

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

NEWSLETTER

The Transfiguration – what to make of it?



This Sunday 6th August is the Feast of **The Transfiguration of the Lord** but when you think about it, it can sound a bit ‘magical’, ‘fairytale-ish’ even. We are told that Jesus goes up onto a mountain and His clothes become dazzlingly white. Prophets appear and talk to Him. And then it is all over and Jesus tells His friends to say nothing. But why?

We should hold on to the **absurdity** of the incident. For there is simply no reason for all this to have happened. In particular, there is no reason to put it into a Gospel – the evangelist, Matthew, makes no capital out of it. It doesn’t help his message. **It’s simply just there!**

And this is the strength of the Transfiguration as an historical incident. **There is no reason for anyone to have invented it.** It is **not** central to the Christian case. It is **not** used to win arguments. There is only one reason to put it into the Gospel, and that is **because it happened.** It is one of those cases of the writer putting things down without knowing why they are important but just **because** they happened, and their very puzzlement is what makes the story so convincing.

Why, then, did it happen? Surely so that we could see and understand that Jesus is at once the **one** with the message and the **one** foretold by the prophets of God and that He is **one** with God, and lives for all eternity in a blaze of dazzling and unapproachable light. What Peter had blurted out, in his usual impetuous way, that Jesus was the Christ of God, is here on the mountain confirmed in unimaginable clarity.

And so too, in the Transfiguration, Jesus is empowered to continue His journey and mission to save all who will trust in Him, knowing that regardless of what lies ahead, His Father remains with Him, guiding His steps and making His mission bear fruit for all humanity.

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

On attachment

Fr David Jones, OLW

Safeguarding Rep

jane.monaghan@

psrdioceseofnottingham.uk

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

Continued on page 3



St Lawrence

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

John Wilbram

May he rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

June Gibson

Terry Fitzpatrick

Antonietta Albiniano

Erroll Starbuck

John Colardo

John Marples

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 5th Vigil Mass
6.00pm Heather Saunders (RIP, Anniversary)

Sun 6th The Transfiguration of the Lord (Feast)
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Cliff Brookes (RIP)
4.00pm **No Italian Mass**

Mon 7th St Sixtus II and Companions (Memoria)
9.15am Deceased members of the Mancini Family

Tues 8th St Dominic (Memoria)
9.15am Andrés Bonifacio (RIP)

Weds 9th Vigil of St Lawrence, Martyr
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary*
6.30pm Intention for the living (Latin)

Thurs 10th St Lawrence, Martyr (Feast)
9.15am David Coxon (RIP)

Fri 11th St Clare (Memoria)
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Vittorio Giorgio (RIP)

Sat 12th Saturday Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary
10.00am Charles Cobbe (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:** For the Parish

Sun 13th Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am John and Andrew Marples (RIP)
11.15am Augustine Vu (RIP, Anniversary)
4.00pm **No Italian Mass**

Fr Simon has now moved to our house at St Mary's, Derryswood. His new address is:

St Mary's Derryswood
Wonersh
Guildford
Surrey, GU5 0RA

Continued from front page

In the end, as we reflect on the mystery of the Transfiguration, we are reminded that the death of Jesus was not an accident of fate or some expression of Divine wrath, but **an act of love**, freely accepted and offered for the sake of those who are **'least'** in the Kingdom of Heaven - **for you and for me and all who would call Him Lord.**

Let's heed the words of Wisdom then, spoken to us from on high: *Suddenly the voice of the Father resounds proclaiming Jesus to be His most beloved Son, saying 'listen to him'.* These words are important! Our Father said this to these Apostles and says it to us as well: *'listen to Jesus, because He is my beloved Son'.*

This week let us keep these words in our minds and in our hearts: **'listen to Jesus!** God the Father says it to everyone: to **me**, to **you**, to **everyone, all people!** Here is the aid for our journey of life. 'Listen to Jesus!' **Listen to Him as you read your Bibles. Listen to Him during the Mass. Listen to Him in your special moments in prayer. Don't forget, HE LOVES YOU!**

Fr David Jones OLV

Interested in becoming Catholic? If you are and you're over 18, you can join the RCIA course (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) which will begin towards the end of September. We meet alternate Thursdays at 7pm and study the Catholic Faith. If you enrol on the course there is no obligation to become a Catholic at the end of it. The course is also suitable for already Catholic adults who would like to be confirmed. Please contact Fr Paul or send an email to the parish office.

The Diocese of Nottingham is organising a Pilgrimage for Women to Lincoln Cathedral on **Saturday 9th September.** We will meet at 10:30am at the Cathedral, to be ready to celebrate Mass together at 11:00am. Following Mass we will have lunch together and then have a private tour of this historic church built by our diocesan patron Saint Hugh, and where he was laid to rest. The day should finish by 2:00pm. Please note that this is an event for those aged 18 and over. For more information and to book your place visit www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events

Are you being called to a year of mission, formation and service at the Briars?

We work with thousands of young people every year from schools and parishes across the diocese and beyond. **We have two spaces left to join the Briars team 2023-24, starting at the end of August.** This opportunity would suit young adults aged 18-24 who want to share their faith with young people whilst living in a community of other likeminded young adults. A year on team will help you grow as a person, develop skills in group work and leadership, and help you to grow in your faith. You will receive high quality professional training and support to equip you for youth ministry in a fun, vibrant and faith filled setting. Applications for next year are also now open (2024-25).

The Youth Service is also advertising for an apprentice to start this month. The closing date for applications is **14th August.**

For any of these opportunities, apply at www.ndcys.com or email director@ndcys.com for more information and a conversation.

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.

The great Feast of The Assumption of Our Lady is celebrated by the Church on **Tuesday 15th August** and is a **Holyday of Obligation**, which means we are obliged to attend Mass unless prevented by a serious reason. Masses will be at 9.15am, 12 noon (Latin) and 6.30pm.

Fr Paul

Carer needed: The Sisters in Rosmini House, Garton Road are seeking a qualified carer for a small Care Unit in the Convent. If you have the ability to deliver an excellent standard of care and if you are willing to work as a member of a small team, they would love to hear from you. For more information, contact the Sister in Charge on 01509 631050.



From the Saints

“Remember that nothing and no one, is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love, as He does.”

St Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897)

Safeguarding at St Mary’s

Within the next few weeks I will be distributing a registration form to all volunteers who do not meet the criteria for a full DBS check. It will be accompanied by a letter from Bishop Patrick. This is a one-off exercise enabling the Diocese to meet the standards outlined by The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency. Would you kindly return your forms to me or leave them in the sacristy labelled for my attention. Thank you all for your cooperation.

Jane Monaghan

Parish Safeguarding Representative

Stella Maris have written to thank you for your support of the Apostleship of the Sea through the collection on Sea Sunday which amounted to £332.

Last Week’s Finance

Collection: £729 of which £112 was gift-aided

Standing orders: £773 @ 30/06, of which £703 was gift-aided

Attendance: 352

Thank you
