

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

16th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

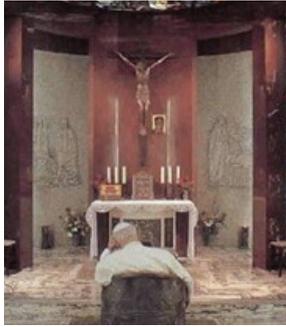
The Necessity of Prayer

In last week's Gospel we heard the familiar Parable of the Good Samaritan, and this week we have the story of **Martha and Mary** (Luke 10:38-42). Mary sits at Our Lord's feet while Martha is running around being busy. This is often interpreted as a call for a proper balance between prayer and work - the Church needs Marthas and Marys. But this seems to miss the point. At the end of the passage, Our Lord doesn't say to Martha, "*You do your thing and let Mary do hers.*" Rather He says, "*Only one thing is needed and Mary has chosen the better part.*" **In other words, prayer must be an absolute priority.**

Just as eating keeps the body alive, so prayer keeps the soul alive. And as we know, the soul is more important than the body, because at the General Resurrection at the end of time you will get a new body but you won't get a new soul. Your soul is 'you'! God is the very life of your soul just as your soul is the life of your body. So if you don't pray your soul will spiritually wither and die in the same way that your body will wither and die if you don't eat.

"*But praying is hard*" people say. Well if you can talk to a friend you can talk to God because God is your friend. And neither do we have to be really holy to pray. On the contrary, **it is through prayer that we become holy!**

The main requirement for prayer is that we have **faith**. We can't see God and usually we don't feel Him either, but we know He is present because He said, "*Behold, I am with you always*" (Matthew 28:20). This is a matter of faith. In this way our faith is tested and made stronger and we learn not to rely on feelings. Sometimes God may give us that consolation of feeling good in prayer to encourage us, but it's not the foundation to build on. **St Thomas Aquinas** (1225-74) in his famous hymn about the Holy Eucharist, 'Adoro te devote' wrote, "*Sight, touch and taste in Thee are each deceived; the ear alone most safely is believed. I believe all the Son of God has spoken; than Truth's own word there is no truer token.*" So here we have one of the most brilliant minds in the whole of human history saying he believes in the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist because Christ said it, and that settles the matter. So we trust in His word.



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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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

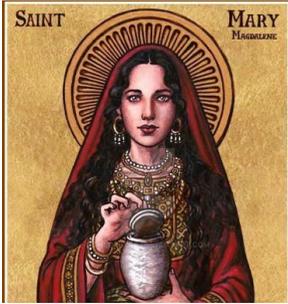
Thorpe Hill
Loughborough LE11 4SQ
01509 268739

enquiries@delisle.leics.sch.uk

Headteacher: Dr J F Pye

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www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk



St Mary Magdalene

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 16th Vigil Mass
6.00pm Giuseppe Romano (RIP)

Sun 17th Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Carmela Brunetti (RIP)
11.15am Greg O'Connor (RIP)
4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 18th Feria
9.15am Gerry Hirst (RIP)

Tues 19th Feria
9.15am Francesco & Carolina Fele, Carmela Dituro (RIP)

Weds 20th Feria
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*
6.30pm Greg O'Connor (RIP) (Sung Latin Requiem, old rite)

Thurs 21st St Lawrence of Brindisi (Memoria)
9.15am For the Parish
2.30pm *Baptism*

Fri 22nd St Mary Magdalene (Feast)
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Family Intention

Sat 23rd St Bridget of Sweden, Patron of Europe (Feast)
10.00am Intention for the living **NO PUBLIC MASS**
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
with Confessions 10.30-11.30am
12.30pm *Marriage Convalidation*
2.30pm **Vigil Mass:** Holy Souls
6.00pm

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

This week at St Mary's

Thurs 21st RCIA - 7.00pm in the Library

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Derek Whymark
 Carol Tondelier
 Fr Robert Rutledge
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Harold Wright
 Lily Rigley
 Domenica Coviello
 Margaret Armstead
 Amelia Michalski

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.

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In addition to **faith** we also need **hope**, because we expect that God will hear and answer us, and then we need **love**, because if we didn't love God we wouldn't want to spend time with Him.

A short word about **distractions** in prayer. This shouldn't worry us overly because even the great saints suffered from it. If you're disturbed by a distraction it means you didn't will it and you really wanted to remain focused on God. God knows that and He's pleased by your effort. He is patient with us and so we ought to be patient with ourselves. The important thing is not how much we achieve here, but our intentions. But the best thing to do when distracted is to ignore it and then just try again and again and again.

Every Saturday morning we have **Adoration of Our Lord truly present in the Blessed Sacrament** between 10.30am and 12.30pm concluding with Benediction. Come and visit Him. Bring your children in too. Did Our Lord not say let the little children come unto Me (Mark 10:14)? He is there waiting for you.

Fr Paul Gillbam, IC

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=-BHK2b6mqI 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.

We will be clearing out the Parish Hall in the coming days. If you have left any items/belongings there, please could you remove them as soon as possible, otherwise they will be disposed of. Thank you.

Bernie McEnery

As the war in Ukraine continues there is still a need to extend a welcome to refugees. Would you like to help develop support locally? Are you waiting to host a family - or do you have experience you'd like to exchange with fellow hosts? Caritas invite you to a third Parishes of Welcome workshop, at 7.00pm on Monday **18th July** by Zoom. Hear about initiatives underway around the diocese and explore plans with other parishioners. Book at bit.ly/CaritasUkraine3 or email caritas@dioceseofnottingham.uk.

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.

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.

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.



From the Saints

“There is nothing that ought to be more deeply impressed on the people than the necessity of prayer.”

(St Alphonsus Liguori, 1696-1787)

Caring for Creation is a workshop from Caritas to help us put Pope Francis’s environmental encyclical *Laudato Si’* into practice: 7.00pm on Thursday **21st July** by Zoom.

Discover the connections between our faith and our environmental footprint. Explore ways mark this autumn’s Season of Creation in the parish. Find out about the diocesan Pioneer Parishes scheme to support our journey to become a ‘zero carbon Church’. Book at bit.ly/FaithandFootprint or email caritas@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Parish Census:

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

Synod: The National Synthesis document is available for you to read on the parish website.

Last Week’s Finance

Collection: £669 (of which £114 was gift-aided)

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

Attendance: 344

Thank you