

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

Relics of the Saints

We Catholics honour and respect religious relics. The word 'relic' comes from the Latin 'reliquiae' meaning 'remains'. A **first class relic** is the body or part of the body of a holy person or saint. Or if it is something that belonged to them, such as a book, a crucifix, a piece of clothing or a pair of glasses, we call these **second class relics**. Then a **third class relic** is a piece of cloth or something that has merely touched the body of a saint. To have a piece or a part of a holy person or place has been part of the Church's practice from the very beginning. The Church's veneration of relics is founded on the fact that Christianity is an **incarnational** religion, where the Son of God took on human flesh. He saved us through His Precious Blood which was material and part of His humanity. The **Seven Sacraments** themselves are where physical things such as bread, wine, water and oil become a means of grace. So we respect and reverence material things.

It is legitimate and profitable to venerate the relics of the saints. We read in the Acts of the Apostles of how aprons and handkerchiefs that had merely *touched* the body of St Paul were used to cure people of diseases and sickness:

"And God did extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul; so that handkerchiefs or aprons were carried away from his body to the sick, and diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them" (Acts 19:12).

Then the instruments of torture or martyrdom are also relics, for example the **Crown of Thorns** and the **chains of St Peter**, both of which you will find in Rome. Many churches have a relic of the **True Cross** on which Christ was crucified. There were occasions in history where certain people used fake relics as a source of raising money. To guard against this historical abuse, the Church instituted certification of the relics to guarantee their authenticity.

It's a natural human instinct to want something of those we love or admire. A son or daughter will treasure a lock of hair, a ring or a watch of his late mother or father. Many people like to have things that belonged to their favourite footballer or singer or to have the



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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

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Our Lady of Lourdes

**Please pray for those
who are sick**

**for those who have
recently died**

Peter Wyss
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**

Patrick Doyle
Anna King
Frankie Bulger
Jim O'Flynn
William Glover
Biasina Sepede

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 4th <i>6.00pm</i>	Vigil Mass George Houston (RIP)
Sun 5th <i>9.00am</i> <i>11.15am</i> <i>2.30pm</i> <i>4.00pm</i>	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time For the Parish Greg O'Connor (RIP) <i>Baptism</i> Italian Mass
Mon 6th <i>9.15am</i>	Ss Paul Miki & Companions (Memoria) Pat Newby (RIP)
Tues 7th <i>9.15am</i>	Feria Vittorio Giorgio (RIP)
Weds 8th <i>6.00-6.25pm</i> <i>6.30pm</i>	St John of Matha (Confessor) <i>Parish Rosary</i> Vera Hurry (RIP) (Latin, old rite)
Thurs 9th <i>9.15am</i>	Feria Intention for the living
Fri 10th <i>6.00-6.25pm</i> <i>6.30pm</i>	St Scholastica (Memoria) <i>Confessions</i> Girolamo Perone (RIP)
Sat 11th <i>10.00am</i> <i>10.30am</i> <i>-12.30pm</i> <i>6.00pm</i>	Our Lady of Lourdes (Memoria) Anne Fortune (RIP) PUBLIC MASS <i>Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am</i> Vigil Mass: For the Parish
Sun 12th <i>9.00am</i> <i>11.15am</i> <i>4.00pm</i>	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sheila McFerran (RIP) Ellen Monaghan (RIP) Italian Mass

This week at St Mary's

Weds 8th UCM - 2.00pm in the hall
Thurs 9th RCIA - 7.00pm in the library

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autograph of someone famous. Similarly the Church allows us to have belongings of the saints so that through them we can be in closer contact with Our Lord and the court of Heaven, so that we may desire to imitate them and long to be with them one day. The bodies of the saints in this life were Temples of the Holy Spirit, and it was in their bodies that they worked out their salvation. Their bodies shared in their holiness and in many cases in their martyrdom, and one day will share in their glory at the end of time. For hundreds of years people have made pilgrimages to the tombs of the saints because they desired to venerate their relics and also to ask for blessings, healings and even miracles.

It's important to understand **we do not worship the relics of the saints**. We worship God alone. We give a *relative* veneration or honour to the relics of the saints. Neither do we pray to the relics, because they can neither see nor hear us. But we can pray before a relic, asking the saint whose relic it is to intercede for us or to obtain some favour for us from God, or ask their help to practice a virtue that he or she practised.

We have relics of the saints in our church. Every altar in St Mary's contains the relics of three saints, at least one of which must be a martyr, and we celebrate Mass upon their very bones. So as it was in the early Church, so it remains today. To venerate relics is something distinctly and characteristically Christian.

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 from 2pm to 4pm in a social walk, doing laps of Knighton Park, Leicester to raise funds for Inter Care (see the notice board at the back of the church). For more information email paulinepayne@hotmail.co.uk or fundraising@intercare.org.uk.

The Lies Beneath: SPUC Pro-Life Youth Conference: Friday 2th – Sunday 26th February.

This residential conference on pro-life issues is open to all young people between the ages of 18 and 35, and promises high quality speakers, and chance to network with other pro-life students from around the UK. The Nottingham branch of SPUC is able to sponsor students to attend this conference: if you are interested, you can find out more by going to www.spuc.org.uk or contact John on spucnottingham@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.
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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.

Find Out More About CAFOD's Family Fast Day. With CAFOD's Lent Family Fast Day coming soon (**Friday 3rd March**) If you would like to find out more about how CAFOD support our brothers and sisters around the world and this year's appeal, please feel free to come along to our Find Out More Session at Sacred Heart church, Loughborough, LE11 2HJ on Tuesday 14th February. We will start at 11.00am, followed by a shared lunch. For more details contact Will Cruddace, the Diocesan CAFOD worker, on 077100 94455 or nottingham@CAFOD.org.uk.



From the Saints

"For only the harder portions of his body remains were left, which were conveyed to Antioch and wrapped in linen, as an inestimable treasure let to the holy Church by the grace which was in the martyr."

(Martyrdom of St Ignatius of Antioch, Chapter 6, 50-117AD)

The feast of Our Lady of Lourdes falls on Saturday **11th February**. I'm sure many would like to attend Mass that day. Therefore I will celebrate a public Mass at 10am at the Lady Altar.

Fr Paul

The UCM will be enrolling Sarah Hargreaves as a new member at the 6.30pm Mass on **Friday 10th February**. We will be celebrating afterwards in the hall with cake and refreshments. Please feel free to join us.

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

Marie Brookes will be selling her cakes and preserves after Sunday Masses next weekend. The proceeds will be donated to SPUC.

Last Week's Finance

1st collection: £880 of which £139 was gift-aided

SPUC: £342

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

Attendance: 487

Thank you
