

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

NEWSLETTER

Celebrate the real meaning of Christmas



**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, OLW

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

Today, as well as being 'Gaudete' (rejoicing) Sunday is also 'Bambinelli' Sunday when it has become traditional to bless the figure of the Baby JESUS for your cribs at home. This tradition was begun by **Pope St John Paul II** when the children and adults would bring their Baby JESUS figures to be blessed by the Pope in St Peter's Square on the Third Sunday of Advent, and it continues to this day. We will do the same at all Masses this weekend.

Some friends of mine in Ireland have a beautiful family tradition which I would like to share with you and encourage you to do yourselves at home, especially with your children, because it helps to keep in our minds the real meaning of Christmas - **the birth of our Saviour JESUS Christ into this sin-laden world**. Don't allow the secular sanitised Christmas to gain pride of place in your families. **The Christ Child must be the centre of our Christmas celebrations**. Here is what you could do. You can make your own variations.

After Mass on Christmas Eve or after Midnight Mass, but when it's dark, process with your figure of the Baby JESUS and lighted candles through the house and lay Him in the manger whilst singing the carol 'Away in a manger'. Your youngest child could carry the Baby JESUS. Here are the texts for easy use.

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.*

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Our Lady of Guadalupe

Please pray for those
who are sick

for those who have
recently died

Thanh Vu
Girolamo Perone
May they rest in peace

and for those whose
anniversaries occur at this
time

Lawrence Rayburn
Fr Christopher (Kit)
Cunningham IC
Peter Stonehouse
Giuseppe Sacchetta
Hryhori Westyn
Luisa De Blasio
Veronica Burton

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 10th | Vigil Mass |
| <i>6.00pm</i> | Catherine Connolly (RIP) |

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|-----------------|--|
| Sun 11th | Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) |
| <i>9.00am</i> | For the Parish |
| <i>11.15am</i> | Derek Whymark (RIP) |
| <i>4.00pm</i> | Italian Mass |

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|-----------------|--|
| Mon 12th | Our Lady of Guadalupe (Memoria) |
| <i>9.15am</i> | Sheila McFerran (RIP) |

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|------------------|--------------------------|
| Tues 13th | St Lucy (Memoria) |
| <i>9.15am</i> | Greg O'Connor (RIP) |

| | |
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| Weds 14th | Ember Wednesday of Advent |
| <i>6.00-6.25pm</i> | <i>Parish Rosary</i> |
| <i>6.30pm</i> | Donald Riste Clemerson (RIP) (Latin, old rite) |

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|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Thurs 15th | Advent Feria |
| <i>9.15am</i> | James O'Rourke (RIP) |
| <i>6.00pm</i> | <i>St Mary's School Carol Service</i> |

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|--------------------|---|
| Fri 16th | Advent Feria |
| <i>6.45am</i> | John Kane (RIP) Rorate Mass **Please note time** |
| <i>5.30-6.30pm</i> | <i>Confessions</i> |

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|-----------------|--|
| Sat 17th | Advent Feria |
| <i>10.00am</i> | Greg O'Connor (RIP) NO PUBLIC MASS |
| <i>10.30am</i> | <i>Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i> |
| <i>-12.30pm</i> | <i>with Confessions 10.30-11.30am</i> |
| <i>6.00pm</i> | Vigil Mass: Giuseppina Giorgio (RIP) |

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sun 18th | Fourth Sunday of Advent |
| <i>9.00am</i> | For the Parish |
| <i>11.15am</i> | Anthony Richard Hutchings (RIP) |
| <i>4.00pm</i> | Italian Mass |
| <i>6.00pm</i> | <i>Parish Carols & Readings</i> |

This week at St Mary's

Weds 14th UCM - 2.00pm in the Hall

Continued from front page

On arrival at the crib, the father or mother reads St Luke's account of the birth of JESUS.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrolment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will."

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is just one of many ways of remembering what Christmas is really about. These types of traditions are important to hand on to our children because it helps hand the Faith down to them before they even really understand it. **Keep the Faith alive!** Let us reclaim our Catholic heritage and celebrate in a truly Catholic way the coming of the Messiah and Saviour, our Lord JESUS Christ. *Fr Paul Gillbam, IC*

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Saturday 24th December:

6pm Vigil Mass. **Sunday**

25th December: Midnight

Mass, preceded by carols

at 11.30pm, 9.00am and

11.15am. **Monday 26th**

December: 10.30am.

Confessions at the usual

times: **Saturdays** 10.30-

11.30am and **Friday 16th**

and 23rd December 5.30-

6.30pm, or on request.

St Mary's School Carol

Service: There will be a

Carol and Reading Service

given by the Juniors of St

Mary's Primary School in

the church this **Thursday**

15th December at 6pm.

Parishioners are welcome to attend.

Christmas Grub Club

Free hot lunch and fun

activities. Monday 19th

December 11am - 2pm

at United Reformed

Church Hall, Frederick

Street, Loughborough. It

is aimed at primary school

children and their families

who are experiencing

hardship. Children must be

accompanied by an adult at

all times. No need to book,

just turn up. It's free. The

whole family are invited.

For more information

contact Eileen Smith

07855456375 or email

Grub-Club@outlook.com.

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.

Rorate Masses: There will be two Rorate Masses this Advent: this **Friday 16th December** and **Friday 23rd December**, both at 6.45am. This is the Advent Mass of Our Lady celebrated at dawn and by candlelight. Bring your own lantern if you have one. Please note that on these two Fridays there will be no 6.30pm Mass.

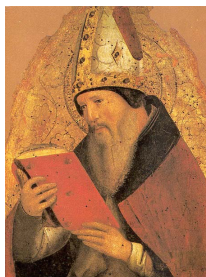
Parish Carols and Readings, Sunday 18th December at 6.00pm, followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the hall after. We haven't been able to hold this event since before the Covid lockdown so do come along to reflect on the readings, join in the singing and meet with fellow parishioners afterwards.

St Mary's School: Well done to the children, their families and all the staff for the appropriate and fitting ways in which the season of Advent continues to be celebrated in the school community. We thank them for joining in with the parish and contributing to the Loughborough food bank appeal. We extend our good wishes to Mr. Ashenhurst who leaves the school at the end of term to take up a post at Leicester University. We thank him for his dedication to the school and wish him every success in his new role. *Jane Monaghan*

From the Saints

"Just imagine the incredible kindness and mercy! He was the only Son but did not want to remain alone. So that humans might be born of God, God was born of humans."

(St Augustine of Hippo, 354-430)



Confirmation 2023:

Application forms for the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Tuesday 23rd May 2023**, for Year 7 and above, are available from Fr Paul. **Closing date Sunday 18th December.** Candidates must already be attending weekly Mass and forms will only be given to those who are doing so.

Cake Sale: My daughter Bridget and I would like to thank everyone who supported our sale of cakes, mince pies, chutneys etc last weekend. The sale raised £230 which will go to the starving children in Somalia. The winner of the cake raffle was Ann Faulks.

Marie Brookes

Missio: Could all Missio box holders please return their boxes to the church before Christmas. Thank you. *Marie Brookes*

This weekend there is a Second Collection for the Poor and Needy Parishes Fund.

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £568 of which £104 was gift-aided.

Standing orders: £783 @ 30/11, of which £648 was gift-aided

Attendance: 476

Thank you
