

# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

# NEWSLETTER



**St Mary of the Annunciation  
Catholic Church**

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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, 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

## Conquering our temptations

**T**he Church and the saints teach us **temptations to sin** come from three sources: **the world, the flesh and the devil**. In today's Gospel, we hear St Matthew's account of Our Lord being tempted by the devil in the wilderness (Matt 4:1-11). But Our Lord, being God, could only be tempted **externally**, meaning only by the world and the devil, not the flesh. They could tempt Him from the outside, but could never affect His mind and His will. But Our Lord allowed Himself to be tempted in order to show us how we should act in times of temptation. The most important thing is always to try and resist the first impulse of sin when it rears its ugly head. **The enemy is more easily conquered if you immediately refuse him entry into your mind.**

However, when we've spent years trying to fight our sinful inclinations through prayer and strong resolutions, it can be most discouraging when we repeatedly fall into these sins over and over again, and it might make us think that temptations are impossible to conquer. It can even make people think they are not destined for Heaven, which is a serious error. These are the tactics the devil uses to resign us to sinning and to despair. Such thoughts are totally wrong. **It is absolutely certain that God wishes everyone to be saved** (1 Tim 2:4). This is why He became man in the Person of JESUS Christ and poured out His Precious Blood for us on the Cross. Having gone through this out of love for us, how could He ever deny us the graces necessary for salvation?

So never be discouraged. **Repeated falls do not mean God has abandoned us.** If we do everything we can to be faithful, He will not deny us the help we need. If you fall, humbly ask His forgiveness because He understands our weaknesses. Our Lord also said we must forgive others not seven times, but seventy times seven (Matt 18:22), meaning always. If God expects this of us, He will surely always be merciful when we sincerely repent of our sins.

So why does God allow us to fall time and time again? We can never know His mind exactly, but it could be for a number of reasons. Perhaps we don't put up a strong enough fight, or maybe we don't

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*St David*

**Please pray for those  
who are sick**

**for those who have  
recently died**

Sr Mary Assunta

Peter Wyss

*May they rest in peace*

**and for those whose  
anniversaries occur at  
this time**

Michael Warltire

Jan Wisniewski

Margaret Jackson

Vivienne Ashleigh

Eddie Weightman

Antonietta Sacchetta

Anna Corbinzolu

Gary Clarke

Lillian Sweeney

Ingeborg Cox

Cliff Brookes

### **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 25th Vigil Mass**  
6.00pm 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**

**Mon 27th Lenten Feria**  
9.15am Intention for the living

**Tues 28th Lenten Feria**  
9.15am For the Parish

**Weds 1st St David, Patron of Wales (Feast)**  
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary*  
6.30pm Pope Benedict XVI (RIP) **NO PUBLIC MASS**

**Thurs 2nd Lenten Feria**  
9.15am Margaret Barson (RIP)

**Fri 3rd Lenten Feria (First Friday)**  
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*  
6.30pm For our Deceased Relatives and Friends  
7.10pm *Stations of the Cross*

**Sat 4th Lenten Feria (Five First Saturdays Devotion)**  
10.00am Intention for the living **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: For the Parish**

**Sun 5th Second Sunday of Lent**  
9.00am Deceased of the Monaghan & Kenyon Families  
11.15am Cliff Brookes (RIP, Anniversary)  
2.30pm *Baptism*  
4.00pm **Italian Mass**

### **This week at St Mary's**

**Mon 27th** First Confession Class - 4.15pm in the Hall

**Tues 28th** Bible Study - 7.00pm in the Library

**Please note there is no Latin Mass on Wednesday 1st March.**

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pray for the grace and avoid the near occasions of sin, allowing ourselves instead to be in dangerous situations. Or maybe we are proud and He wants to teach us humility and that we must rely on Him for everything. On the other hand, St Philip Neri (1515-95) said, *“Do not grieve over the temptations you suffer. When the Lord intends to bestow a particular virtue on us, He often permits us first to be tempted by the opposite vice. Therefore look upon every temptation as an invitation to grow in a particular virtue and a promise by God that you will be successful, if only you stand fast.”*

So this Lent, let us renew our resolutions. We mustn't lose confidence in God. If we persevere in our struggles against sin and back them up by constant prayer, He will deliver us at precisely the time He knows is best.

*Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

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### **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](mailto:cathedralmusic@dioceseofnottingham.uk).

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**The Knights of St Columba** are holding their next quiz in Sacred Heart Parish Hall at 7.30pm on **Saturday 11th March 2023**, with all profits from the evening going to a fund to for Angel Lynn, the 19 year old daughter of one of Sacred Heart's parishioners, who was left with severe injuries on the A6 in 2020. The cost remains at £7 a head, £3 for children and students, to include a cheese supper, wine and soft drinks. If you would like to come please call Will Holland on 07811 353 248. This helps with the catering.

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**Grub Club:** During the school half term Grub Club opened on Tuesday and Thursday. We served over 125 hot meals to 31 families which equals 85 children and 38 adults plus around 20 volunteers. There was also a wide range of activities on offer for the children. The children came from 8 schools and 2 nurseries in Loughborough. Can I say a huge “thank you” to those volunteers from St Mary's who helped with the activities or in the kitchen. Grub Club will be open again at Easter, Spring half-term and during the summer holidays. If you would like to become a volunteer please email Frank at [frankfay1@hotmail.com](mailto:frankfay1@hotmail.com). No experience necessary, just a willingness to help others.

*Frank Fay*

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### **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*

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## 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.
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## 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.

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**Everyday Miracles of Lourdes** in Conversation with Marlene Watkins. When you feeling like you're drowning in the day to day life, overwhelmed by memories and hurt, miracles are happening, and can happen to you. Come and hear Marlene Watkins speak about her new book 'Everyday Miracles of Lourdes' and learn how God still heals his people today through the intercession of the Lady in the Grotto. Nottingham Cathedral Hall's Ellis Room (NG1 5AW) on **Thursday 2nd March, 7.30pm – 9.00pm**. More details can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dTMDioFC7I>

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**Family Fast Day:** Your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal next **Friday 3rd March** will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Give today using the envelope available at the back of the church or at [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give) and please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world.

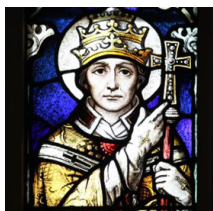
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## From the Saints

*"Virtue is nothing without the trial of temptation, for there is no conflict without an enemy, no victory without strife."*

(Pope St Leo the Great, died 461)

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## Keeping Lent with

**Matthew:** Exploring this year's Gospel with Fr David. **Tuesdays at 7pm** through Lent. Bring your Bible and come and join in.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## Last Week's Finance

**1st Collection:** £905 of which £195 was gift-aided

**Aid to the Church in Need** (Syrian Earthquake disaster): £629 (Total raised: £1312)

**Standing orders:** £793 @ 31/01, of which £648 was gift-aided

**Attendance:** 469 (Ash Wednesday: 465)

*Thank you*

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