

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

NEWSLETTER

31st SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME



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
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Headteacher: Dr J F Pye

All Saints, All Souls and Halloween

Tomorrow, Monday 31st October, the world will celebrate **Halloween**, which is an abbreviation of **All Hallows Eve**.

This is because it is the vigil or the eve of **All Saints Day** which we celebrate on 1st November. The saints are the hallowed or holy ones and so Monday will be the eve of this Feast. The Feast of All Saints was introduced by **Pope Boniface IV** in 609. The purpose was to commemorate the saints both known and unknown. In the early Church there were many martyrs, some of whom we know about and others whom we don't. So this feast was instituted to honour them all. Originally it was celebrated on 13th May, but then in the 8th century, **Pope Gregory III** consecrated a chapel at the Vatican to honour all the saints on 1st November, and so the Feast was moved to this date.

Then in the 10th century, **St Odilo**, the Abbott of Cluny, instituted a feast in honour of **All Souls** which we celebrate on 2nd November. He recognised that not everyone who dies having led a good life is a saint immediately, and so All Souls day is when we pray for those not yet in Heaven and who are being purified in Purgatory. **Purgatory does exist** and we can help the souls there get to Heaven by praying for them and having Masses offered for them. November is the month dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory during which we pray in earnest for their release.

So we can see from the above that contrary to popular belief, **Halloween is not of pagan origin. It is totally Christian and a very ancient feast of the Catholic Church**, but like so many feasts, it has been hijacked by the secular culture. The powers of darkness have tried to claim Halloween as their own, and it's well known that the night between 31st October and 1st November is a time all over the world when the greatest number of Satanic and occult rituals are performed, and even ordinary people like to dress up as ghosts, devils, witches and vampires, and Ouija boards and tarot cards come out. **Ouija boards and tarot cards are always very dangerous, and no Catholic should ever have anything to do with them as they are an open invitation to the demonic.**

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Pray for the Holy Souls

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Jason Mistry

May he rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Eileen Hately

Mary Hudson

Margaret Cramp

Bob Moore

Jerzy Stepowski

Marion Uttley

Ron Lucas

Teresa Brewin

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 29th Vigil Mass
6.00pm For the Parish

Sun 30th Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Antoinette Loftus (RIP)
11.15am Vincenzo Guarasci (RIP)
2.30pm *Baptism: Kenayah Luntadila*
4.00pm **Italian Mass**

Mon 31st Feria
9.15am Intention for the living
6.30pm **All Hallows Eve:** In reparation (Latin, old rite)
7.15pm *Holy Hour & Benediction*

Tues 1st All Saints (Solemnity)
9.15am Deceased members of the Castillo family (School Mass)
11.00am De Lisle College Mass
6.30pm Vincenza Lallo (RIP)

Weds 2nd All Souls
9.15am Vito Caruso (RIP)
12 noon Pope's Intention (Sung Latin, old rite)
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*
6.30pm For all the Faithful Departed

Thurs 3rd St Martin de Porres (Memoria)
9.15am Norah Lillian Hutchings (RIP)

Fri 4th St Charles Borromeo (Memoria) (First Friday)
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm For our Deceased Relatives and Friends

Sat 5th Saturday Mass of the BMV (Five First Saturdays)
10.00am Joe & Teresa Frankow (RIP) **PUBLIC MASS**
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am*
-12.30pm
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** Giorgio & Corbu families (RIP)

Sun 6th Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Greg O'Connor (RIP)
3.00pm *Blessing of Graves in Loughborough Cemetery*
4.00pm **Italian Mass**

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It's good and can be great fun to celebrate Halloween, but it ought to be done in a **Christian** way. Even **'trick or treat'** has a Catholic origin. It was originally called **'souling'** where people would go from door to door offering to pray for the dead in return for goodies. There's nothing wrong with dressing up, but why not dress up as saints or angels instead? And parents, take time to tell your children stories from the lives of the saints. If you don't know them, there are plenty of good books out there to help. Children love these stories and it can be a wonderful family event at which you can tell them what Halloween is *really* about. Don't miss the opportunity! We shouldn't be dressing up as ghosts, devils and witches, and neither should we decorate our houses with themes of death, blood and destruction, because that's not from God - it's from Satanism. On the contrary, **we are celebrating the resurrection and the victory of JESUS Christ in His saints.** This is the real meaning of Halloween.

