

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

NEWSLETTER

4th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME



**St Mary of the Annunciation
Catholic Church**

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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

Candlemas and St Blaise

This Thursday **2nd February** is **Candlemas**. It may also be called the Feast of the Purification of Our Lady or the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple, and it marks the **traditional end of Christmastide**, forty days after Our Lord's Nativity. Therefore, after Thursday the crib and Christmas tree will be taken down from the church. Candlemas is always followed on the 3rd February by the feast of the Bishop and Martyr, **St Blaise**.

St Blaise lived in the early fourth century. Before he became a priest he was a physician and he was known for his kindness and piety, and it is said that he specialised in diseases of the throat. He eventually realised that God was calling him to be a **physician of souls** instead, and so he gave his life to Christ by becoming a priest. At some point he was a hermit, and rather like St Francis of Assisi, he made friends with the wild animals. They would flock around him and he would heal them. Then he was nominated as Bishop of Sebastea which is modern-day Armenia. He was an excellent bishop, but then the Emperor Diocletian began a persecution of Christians. Blaise, having hidden himself in a cave was captured and ordered to renounce his faith in Christ. Of course he refused, so he was beaten with rods and sent off to prison. On the way to prison he was passed by a mother whose child was choking on a fish bone in his throat. Blaise blessed the boy enabling him to cough up the bone, and thus his throat was healed. **It is for this reason that we bless throats on the feast of St Blaise, a tradition brought to England by the Rosminian Fathers.** Blaise once again refused to renounce Christ, and so after terrible tortures he was beheaded.

So we invoke St Blaise against **diseases and harm to the throat, the tongue and anything to do with the mouth.** But more importantly, we also invoke his protection against **diseases of the soul.** So in addition to asking his protection against physical ailments of the throat, we also ask his protection against sins like gossiping, swearing, slandering, gluttony and so on, because these

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St John Bosco

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

Pat Lavery

Tony Benincasa

Maurice Keetley

Eliza Aldiss

David Hibbin

Gladys Orton

Hugh Mead

Marta Moson

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 28th Vigil Mass
6.00pm 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**

Mon 30th Feria
9.15am In Thanksgiving

Tues 31st St John Bosco (Memoria)
9.15am Baker Family Intention
4.30pm *Reception of Palmina Chomik RIP*

Weds 1st St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr
11.00am *Requiem Mass: Palmina Chomik RIP*
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary*
6.30pm Derek Whymark (RIP) (Latin, old rite)

Thurs 2nd The Presentation of the Lord (Feast)
9.15am Barry Hallam (RIP, Anniversary)
6.30pm Sr Mary Camilla Laferla (RIP) ***** Extra Mass *****

Fri 3rd St Blaise (Memoria) (First Friday)
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm For our Deceased Relatives and Friends

Sat 4th St Gilbert of Sempringham (Memoria)
(Five First Saturdays devotion)
10.00am Mary John (RIP, Anniversary) **PUBLIC MASS**
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
-12.30pm *with Confessions 10.30-11.30am*
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** George Houston (RIP)

Sun 5th Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Greg O'Connor (RIP)
2.30pm *Baptism*
4.00pm **Italian Mass**

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sins harm our souls. **A priest will bless throats after both the 9.15am and 6.30pm Masses on Thursday (Candlemas), and after the 6.30pm Mass on Friday, the feast of St Blaise.**

The priest holding two unlighted candles blessed the previous day (Candlemas), and holding them in the form of a cross, places them on the throat and under the chin of the person to be blessed saying:

Through the intercession of St Blaise, Bishop and Martyr, may God keep you free from all harm to your throat, and from all other harm besides. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Anyone may come forward for this blessing. You don't need to be Catholic. And let us all aspire to the greatness of St Blaise and strive to use our faculties (in this case our throats) for God's glory.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Inter Care Sponsored Walk, Sunday 12th March, Leicester

Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth invite all young people, families and friends to join them on **Sunday 12th March**, 2pm to 4pm, in a social walk, doing laps of Knighton Park, Leicester to raise funds for Inter Care. Inter Care provides free access to medical aid for vulnerable patients across sub-Saharan Africa. Take on board as short or long a walk as you wish. The walk will be followed by a Youth Mass at St Thomas More Church. All monies received will help towards medical aid for the people of Africa. For a sponsorship form and more information email paulinepayne@hotmail.co.uk or fundraising@intercare.org.uk.

Today is Racial Justice Sunday: Here is a prayer you may like to use.

*God of our past, present and future,
You created each one of us in Your image and likeness,
help us to recognise You in each person.*

*As we pray for an end to suffering caused by racism
lead us this day to walk with one another,
pray with one another and work together,
so that we create a future based on justice and healing,
where all can fulfil the hope You have for all peoples.*

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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 the end of 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.

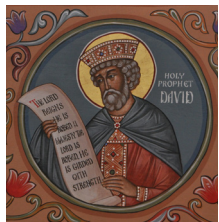
All: Choose from our homes those who are needed for Your work.

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 this 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. The White Flower postcards handed out last week will be collected this weekend or you may send them yourselves.

The Exaireo Trust have written to thank us for the £272 collected for them before Christmas. The money was used to purchase Argos vouchers, which were given to those residents with children so they could buy them gifts. The trust provides support and housing for those in need.



From the Saints

*My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and let all flesh bless His holy name for ever and
ever.*

(Psalm 145:21)

First Holy Communion:

A reminder to the parents of candidates, there will be an important meeting on **Monday 30th January** at 7.00pm in the church hall; this should finish by 7.30pm.

Confirmation: There will be an initial meeting for candidates and candidates' parents on **Monday 13th February** at 7.00pm in the church hall.

Candlemas: Please note that on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas), in addition to the 9.15am Mass, there will be an extra Mass at 6.30pm.

Last Rites does not mean Last Minute! As soon as a person begins to be in danger of death because of illness, injury or old age, the time for anointing has surely already come. *Fr Paul*

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £675 of which £171 was gift-aided

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

Attendance: 465

Thank you
