

# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

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# NEWSLETTER



## Christmas (Christ, Mass)

**T**oday the Church celebrates the Birth of Our Lord and Saviour JESUS Christ into this world. In JESUS, the eternal God and Son of the Father who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, was born in Bethlehem. This birth of the Saviour of the World had been awaited for centuries, and after it, nothing would ever be the same again, because from that moment onwards, the God-man began His divine mission of snatching us back from the clutches of Satan, and restoring to us what was lost by the Original Sin of our first parents. Now the whole of the human race in all times and all places, through the sacrifice that Christ would make on the Cross thirty three years later, would be able to regain the eternal life which had been lost by the Original Sin. This was the reason God gathered His Chosen People Israel and led them into the Promised Land. This was the reason the Holy Spirit inspired the prophets of the Old Testament to tell us exactly the time and place of the Saviour's birth. This is why the angels sang to the shepherds, "*Gloria in excelsis Deo*", and why the Magi came and worshipped the new-born Child bearing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

This truth of the Incarnation of the Son of God which we celebrate on this Christmas Day should radiate through all we do as Christians. It's an opportunity for us to be amazed once again at God's great love for us, and at the lengths to which He will go to win us back and save us. It's also an opportunity for us to renew our commitment to Christ and to live more deeply the beauty of our Catholic Faith, and to frequent the Sacraments, especially Penance and the Holy Eucharist, which are all encounters with the same Christ-Child Who became incarnate among us two thousand years ago.

### St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

97 Ashby Road  
Loughborough LE11 3AB  
01509 262123  
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, OLV

#### Safeguarding Officer

Jane Monaghan: 07513 725546

#### 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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*Adoration of the Magi, by Giotto*

**Please pray for those who are sick**

**for those who have recently died**

*May they rest in peace*

**and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time**

Ian Merriman  
Christine Temple  
Norah Thurland  
Tony Ready  
Mary Cochrane  
Veronica Hammond-Young  
Louis Madge  
Peter Harvey  
Eileen Sutton  
Linda Wagstaff  
Estrella Hunter  
Patrick Tunney  
Carmen DeSousa  
Beatrice Onions

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### **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**

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**Sat 24th Vigil of The Nativity of the Lord**  
6.00pm Family Christmas Mass - For the Parish  
11.30pm *Carols & Readings*

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**Sun 25th The Nativity of the Lord (Solemnity)**  
12.00am Midnight Mass - Holy Souls  
9.00am Hollingsworth Family Intention  
11.15am Andy Newbold (RIP)  
4.00pm **No Italian Mass**

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**Mon 26th St Stephen (Feast) *Enrolment of new altar servers***  
10.30am Greg O'Connor (RIP)

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**Tues 27th St John, Apostle & Evangelist (Feast)**  
10.30am Norah Thurland (RIP, Anniversary)

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**Weds 28th The Holy Innocents (Feast)**  
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*  
6.30pm Deceased of the Dixon Family (Sung Latin, old rite)

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**Thurs 29th St Thomas Becket (Feast)**  
9.15am John Kane (RIP)

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**Fri 30th The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (Feast)**  
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*  
6.30pm Greg Baker (RIP)

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**Sat 31st St Sylvester I**  
10.00am Family intention - **NO PUBLIC MASS**  
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** In Thanksgiving for the Year  
7.15pm *Te Deum & Benediction*

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**Sun 1st Mary Mother of God (Solemnity)**  
9.00am For the Parish  
11.15am Greg O'Connor (RIP)  
4.00pm Italian Mass

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**Mon 2nd Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen (Memoria)**  
9.15am Vito Caruso (RIP)

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**Please note: There will be no Exposition or Confessions on Saturday 31st December.**

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**Mass Intentions** *(continued)*

**Tues 3rd**    **The Most Holy Name of Jesus (Memoria)**  
9.15am      Intention for the living

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**Weds 4th**    **Christmas Feria**  
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary (in church)*  
6.30pm      Andrew Slevin (RIP) **NO PUBLIC MASS**

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**Thurs 5th**    **Christmas Feria**  
9.15am      Frances Ebong (RIP)