So these days are a reminder of our own call to holiness and of how we must follow God by following in the footsteps of the saints. Let us celebrate these holy days in a truly Catholic way and use it as an opportunity to educate our children in the Faith!

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

All Hallows Eve: I will celebrate a special Latin Mass this Monday evening, **31st October** for the Vigil of All Saints. In the traditional missal this Mass is of a penitential nature to prepare us for the great Feast the following day. Purple vestments are worn and there is no Gloria or Alleluia. Booklets provided. There is no Vigil of All Saints in the modern missal. After Mass we will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament which will include public prayers and the Litany of the Saints, as well as time for private prayer, concluding with Benediction at 8.30pm. Both services will be by candlelight. All are welcome.

Church flooring: Following lengthy discussions, we have received permission for the old floor tiles in the church and organ loft to be replaced with new tiles that are consistent with the listed building status of the premises. A contract has now been placed and the work will commence on **Monday 14th November 2022** and should be completed by **Friday 25th November 2022**. During this period the Church will not be usable. Therefore, weekday Masses will be in the Parish Hall and weekend Masses on **19th/20th November** in the School Hall. There will be an extra Mass on Sunday 20th at 10.00am to help accommodate numbers.

Fr Paul

The next foodbank collection will be on **Saturday 5th November** in the church car park from 10.30 to 11.00 am. Thank you for your past contributions and cash donations; receipts for these are in the parish office. Items to include tea bags, small jars of coffee, sachets or small jars of drinking chocolate, packs of toilet rolls, shower gels, shampoo, kitchen cleaning products, canned tuna, beans, soup, small microwave items, biscuits. As ever the team at JSH are grateful and congratulate St. Mary's response to this initiative. The Christmas foodbank collection will be on **Saturday 3rd December**; more details later.

Jane Monaghan

Prayer sheets for the Holy Souls in Purgatory are available at the back of the church for your use, particularly during November.

Marie Brookes would like to thank everyone who supported her sale of cakes, jams and chutneys last weekend. The sale raised **£191.41** for Missio.

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. Amen.

NOVEMBER INDULGENCES FOR THE HOLY SOULS

A plenary indulgence may be gained from **noon of 1st November to midnight on 2nd November**, applicable only to the Holy Souls, when you:

1. Visit a church and say there for the souls in Purgatory one Our Father and the Creed.
2. Visit a cemetery between **1st and 8th November** and pray there for the dead.

In both instances make a good confession within the week before or after and be free from all attachment to sin. Also say one Our Father and Hail Mary for the Pope's monthly intentions and receive Holy Communion worthily on the same day or soon after. If you don't manage to fulfil all these conditions, the indulgence is partial.

From the Saints

"Follow the saints, because those who follow them will become saints."

(Pope St Clement I, died AD 97)



First Holy Communion

2023: Application forms for next year's First Holy Communion are now available directly from me. Please complete and return to the Parish Office by **Sunday 6th November**. No applications will be accepted after this date.

Fr Paul

The November Blessing of Graves will be next Sunday 6th November

at 3pm in Loughborough Cemetery. We will meet in the car park. *Fr Paul*

Our annual Mass for the Bereaved, after a break due to Covid, will resume this year on Friday 12th November at 6.30pm.

A Requiem Mass will be celebrated for all our departed loved ones. Votive lamps will be provided on which you may write the name of anyone you wish to remember. All are welcome.

Last Week's Finance

1st Collection: £652, of which £79 was gift-aided

World Mission Sunday: £217 (so far), of which £160 was gift-aided

Standing orders: £772 @ 30/09, of which £641 was gift-aided

Attendance: 376