

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

NEWSLETTER

3rd SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME



Sunday of the Word of God

Today, the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, is also known as the **Sunday of the Word of God** when we meditate upon God's great gift to us of His Word in the Sacred Scriptures. The word *Bible* comes from a Greek word meaning book, but it's not just one book, but a collection of many books written over many centuries for different audiences in many different styles. There are 46 books of the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. The Church teaches us many things about the Bible. Here are some of them.

The Bible is the inspired Word of God: God is the author of the Bible. He inspired certain human writers to write down what He wanted them to write and no more. This is why we call the Bible the 'Word of God'. The first Christians knew that the Old Testament was inspired because St Paul wrote, *"All scripture is inspired by God"* (2 Tim 3:16).

Inspiration does not mean dictation. God did not dictate His Word to the authors in the way a boss would dictate to his or her secretary. Although they were God's instruments, having done their own research, the authors wrote in their own manner, using their own free will and intelligence, but at the same time they wrote only what God wanted them to write.

There is no error in the Bible. There cannot be, because God is the author and He cannot make a mistake or lie. The Second Vatican Council taught, *"everything which the sacred writers declare must be held as declared by the Holy Spirit"* (Dei verbum, 11). This doesn't mean we have to take everything literally. The Bible is a collection of many different genres of writing, so you cannot read them all in the same way. It consists of history, poetry, parable and allegory and they can have literal or spiritual meanings. There are many difficult passages to which the Church has not given a definite interpretation or meaning and they may remain a mystery until the end of time. St Augustine in the fourth century said that God may have put difficulties there *purposefully* to stimulate us to study, and also so that we may know the limitations of our minds and thus learn humility.

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**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, OLVW

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



St Thomas Aquinas

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 21st Vigil Mass
6.00pm Paul & Rita Desouza + Alex & Cynthia Vegas (RIP)

Sun 22nd Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Giovanni & Carmela Brunetti (RIP)
11.15am For the Parish
4.00pm **Italian Mass**

Mon 23rd Feria
9.15am Elaine Smith (RIP)

Tues 24th St Francis de Sales (Memoria)
9.15am Thanh Vu (RIP)

Weds 25th The Conversion of St Paul (Feast)
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary*
6.30pm Mrs Biggs (RIP) (Sung Latin, old rite)

Thurs 26th Ss Timothy and Titus (Memoria)
9.15am Ian Billson (RIP)

Fri 27th St Angela Merici (Memoria)
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Marie Styvén (RIP, Anniversary)

Sat 28th St Thomas Aquinas (Memoria)
10.00am Rosalinda & Rogelio Gunhuran Sr (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:** Intention for the living

Sun 29th Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Matthew Galvin & Dennis Thurland (RIP, Anniversary)
11.15am For the Parish
2.30pm *Baptism*
4.00pm **Italian Mass**

This week at St Mary's

Weds 25th UCM - 2.00pm in the hall

Thurs 26th RCIA - 7.00pm in the library

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Sr Mary Camilla Laferla

Fr John Bland IC

Margaret Barson, Valerie

Forshaw, Palmina Chomik,

Maria Cuff

May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Rita George, Mary Oliver,

Eddie Bak, Bob Harlow,

Dennis Thurland, Esther

Garrett, Jude Jones, Mary

Embleton, Christina

O'Sullivan, Matthew Galvin

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.

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What about apparent contradictions? St Augustine also wrote a letter to St Jerome saying, *“If I come across anything in those Scriptures which troubles me because it seems contrary to the truth, I will unhesitatingly lay the blame elsewhere: perhaps the manuscript is untrue to the original, or the translator has not rendered the passage faithfully, or perhaps I have not understood it.”*

The Church desires that we should read the Scriptures often, even daily, and from what has been said above it is clear we need guidance in interpretation. Since the Bible contains *“some things that are difficult to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their destruction”* (2 Peter 3:16), it is to the Church and not the individual that God has entrusted the two sources of revelation: **Scripture and Tradition**. And so we must always read the Bible in union with the Church’s tradition and understanding. To go against this would be to lead ourselves astray. This is evidenced by the emergence of thousands of different sects since the sixteenth century with their theory of “private interpretation” all claiming to be based on the Bible yet teaching contradictory things.

