

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

NEWSLETTER

Does the Church still teach ...?

Does the Church still teach that missing Sunday Mass is a serious sin? We read in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) that:

“The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin.” (CCC #2181).

So the answer to the question is yes, it is a mortal or serious sin to **deliberately** miss Mass on a Sunday or a Holyday of Obligation, *unless* you are prevented from doing so for a serious reason. If there is no serious reason, you should go to Confession before receiving Holy Communion again. So what is a serious reason? Apart from illness, and looking after a sick person already mentioned in the above Catechism quote, other legitimate reasons would be no priest being available, dangerous weather conditions, you're housebound, you're travelling, your car breaks down, or the nearest Mass is too far away and difficult to get to. **We ought not to arrange other activities which will prevent us from attending Sunday Mass because God must always have first place.** Of course, the Saturday evening Vigil Mass also fulfils the Sunday obligation. In addition to Sundays, the seven **Holydays of Obligation** in England and Wales are: Christmas Day, Epiphany, Ascension Thursday, Corpus Christi, St Peter and St Paul, The Assumption of Our Lady and All Saints. Canon Law gives the Parish Priest the authority to dispense from the obligation in **individual cases** and for a **just reason**. So if someone has to regularly work on a Sunday and they have tried to persuade their employer to alter the schedule and they have refused, the Parish Priest may transfer the obligation to another day in the week or commute it to some other pious works (Canon #1245). So those are the rules, but why does the Church insist upon attendance at Sunday and Holyday of Obligation Masses under pain of mortal sin?

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St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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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 Patrick

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

David Drott

May he rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Americo Lallo

Eva Guarasci

Elsie Walmsley

Lucy Antill

Polikarp Ereminowicz

John Saunders

Fr Eddie Murphy IC

Ray Wainwright

Joan Hammond

Ann Ludlow

Paddy Mills

Betty Lane

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 11th Vigil Mass
6.00pm John Saunders (RIP)

Sun 12th Third Sunday of Lent
9.00am Ann Marie New (RIP)
11.15am For the Parish (Cathedral Choir in attendance)
4.00pm **Italian Mass**

Mon 13th Lenten Feria
9.15am Fr John Bland (RIP)

Tues 14th Lenten Feria
9.15am Alan Offiler-Russell (RIP)

Weds 15th Lenten Feria
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary*
6.30pm Betty Lane (RIP, Anniversary) (Latin, old rite)

Thurs 16th Lenten Feria
9.15am Ray Wainwright (RIP, Anniversary)

Fri 17th St Patrick, Patron of Ireland (Feast)
6.00pm John McEnery (RIP)
6.30pm "24 Hours for the Lord". *Exposition & Confessions*
8.00pm *Benediction*

Sat 18th Lenten Feria (Commem St Cyril of Jerusalem)
10.00am Andrew Mullarkey (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*
2.30pm *Baptism*
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** For the Parish

Sun 19th Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)
9.00am Intention for the living
11.15am Domenico Romano (RIP)
4.00pm **Italian Mass**

This week at St Mary's

Mon 13th First Confession Class - 4.15pm in the Hall

Tues 14th Bible Study - 7.00pm in the Library

Thurs 16th Confirmation Class - 5.15pm in the Hall

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The first reason is because Sunday is the **Lord's Day** and it is also the day of the **Resurrection** and therefore the Sabbath Day for Christians. From the earliest days of the Church, Christians came together on a Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist (Acts 20:7-8).

It is also in the Ten Commandments. Exodus 20:8 clearly says, **"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."** So God requires our presence, He commands it! The book of Leviticus explains the requirement like this: **"Six days shall work be done; but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest and sacred assembly; you shall do no work; it is a Sabbath to the Lord"** (23:3). "Sacred assembly" means "church". So we must attend. And Our Lord Himself obeyed this because the Gospel tells us that He attended the synagogue on the Sabbath habitually (Luke 4:16).

Finally, **God has given us everything.** He has given us life and so in strict justice **we owe Him everything, and so we must worship Him.** You might feel closer to God in other places, but that's not the point. The Sunday Mass obligation isn't about our feelings. **It's about giving God what is His due.** We offer Him our time and our hearts, but we also offer Him the Sacrifice of His own Son on the Cross. This is what the Mass is. And we offer it to God in atonement for our sins and for the salvation of the world. This is the **supreme act of worship**, and so your presence matters. When you don't come to Mass, God is less glorified and the world is much less sanctified. God and the world need you to be there.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Welcome to Greg Treloar, Director of Music at St Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham, and the Cathedral Choir members, who are with us this weekend for the Musicians Training Day on Saturday and for the 11.15am Solemn Mass on Sunday. The Cathedral Choir will also be giving a short recital in church after the Mass. I hope many of you will be able to stay.

Fr Paul

Knights of St. Columba: It is intended to have an enactment of the events of Holy Week by young adults of the Loughborough area parishes again this year, as their contribution to the ceremonies of Holy Week, at 7.00pm here in St. Mary's on Palm Sunday evening, **2nd April**. Undergraduates and students in Years 5 to 13 willing to participate, and especially candidates for confirmation this year, please contact Richard Mitchell (tel: 07812-997847 or Rmitchell@constructivebusiness.com) **before Sunday evening 19th March**. Thank you.

The Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Education Service, on behalf of Bishop Patrick McKinney, is seeking to appoint foundation directors for the St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi-Academy Trust (Leicestershire and Rutland). For an information pack and to arrange an informal meeting, please contact Peter Giorgio (Director of Education) through his PA, Julie Sweeney (julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk).

Cleaner required at St Mary's Catholic Primary school

Part-time role: 12.5 hours per week.

Start date: **17th April 2023**

To apply for this role please visit the Trust vacancies page www.aquinas-cmat.org/vacancies/ and submit your application no later than the closing date of **Thursday 16th March**.

Further information on the website link above.

Mount St Bernard Abbey: From Sunday 16th April 2023,

the Sunday Mass time for the public Mass at the monastery will change from 8.00am to 8.30am.

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.

St Bernadette Relic Tour: The Diocese has produced a Relic Tour Souvenir Book recalling the visit, with many photographs of the two days, the texts of the homilies preached, and prayerful reflections. Priced at just £2, orders can be placed with your parish priest / parish office, for delivery before Easter. Orders received by 3rd April will also receive a Complimentary Lourdes Prayer card.

Lourdes: Bishop Patrick invites everyone in the diocese to join him in coming to this beautiful Marian Shrine between **Saturday 15th and Thursday 20th July**. Travel will be by air from East Midlands Airport, and the five-night all inclusive prices start at £709. See the poster at the back of church for more details, or visit <https://www.tangney-tours.com/pilgrimages/lourdes/diocese-of-nottingham>

From the Saints

"Put all the good works in the world against one Holy Mass; they will be as a grain of sand beside a mountain."

(St John Marie Vianney, 1786-1859)



Mass, Friday 17th March:

Please note the evening Mass 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. There will be no Stations of the Cross this week.

The UCM are hosting a talk by Mr William

Cruddace, CAFOD Co-ordinator for Nottingham Diocese on **Wednesday 22nd March** at 2pm in the Parish Hall. Please feel free to join us, light refreshments available.

Family Fast Day (3rd

March): Thank you for giving to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal this Lent. Your generous donations, rooted in love, will support families around the world grow in strength to fight the climate crisis. You can still give online at cafod.org.uk/lent

Last Week's Finance

1st collection: £854 of which £97 was gift-aided

CAFOD Family Fast

Day: £755 so far

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

Attendance: 557

Thank you
