

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

7th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

Forty Days and Forty Nights



The forty days of **Lent** begin this Wednesday when ashes will be distributed at all Masses. The number forty has special spiritual significance in Scripture and is used to signify either a time of **penitential preparation**, or a time of **punishment and affliction** sent by God: it rained for forty days at the Flood, the Israelites wandered through the desert for forty years, the Ninivites had forty days in which to repent, and Our Lord spent forty days in the desert fasting in preparation for His public ministry. Similarly, these forty days of fasting and penance are our preparation for Easter.

Ash Wednesday proves to be very popular, as it is always one of the busiest days of the year in terms of people coming to church. The ashes are a sign of our **repentance**, our returning to God and a reminder of our **mortality**. This life is short and we need to work out our salvation now. Lent is also a time of intensified prayer, charitable works and penance. **St Francis de Sales** used to say that Lent is a time for us to make amends for the sins of the whole year!

Firstly, I would encourage you to **go to Mass** as often as possible during Lent, daily if you can, and offer up the graces for others. Say the **Rosary daily**. If you already do so, see if you can add a second one. Do your best to attend **Stations of the Cross** on a Friday evening. Come to the church during the day and pray before Our Lord in the **Blessed Sacrament**. Make a good **Confession** at least once during the season.

Then, we traditionally give up things we like, but we need to be **realistic** in what we choose. Can you sustain it for forty days? If you fail, don't give up. Renew your resolution and start over again. It will still be hugely beneficial. And then don't go around telling everyone what you're doing, because you will lose the merit. Keep it between you and God.

Then we should also perform **acts of charity**. This could take the form of **almsgiving**, or as many of the spiritual writers say, being kind and charitable to someone who drives you up the wall is a far greater penance than giving something up. Pray for them and desire their good.

Continued on page 3

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



St Polycarp

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Peter Wyss

May he rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Rosina Matthews

Paul Want

Les Prentice

Audrey Wilbram

Stephen Scott

Linus Linkevicius

Zbigniew Czybai

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 18th Vigil Mass
6.00pm Intention for the living

Sun 19th Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Derrick Baxter (RIP)
11.15am For the Parish
4.00pm **Italian Mass**

Mon 20th Feria
9.15am Muriel Lewin (RIP)

Tues 21st St Peter Damian (Memoria)
9.15am Pasqualina Calardo & Family (RIP)

Weds 22nd Ash Wednesday
9.15am Victims of the Turkey-Syria Earthquake Disaster
12 noon Kathleen Merwick (RIP) (old rite, sung Latin)
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary*
6.30pm Vittorio Giorgio (RIP) (sung English)

Thurs 23rd Lenten Feria (Commem of St Polycarp)
9.15am Michael Fitzgerald (RIP)

Fri 24th Lenten Feria
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm 50th Wedding Anniversary
7.00pm *Stations of the Cross*

Sat 25th Lenten Feria
10.00am Peter Wyss (RIP) **NO PUBLIC MASS**
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
-12.30pm *with Confessions 10.30-11.30am & Benediction 12.20pm*
6.00pm **Vigil Mass: Greg Baker (RIP)**

Sun 26th First Sunday of Lent
9.00am In Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart
11.15am Domenico Romano (RIP)
4.00pm **Italian Mass**

This week at St Mary's

Tues 21st Bible Study - 7.00pm in the Library
Weds 22nd UCM - 2.00pm in the Hall
Thurs 23rd RCIA - 7.00pm in the Library

Continued from front page

Then there is **spiritual reading**. We have the “Walk with Me” booklets to help with daily prayers, and there are also Lenten booklets at the Repository published by the Catholic Truth Society which you will find helpful.

Don't let this Lent go to waste. We never know if it will be our last. When we've made a good Lent with many sacrifices and penances, Easter is always more joyous. So don't be lukewarm.