The Catholic Church gives us through Scripture and Tradition the whole of God’s teaching, it’s correct meaning, and also a guarantee of its authenticity. May God be praised!

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Ukrainian Refugee Appeal: The Polish Community Centre in Loughborough are holding an evening of song and dance to raise funds for the Ukrainian Refugee Appeal on **Saturday 28th January** at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £8 per person. There will be musical performances, singing, dancing and food for all guests, with a mixture of songs from the Ukraine, Poland and the UK. All funds raised will be sent to the Ukraine to support the disabled, elderly, and large families with young children. Funds raised will buy basic food and cover regular deliveries to bed and house-bound residents in areas such as Kiev, Zaporozne and Dipro.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2023: There will a brief service of commemoration at the Bandstand, Queen’s Park, Loughborough on **Friday 27th January** at 12 noon to remember all those lost to genocide in past years. See the poster at the back of the church for more information.

VACANCIES

The Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Service is looking to recruit a new **Director of Youth Services** to start work later this year. This is an exciting opportunity for a highly skilled and experienced individual to be at the helm of Catholic Youth Ministry in the Diocese of Nottingham. For more information visit www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers/director-of-youth-services or see the poster at the back of church.

St Thomas Aquinas CMAT is seeking an enthusiastic, energetic faith leader with a passion for working with children and young people helping them to explore and engage with their faith. As school lay chaplain working in St Martin (secondary) and the local primary schools: Saint Peter, Earl Shilton; Saint Peter, Hinckley; and Saint Charles, Measham. For more information contact Tom Shannon tshannon@aquinas-cmat.org.

Please note that the Mass intentions are booked up until mid February.

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.

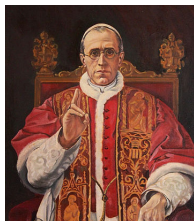
All: Choose from our homes those who are needed for Your work.

Leader: Mary, Queen of the Clergy!

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

SPUC White Flower Appeal: The second collection next weekend will be for The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC). According to an independent poll, 87% of GPs are concerned that the government's 'pills by post' scheme leaves women vulnerable to coerced abortion. SPUC is calling on the Prime Minister to condemn this abhorrent tragedy. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers by highlighting this urgent crisis. There are White Flower postcards at the back of the church for you to complete; these will be collected next weekend or you may send them yourselves.

What to say when: An evening of pro-life apologetics training, to be held on **Wednesday 25th January** at 7.00pm in Cathedral Hall, North Circus Street, NG1 5AE. This will be a practical training session on what to say when in conversation about pro-life issues (such as abortion and euthanasia) with friends, family or colleagues who do not share the pro-life perspective. Participants will have a chance to share and discuss their experiences, and by the end of the session will leave feeling more confident on how to argue the pro-life case. For more information contact pro-life@dioceseofnottingham.uk or 07757 815625.



From the Saints

"Just as the substantial Word of God became like men in every respect except sin, so too the words of God, expressed in human languages, became like human language in every respect except error."
(Venerable Pope Pius XII, 1876 -1958)

First Holy Communion:

Parents should have received an email with the dates of the classes, which begin on **Monday 6th February** at 4.15pm in the church hall. Prior to this, there will be an important meeting for parents on **Monday 30th January** at 7.00pm in the church hall; this should finish by 7.30pm.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18th-25th January 2023:

This year's theme is racial justice. Prayer resources and daily reflections can be found on the Churches Together website at ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2023/

Last Week's Finance

1st collection: £828 of which £137 was gift-aided

Sick & retired diocesan priests: £174

Standing orders: £788 @ 31/12, of which £648 was gift-aided

Attendance: 502

Thank you
