Italian Mass**

This week at St Mary's

Tues 26th Bible Study: A Letter from Prison
- 7.00pm in the Library

Thurs 28th RCIA: 7.00pm in the Library

Continued from front page

Romans would often nail a placard to the crosses which would have the accusation or the crime for which the person was being executed written upon it. In the case of Our Lord it said, **“JESUS of Nazareth, King of the Jews”**. Our Lord was put to death for claiming to be a king in opposition to Caesar. So Paul takes this image of the placard, and he says those legal charges of the law against us, all the accumulated debt of our sins for which we have merited death, Christ has taken them all and nailed them to the cross, thereby cancelling our debt. This is what brought about the forgiveness of sin and ushered us into new life in the resurrection of Christ from the dead. **It is from the Cross of Christ that Baptism and all the other Sacraments have their efficacy.**

This is such a great gift from God, and it's something we could never have given ourselves. So we should thank God for it and celebrate our day of Baptism every year. Do you know your date of Baptism? If not find out and have a party! Celebrating your date of Baptism would be a wonderful way of contributing to the re-Christianisation of our culture, and it would also help us to realise how much God has done for us.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Grub Club is open! Three days: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday. 11am to 2pm at the United Reformed Church, Frederick Street. Lunch and activities for families with young children. For more information call Eileen Smith: 07855 456375

The New Dawn in the Church, a Catholic Family Pilgrimage Conference, is taking place from **Monday 1st until Friday 5th August** at the Catholic National Shrine & Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham. More information can be found in the video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BHK2b6mqeI or at www.newdawn.org.uk.

Talking Philosophy: a Carmelite Perspective – Reading & Discussion Zoom Group open to all meets on **Wednesday 3rd August**, at 8.00pm until 10.00pm. More information is available on the notice board.

Catholic Voices and Word on Fire are hosting a conference called Sharing the Church's Story. Join Catholics who are passionate about the renewal of the Church in the UK, and a host of dynamic speakers including Bishop Robert Barron. This conference is for all: volunteers, parents, catechists, clergy, and religious. The Conference is being held on **Saturday 17th September**, 10.00am – 6.00pm, at Friends House, Euston Road, London; more details at: www.sharingthechurchsstory.com.

VACANCY

The NDCYS (Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Service) continues to push the boundaries and explore new ways of delivering engaging and accessible Catholic Youth Ministry to the young people it serves. From October they are seeking to appoint a new Director of Youth Services to drive their work forward and to ensure the service delivery meets the needs of young people. Your skill, experience and vision will be crucial to the success of the service and you'll have the privilege of leading and caring for a team of skilled, passionate and talented staff. For more information visit www.ndcys.com. A full job description is available on the parish website ('news' section).

The next food bank collection will be on **Saturday 30th July** in the church car park from 10.30 to 11.00am. St Mary's continues to be one of the greatest contributors to this initiative; we always get a warm welcome from the volunteers at JSH and they send their grateful thanks to parishioners. A big thank you for the cash donations; receipts are in the parish office. *Jane Monaghan*

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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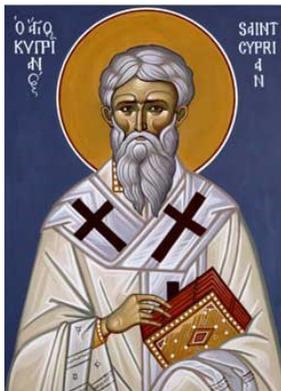
Attend Mass as often as you can. One Mass heard devoutly during your lifetime is worth more to you than many said for you after your death. Our Lord assured St Mechtilde that He would comfort and console those who took great care in attending Mass and that He would send as many of His great saints to assist them when dying as they had heard Masses in their lifetime. Try and attend Mass during the week if you can and you will receive innumerable blessings.

Becoming a Catholic: If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a Catholic, or if you are already Catholic and would like to learn more about the Faith, a new RCIA group will commence in September. We usually meet on alternate Thursday evenings in the library. This course would also be suitable for adults preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please contact Fr Paul.

From the Saints

“Every man without exception has the right to be admitted to the grace of Christ ... No one is denied access to Baptism and grace. How much less reason is there then for denying it to an infant who, being newly born, can have committed no sins. The only thing that he has done is that, being born after the flesh as a descendant of Adam, he has contracted from that first birth the ancient contagion of death.”

(St Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, ca. 200-258)



Italian Mass: Please note that after this weekend there will be no Italian Mass until Sunday 4th September.

Synod: Further to the National Synthesis Document (circulated on 29th June), the Bishops of England and Wales have now issued their Bishops' Reflection on the Synodal National Synthesis Document, a copy of which is available on the parish website.

Marie Brookes will be selling her cakes, jams etc after both Masses next **Sunday 31st July** with the proceeds going to Aid to the Church in Need.

Congratulations to Liz and Ian Abell who married 25 years ago next Tuesday at the Birmingham Oratory. We wish them many more happy years together. I will give them a special Silver Anniversary Blessing at the 11.15am Mass. *Fr Paul*

Last Week's Finance

1st Collection: £811 (of which £229 was gift-aided)

Standing orders: £800 @30/06 (of which £664 was gift-aided)

Attendance: 271

Thank you