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**Fri 6th**      **The Epiphany of the Lord\* (Solemnity)** *First Friday*  
9.00am      Brian Smith (RIP, Anniversary)  
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*  
6.30pm      For our Deceased Relatives & Friends  
*\* Holyday of Obligation*

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**Sat 7th**      **St Raymond of Penyafort** *Five First Saturdays Devotion*  
10.00am     John Kane (RIP) **PUBLIC MASS**  
10.30am     *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*  
-12.30pm    *with Confessions 10.30-11.30am*  
6.00pm      **Vigil Mass:** For the Parish

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**Sun 8th**      **The Baptism of the Lord (Feast)**  
9.00am      Intention for the living  
11.15am     Mary Nung (RIP)  
4.00pm      Italian Mass

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**Christmas (Christ, Mass)** *(continued from front page)*

Christmas is a time when many who do not frequent church throughout the year come to Mass. If you've been away from the Church for some time, let today be a new beginning. The Christ-Child is calling you now to return fully, make a good Confession so that you may receive Him again in Holy Communion and be a regular part of this worshipping community. In the words of the Christmas carol, "Yet what I can I give Him - give my heart".

May God bless you all, and on behalf of Fr Simon, Fr David and myself, I wish you a very Merry Christmas (Mary, Christ, Mass) and a blessed New Year.

*Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

**Altar Servers:** The 10.30am Mass on **Monday 26th December** will be a special Mass for our altar servers on the feast day of their patron, St Stephen. New servers who have been serving for a year or more will be enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen. All are welcome. *Fr Paul*

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**Christmas Grub Club:** A wonderful day was had for the Christmas Grub Club on 19th December at United Reformed Church, with families from a number of primary schools attending, including St Marys and Sacred Heart. The atmosphere with families new and returning exhibited a great sense of community. A hot and healthy 3-course meal was served, activities, singing and games played by all. Thank you to the Parish for your support. *Eileen Smith*

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**Anniversaries** *(continued)*

Brian Marchant  
Joseph Simpson  
Sabine Sienko  
Joe Guarasci  
Frank Savage  
Roy Dakin  
Dorothy Boyce  
Jim Moreland  
Frank Barraclough  
Brian Smith  
Robert Milnes

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## 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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**Thank you for all your Christmas greetings, cards and gifts to the priests.** We are very grateful, especially in these difficult times.

*Fr Paul, Fr Simon, Fr David*

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**Knights of St Columba:** There will be an end of Christmastide liturgy of lessons and carols at 4.00pm on **Sunday 8th January 2023** at Sacred Heart (Park Road), led by the young adults of the Loughborough parishes. Undergraduates and students in Years 5 to 13 willing to participate, please contact Richard Mitchell (tel: 07812-997847 or Rmitchell@constructivebusiness.com) by Monday evening 2nd January 2023. Refreshments for everyone in the parish hall afterwards.

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**Christmas Collection:** The Christmas Day offering will be for Parish funds and will be used to support the priests, and maintenance of the presbytery and church. If you wish to make a personal offering for the priests, please use the IOC (white) envelopes. Thank you.

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**The office will be closed next week and there will be no newsletter next weekend.**



## From the Saints

*“For a Child is born to us, and a son is given to us, and the government is upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called, Wonderful, Counsellor, God the Mighty, the Father of the world to come, the Prince of Peace.”*

(Isaiah, 9:6)

## The Epiphany on Friday

**6th January** is a holyday of obligation. Chalk blessed at both Masses will be available for you to take, together with the instructions to inscribe the traditional blessing on your homes. *Fr Paul*

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**Church flooring:** The new scheduled dates for the replacing of the green floor tiles in the church are from **9th to 20th January**. The church will be unusable during this period and Masses will be in the hall. There will be further details in the next newsletter. *Fr Paul*

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**Church Cleaning:** There will be **no cleaning on Friday 30th December**. Cleaning will resume on **Friday 6th January**, 11am to 12.30pm. Thank you. *Emily*

## Last Week's Finance

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**Collection:** £665 (of which £75 was gift-aided)

**Standing orders:** £823 @30/11 (of which £716 was gift-aided)

**Mass attendance:** 454

*Thank you*