

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

23rd SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER



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

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Headteacher: Dr J F Pye

The Battle of Prayer

St Bernard (1090-1153) was once travelling with a poor uneducated farmer through the beautiful countryside. The farmer noticed that our saint kept his eyes cast downwards all the time and asked him why. St Bernard explained he wanted to avoid any distractions whilst praying. In response the farmer boasted that he never suffered distractions in prayer and so St Bernard challenged him saying, "If you can say the Our Father without any distractions, I'll give you this mule I'm riding on. But if you don't succeed you'll have to come with me and be a monk." So the farmer began praying very confidently, "Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name." Then he paused for a moment and asked, "Does that include the saddle and bridle too?" The farmer did join him in the monastery!

This story illustrates well the many distractions we all suffer in prayer. The Catechism of the Catholic Church has a section entitled "The Battle of Prayer". It says, "[Prayer] always presupposes effort. The great figures of prayer of the Old Covenant before Christ, as well as the Mother of God, the saints, and He Himself, all teach us this: prayer is a battle." Then it goes on to say, "Against ourselves and against the wiles of the Tempter who does all he can to turn man away from prayer, away from union with God" (CCC #2725).

So the Catechism acknowledges that prayer is difficult, but we have to make the effort, even if we don't really feel like it, because it is one of those essential things. **Just as eating is essential for the body, prayer is essential for the soul.** It is not optional if we want to save our soul. But then once we've made the decision we are going to pray, we must recognise it's always going to be a battle until the day we die. **And as the Catechism says, it will be a battle against ourselves and against the Devil.** We'll always be able to think of a thousand reasons why we shouldn't pray. And then our prayer gets left and it gets late and we feel too tired to pray. "I'll do it tomorrow!" we tell ourselves, and so the pattern continues. This is the battle against ourselves.

Then the battle against the Devil is because prayer is the last thing he wants us to be doing. The more we pray the closer we come to God, and

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Nativity of Our Lady

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

- Gabriella Ronchetti
 - Kathleen Vellacott (Fr Peter's mother)
 - Marie Clare Bennet
 - John Marples
 - Brian Mortell
 - John Bradshaw
- May they rest in peace*

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

- Bridget Butler
- Abbie Elston
- Leslie Betts
- Nina Martoccia
- Fr Dennis Hare, IC
- Sr Mary Giovanna Jose

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 3rd **Vigil Mass**
 6.00pm Giuseppina Giorgio (RIP)

Sun 4th **Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**
 9.00am For the Parish
 11.15am Intention for the living
 50th Wedding Anniversary Blessing
 2.30pm Baptism
 4.00pm **Italian Mass**

Mon 5th **Feria**
 9.15am Pauline Doczyninska (RIP)

Tues 6th **Feria**
 9.15am In Thanksgiving

Weds 7th **Feria**
 6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*
 6.30pm Linda Newbold (RIP) (Latin, old rite)

Thurs 8th **Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Feast)**
 9.15am Derek Whymark (RIP)

Fri 9th **Feria**
 6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
 6.30pm Intention for the living

Sat 10th **Saturday Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
 10.00am George Houston (RIP) - **NO PUBLIC MASS**
 10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
 -12.30pm *with Confessions 10.30-11.30am*
 1.30pm *Wedding*
 6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** For the Parish

Sun 11th **Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
 9.00am Derek Whymark (RIP)
 11.15am Intention for the living
 4.00pm **Italian Mass**

This week at St Mary's

Tues 6th Bible Study - 7.00pm in the Library
Weds 7th UCM - 2.00pm in the Hall

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Satan hates God and he hates us, and so assuming we get as far as trying to pray, he will try and distract us and tempt us to give up altogether, thinking it's all a waste of time, because he doesn't want us to receive the many graces God wishes to give us through prayer.

So what can we do? **St Thérèse of Lisieux (1873-1897) made her distractions part of her prayer.** She had a very sensitive ear, and during meditation in her convent she had to kneel next to a sister who couldn't stop fidgeting and this really annoyed her. Thérèse wanted to tell her to stop, but deep down she thought she ought to put up with it for love of God and also so as not to hurt the other sisters feelings. At first it was a prayer of suffering for her, but since it was impossible for her not to hear it she began to listen really intently and imagine it was a magnificent concert which she could then offer to Our Lord. So we can try and do something similar with our distractions and irritations. If you're distracted thinking about an important football match coming up and can't get it out of your mind, make it the subject of your prayer. If you can't get out of your mind something you're feeling sad about, make that the subject of your prayer. We don't only have to pray about holy things, because God wants a share in the whole of our lives, including our joys and sorrows, our worries and concerns.