A reminder also that Ash Wednesday together with Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence. Everyone is bound to abstain from meat. Catholics aged between 18 and 60 years are bound to fast. This means one full meal and perhaps a little food at a couple of points during the day. All Fridays throughout the year are days of abstinence.

Fr Paul Gillbam, IC

The next food bank collection will be on **Saturday 25th February** 10.30 to 11.00am in the church car park. Canned goods, shower gels, toothpaste, shampoo, washing machine liquid, cleaning products are requested. Thank you for your contributions last month and once again it was commented that St.Mary's make a sizeable contribution to the “Your Store” project. Cash receipts are in the parish office. The Easter collection will be on **Saturday 1st April**. Thank you.

Jane Monaghan

Musicians' Training Day at St Mary's: Saturday 11th March, 10am-5pm: A day of talks, seminars and practical workshops for all parish musicians (either active or wanting to start/improve). Followed by Mass and concert with the cathedral choir at the 11.15am Mass on **Sunday 12th March**. To sign up contact cathedralmusic@dioceseofnottingham.uk.

Pro-Life spiritual challenge for Lent: From **Wednesday 22nd February** (Ash Wednesday), you're invited to join other Christians in 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion in our community. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside the BPAS abortion clinic in Stapleford, offer practical alternatives to abortion for women who need it, and help spread the word about this important community outreach. For more information visit www.40daysforlife.com/Nottingham, contact John on 07757 815625 or 40daysforlifennotts@gmail.com.

Can you help the Parish?

As you will appreciate, any parish needs a number of volunteers to help undertake the many liturgical functions and to carry out other responsibilities which are required by the Diocese and are often made necessary by the laws and administrative regulations. Without a significant number of volunteers to help carry out these voluntary tasks, no parish could function.

We have been most fortunate over many years to have had a significant number of parishioners willing and able to carry out these tasks, but since the Covid-19 pandemic, some have had to stand down and have not yet been replaced. Moreover, changing requirements have made it necessary to seek volunteers to carry out new tasks.

We very much need volunteers with experience in the following areas: **health and safety, book keeping, cash handling, cleaning services, premises management, fundraising.**

If you are able to help in any way, please let me know. Thank you. *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.

Calling Catholic Teachers: If you are a Catholic teacher currently working outside of Catholic education and would like to find out more about the joys of working in a Catholic school within the Diocese of Nottingham, a virtual information session will take place on **Wednesday 29th March** from 7.00pm – 8.30pm. See the poster on the notice board for further information, and to book contact Julie Sweeney at the Diocesan Education Service (julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk)

Marie Brookes raised £240 for the ACN Appeal for Syria from her sale of cakes and jams last weekend. Thanks to all who supported her. Contributions of bags of sugar for her cake/jam making sessions would be greatly appreciated.

Syrian Earthquake disaster: For those who were not able to contribute last week, the Aid to the Church in Need appeal for funds for the Syrian earthquake disaster will be extended to this weekend.

From the Saints

*“Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God?
Make for it two wings: fasting and almsgiving.”*

(St Augustine of Hippo, 354-430)



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 22nd February.

Masses will be at 9.15am, 12 noon (old rite, sung Latin) and 6.30pm (sung English).

Keeping Lent with

Matthew: Exploring this year's Gospel with Fr David. **Tuesdays at 7pm** through Lent, but beginning this **Tuesday the 21st**. Bring your Bible and come and join in.

Lent 'Walk with Me'

booklets: These popular booklets with daily meditations are available for you to take from the back of the church. There is a suggested donation of £1.

Stations of the Cross:

Every Friday during Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross after the 6.30pm Mass, with the exception of **Friday 17th March**. Mass that day will be at 6.00pm followed by a Deanery Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions (five priests will be available) concluding with Benediction at 8.00pm.

Last Week's Finance

1st Collection: £673 of which £121 was gift-aided

Aid to the Church in Need (Syrian Earthquake disaster): £683

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

Attendance: 469

Thank you
