

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

NEWSLETTER

The Wild Man from the Desert!



Every year on this, the Second Sunday of Advent, the brash and burly figure of John the Baptist bursts on to the scene, bellowing his characteristic charge: **“Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand!”** As we heard last week, the First Sunday of Advent is always given to reflect on the promise of the Second Coming of Christ, and the end of the world. Now our next two Sundays focus on John and Holy Mother Church, echoes his call, **Prepare, Repent, Turn and Change, be cleansed, renewed, and healed;** ready and worthy for His coming.

There’s a great urgency in John’s message; **‘He’s at hand!’**, **‘He’s arrived!’** And John preaches at the great crossroads of the fords and ferries of the River Jordan, north of Jericho. The equivalent of Heathrow or Paris, Chicago, or New York, with lots of people passing through, his international audience, **even you and me.** What does he get them to do? **Acknowledge** their sins, or we could say, **‘recognise them’.** Agreeing with God, saying that His classification of our behaviour is correct, not ours. John was blunt, he got ‘up people’s noses’, made folk feel uncomfortable. **God is blunt too!** He calls a ‘spade a spade’, sin is sin, hurt is hurt, muck sticks and spiritual muck sticks to our souls. **God tells us no to pretend.** One of the lovely phrases sometimes used in the **Healing Sacrament of Confession** is, *“I accuse myself of.....this is what I have done.”* And the big deal for John the Baptist and for all of us is always, *“And what is your resolve? What are you going to do about it?”* If our words are not accompanied by concrete change, they are empty and banal, John is saying. The Pharisees said, *“We have Abraham as our father.”* As we might say, *“I’m baptised”* or *“I went to Catholic school”* or *“I wear a scapular”*. All of which are fine but, if our lives do not have **‘good fruit’** as **evidence** of repentance and practical faith, we are actually sinning by presumption, trusting in external markers of our Catholic faith but not changing our hearts and actions to reflect God’s ways. John tells us that there is One coming after him who is much greater. Someone who will baptise not with water but judgemental, purifying, FIRE! And here is the link with last weeks message, reminding us of Jesus’ promise to return with **Judgement, Fire,**

St Mary of the Annunciation
Catholic Church

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office@
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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, 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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The Immaculate Conception

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Jennifer White
Ian Billson
Thanh Vu
Girolamo Perone
Nick Knudsen
Teresa Lee

May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Margaret Sheaf
Fernando Buttarazzi
Bill Flatley
Dorothy Fellows
Elizabeth Kendell
James Callan
Cyril Dale
Arthur Makey
Salvatore Corbinzolu
Terry Oliver
Teresa Denton
James Slevin
Mavis Maguire

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 Charles Connolly (RIP)

Sun 4th **Second Sunday of Advent**
9.00am Michael Smith (RIP)
11.15am For the Parish
4.00pm **Italian Mass**
5.30pm *Student Choir Carol Service*

Mon 5th **Advent Feria**
9.15am Paola & Luigi Bellofatto (RIP)

Tues 6th **St Nicholas (Memoria)**
9.15am Albert & Jeanne Robinson (RIP)

Weds 7th **Vigil of the Immaculate Conception**
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary*
6.30pm Derek Whymark (RIP) (Latin Mass, old rite)

Thurs 8th **The Immaculate Conception (Solemnity)**
9.15am John Leonard (RIP)
6.30pm Andrew Slevin (RIP)

Fri 9th **St John Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin (Memoria)**
10.00am *Requiem Mass: Jennifer White RIP*
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Salvatore Fele (RIP)

Sat 10th **Our Lady of Loreto (Memoria)**
10.00am Mary Nung (RIP) **NO PUBLIC MASS**
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
-12.30pm *with Confessions 10.30-11.30am*
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** Catherine Connolly (RIP)

Sun 11th **Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)**
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Derek Whymark (RIP)
4.00pm **Italian Mass**

This week at St Mary's

Thurs 8th RCIA - 7.30pm in the Library
(please note change of time)

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New Heaven and New Earth. Here we are reminded that the Sacraments of the Church are foretastes of the final judgement, when we give an account of our lives. Perhaps we are wise to be judged and washed clean, nourished and forgiven **now**, through the sacraments, in order to be spared the judgement **later**. This is also, by the way, the reason the Church sometimes practices excommunication; because receiving Holy Communion is a dangerous pre-experience of the final judgement, our meeting with Jesus, Lord and King of the Universe. This the reason St Paul teaches us in 1 Corinthians 11:27-32 to receive the Blessed Sacrament worthily, reverently and cleansed of mortal sins, **for fear we may be eating and drinking condemnation and judgement on ourselves** because we are failing to recognise who it is we are receiving. John the Baptist, the greatest of the prophets, blunt and forth right, wraps nothing up! As we prepare for Christmas, let's all of us, young and older, priests and people, make a serious examination of conscience and go to **Confession**, lest we participate unworthily in the Sacraments, especially the Mass this Advent and Christmas. And let's let the evidence of our change be seen in our lives.

Fr David Jones OLW

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.

Student Choir Carol Service: Our student choir members from 11.15am Mass will be giving a Carol concert with readings this **Sunday** at 5.30pm Refreshments will be served after in the parish hall. All welcome.

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.

Parish Financial Report for the Year Ended 31st March 2022

A copy of the Parish Financial report for the year ended the 31st March 2022 is included with this copy of the newsletter. As you can see, the Parish financial position remains healthy, despite the effect of the periods of lockdown whilst the pandemic was at a more severe stage. Thank you to all of the parishioners who have contributed to the Parish and to those who moved from making donations through the weekly offertory to a monthly gift-aided one. This has helped the Parish considerably at a time when the circumstances have seen many other parishes experience financial difficulty.

Fr Paul

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. Further details nearer the time.

Fr Paul

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.

The Immaculate Conception

Thursday is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This is not, as many mistakenly believe, the way in which Our Lady conceived Christ. It refers to the fact that Our Lady was conceived without Original Sin. Masses are at 9.15am and 6.30pm. It is not a day of obligation. The Latin Mass on Wednesday at 6.30pm will be the traditional Vigil Mass of this great Feast. *Fr Paul*

The Rosmini Centre House of Prayer welcomes all to a monthly lecture given by Father Jonathan Cotton about Saint Teresa of Kolkata (Mother Teresa), at 2.30pm on **Thursday 8th December**. More information can be found at www.rosminicentre.co.uk.



From the Saints

“Sin is a wound; repentance is a medicine.”

(St John Chrysostom, 347-407)

Confirmation 2023: The Bishop will be coming on **Tuesday 23rd May 2023** at 7pm to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. Application forms are now available from me. Candidates should be in at least Year 7 and should already be attending weekly Mass. I shall only be giving forms to those I recognise as regular Mass attendees. Those who are not already attending weekly Mass will be asked to defer their Confirmation until such a time as they are. Confirmation is a serious commitment to the Faith.

Fr Paul

Marie Brookes will be selling cakes, mince pies, marmalades and chutneys after Sunday Masses this weekend.

Finance

Weekend of 20/11

1st Collection: £718 of which £87 was gift-aided.

Exaireo Trust: £272

Weekend of 27/11

Collection: £730 of which £96 was gift-aided.

Standing orders: £783 @ 31/10, of which £648 was gift-aided

Attendance: 503

Thank you