The harder we try in our prayer the more pleasing we are to God. To *purposefully* allow ourselves to be distracted in prayer would be a sin, but if we do our best to remain focused, it not only pleases God but we make great spiritual progress. So no matter how many times your mind may wander, gently return to God as many times as is necessary without any guilt or fear.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Food Bank: The next collection will be on **Saturday 24th September** in the church car park 10.30 to 11.00am. Thank you for your continued support and cash donations; receipts are in the parish office. Items needed for this next collection include shower gel, soap, toothpaste, toilet rolls, washing machine tablets or liquid, small jars of coffee and hot chocolate, tea bags, small sachets of microwaveable food. Thank you

Jane Monaghan

The cost of living crisis: how might our parish respond? If you would like to help the most vulnerable in our communities through the difficult months ahead, Caritas can support you. On **Wednesday 28th September**, 7.00 – 8.30pm, you are invited to an online workshop, which will be an opportunity to share ideas and road-test a toolkit for parish action. Booking is open now for the workshop, and also for the in-person Caritas Assembly on Saturday **5th November 2022**. If you can't make either date, sign up anyway for ongoing advice, information and networking: visit <https://bit.ly/LoavesandFishes2022>

Springboard, a hands-on workshop from Caritas, is coming to St Barnabas Cathedral Hall on **Saturday 10th September, 10.30am - 3.30pm**. Following the Here: Now: Us workshop and Synod consultations last autumn, the pandemic is giving way to a time of crisis for the poorest in society. At Springboard we'll discern our call to mission in the cost-of-living crisis, celebrate the potential of our parishes, build local collaboration for the Common Good, and establish a county-based Caritas Hub as a platform for action – all inspired by Pope Francis's 'The Joy of the Gospel'. All welcome. For bookings and further information visit <http://bit.ly/2022Springboard>, email caritas@dioceseofnottingham.uk or call 0115 648 1509.

Share, Inspire, Support is a new series of bimonthly events from the local Caritas Hub Caritas Leicester to help you put your faith into action and make a difference. The first is on **Wednesday 5th October** 7.00-9.00pm at St Thomas More, Knighton Road, Leicester. All parishioners from Leicester and Leicestershire are welcome. See the noticeboard for more information.

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.

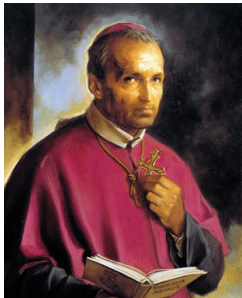
All: Choose from our homes those who are needed for Your work.

Leader: Mary, Queen of the Clergy!

All: Pray for us. Pray for our priests and religious. Obtain for us many more. Amen.

St Mary's School: As the new academic year begins we welcome new children and their families who will be starting school for the first time. Our good wishes are extended to Ella Buttarazzi, Ryan Bray and Alice Brown who are joining the staff team. The whole school community will be in our thoughts and prayers over the coming year. Welcome back everyone. *Jane Monaghan*

Grub Club ran at the United Reform Church this summer from 18th July to 11th August, 12 sessions in all. During this time we prepared and served 238 hot lunches to family members and several more to volunteers. The children enjoyed a variety of artistic, creative, imaginative and physical activities carefully designed to appeal to and cover the whole age-range. From the feedback we received from the children and their mothers it would appear that the children hugely enjoyed their time with us. We hope to run again at half-term.



From the Saints

The Devil is never busier trying to distract us than when he sees us praying and asking for God's grace. And why? Because the enemy sees that at no other time do we gain so many treasures of heavenly goods as when we pray.
(St Alphonsus Liguori, 1696-1787)

RCIA: For those who have signed up for the new RCIA course, the first class will be in the library on **Thursday 29th September** at 7pm. The course is primarily for those thinking of becoming Catholics, but would also be suitable for Catholic adults wishing to be confirmed or for Catholics simply wishing to learn more about the faith. Please let Fr Paul know if you are interested.

Congratulations to Terry and Dorothy Hutchings on their Golden Jubilee of marriage on 2nd September. I shall give them a special blessing at the 11.15am Mass this weekend. *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. *Fr Paul*

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £641 (of which £118 was gift-aided)

Standing orders: £779 @31/07 (of which £650 was gift-aided)

Attendance: 373

Thank you
