

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

22nd SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

The Birthday of Our Lady



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Served by the Rosminians

Parish Priest

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

On attachment

Fr David Jones, OLW

Safeguarding Rep

Jane Monaghan

01509 262123

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: Mr C Maher

This coming Friday (8th September) we celebrate the **Birthday of Our Lady**. Her entrance into the world was one of the greatest events ever to take place in human history, because by it, our salvation was about to be ushered in. I doubt anyone even suspected that the child born of **St Joachim and St Anne** would be the greatest and most highly honoured of all God's creatures by being the Mother of our God and Redeemer.

It is from **tradition** and particularly from the **Apocryphal Gospel of James**, that we know the names of Our Lady's parents. St Joachim and St Anne were childless until the birth of Our Lady, but they lived godly lives and were always fervent in prayer. After twenty years of fruitless marriage, and despite all their efforts and prayers, they were still without a child. According to tradition, Joachim decided to go into the desert for forty days, and made a retreat and did a lot of fasting and penance while St Anne stayed at home and did the same thing. An angel appeared to Joachim and told him that God had heard their prayers, and that he and his wife would conceive. So now very happy, Joachim set off to return home, and on the way met his wife in the **Gate of Jerusalem**. Before he could say anything, she told him she had had a vision and that they were going to have a child.

The Jews had been waiting for centuries for the coming of the promised Messiah, but no one would have thought this little baby girl born to Joachim and Anne was to be the fulfilment of that promise. **St Alphonsus Liguori** (1696-1787) teaches that Mary's soul was the most beautiful God had ever created. She was **immaculately conceived**, without Original Sin and hence she was full of grace from the moment of her conception. Even in St Anne's womb her sanctity was higher than all the angels and saints.

People sometimes say that since Mary had so many graces and was immaculately conceived and sinless, that we can learn very little from her. But this is not so. Yes, she is above all the angels and saints, but we must remember that in Baptism, *our* souls were cleansed from

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St Cuthbert

**Please pray for those
who are sick**

**for those who have
recently died**

Fr Felice Muratore IC
Dorothy Cendrowska
Sofia Rosa Battista

Colm Fox

May they rest in peace

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

Hilda Bradshaw

Violet Bowler

Bridget Butler

Abbie Elston

Leslie Betts

Nina Martocchia

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 2nd Vigil Mass
6.00pm For the Parish

Sun 3rd Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Intention for the living
11.15am Intention for the living with Marriage
Blessing
4.00pm **Italian Mass**

Mon 4th St Cuthbert (Memoria)
9.15am John Wilbram (RIP)

Tues 5th Feria
9.15am For the protection of Poland

Weds 6th Feria
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary*
6.30pm Lukas Guziewicz (RIP) (Latin)

Thurs 7th Feria
9.15am Intention for the living
6.30pm *Holy Hour*

Fri 8th Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Feast)
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Queen Elizabeth II (RIP, Anniversary)

Sat 9th Saturday Mass of the BVM
10.00am Fr Felice Muratore (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:** Giovanni Palmieri (RIP)

Sun 10th Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am George Houston (RIP)
4.00pm **Italian Mass**

This week at St Mary's

Tues 5th Bible Study - 7.00pm in the library

Thurs 7th Holy Hour - 6.30pm in the church

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Original Sin and *we* were given **sanctifying grace**. And this gives us the **foundation** we need to grow in holiness. Yes, she was conceived "**full of grace**" (Luke 1:28), but it was still by her free will that she chose to continue in that grace, and each moment of her life she chose to cooperate with that grace, and to continue free from sin. God had a plan for Mary and He also has a plan for each and every one of us. But it's also up to us whether we want to cooperate with His plan and do His Will. We can choose to follow Him like Mary, but we can also choose to go our own way, and if we do that it is more than likely to lead to our destruction.

So let us rejoice at her birth, and also emulate her example and follow her ways. And may God who made Mary perfect and good in His image, also make us good and perfect, which is what we all should aspire to be - like Mary in how we devote ourselves to her Divine Son.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Holy Hour: There will be a Holy Hour this Thursday **7th September** at 6.30pm on the eve of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady. We will recite the Rosary and it will conclude with Benediction at 7.30pm.

Fr Paul

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 on **Thursday 28th September** at 7pm. We meet alternate Thursdays 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.

Grub Club: Thank you to our parishioners and others for the huge support, which allowed us to run Grub Club again over the summer holidays. We ran 12 sessions over 4 weeks with activities and a 3 course meal. The families old and new, had a wonderful time together and new friends were made. We served a total of 716 meals. Due to your generous donations we were also able to take some of the families to Twin Lakes where a holiday spirit for the day was created. Memories to cherish! Thank you on behalf of Grub Club.

Eileen Smith

Assisi & Rome

**Pilgrimage: 16th - 23rd
November 2023**

Cost £1,095pp for double/
twin rooms £1,350pp for
single rooms. Prices include
all coach travel, flights
(plus luggage and seats),
breakfast and evening meal
at two hotels, city taxes.

Itinerary: Leaving St
Joseph's (Goodwood Rd,
Leicester) early morning to
fly to Rome (from Stansted)
then travelling by coach
to Assisi for three nights
and returning to Rome for
four nights. For booking
information, visit [https://
www.watermead-apostolate.
co.uk/pilgrimages](https://www.watermead-apostolate.co.uk/pilgrimages). A
(non-refundable) deposit
of £400 will be required
when booking, with
the balance due by **16th
September**. For any further
information, phone 0116
2207880 or 0116 227881
07825 040375.

**Escorted Pilgrimage
to Knock Shrine, 16th**

October 2023: £699.00
per person sharing. Price
includes flight, all transfers,
4 nights in Knock House
Hotel with full board. Full
details including itinerary
and contact informaton on
the noticeboard at the back
of the church.

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.

Vocation Day of Discernment: Saturday 7th October 10am-3pm at The Rosmini Centre, Ratcliffe-On-The-Wreake. There will be an opportunity to talk to Frs Antonio, Ted, and Philip about the calling to the Religious Life and to the Institute of Charity (Rosminians) in particular, an opportunity to join the Community in prayer, and to ask the Lord for clarity and courage. To book call 01509 813078.

St Mary's School: Welcome back to all the staff and pupils from St Mary's School. We keep them all in our prayers as they begin the new academic year.

Loughborough Food Bank/Your Store: The next collection will be on **Saturday 23rd September 10.30-11.00am** in the church car park. The October date is **Saturday 21st October 10.30-11.00am**. Thank you all for your continued support. *Jane Monaghan*

From the Saints

"Men do not fear a powerful hostile army as the powers of Hell fear the name and protection of Mary."

(St Bonaventure, 1221-74)



Bible Study: Come and explore St John's Gospel with Fr David. The weekly sessions will be held in the Library, starting on **Tuesday 5th September** at 7.00pm.

Congratulations to Simon Gibson who was received into the Church, Confirmed, and made his First Holy Communion last Friday evening.

Cake sale: Marie Brookes will be selling her cakes, jams, marmalades, chutneys etc after the Sunday Masses next weekend. All proceeds will go to The Christian Institute.

Last Rites does not mean Last Minute! As soon as a person begins to be in danger of death because of illness, injury or old age, the time for anointing has surely already come. *Fr Paul*

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £656 of which £117 was gift-aided

Standing orders: £667 @ 31/07, of which £573 was gift-aided

Attendance: 382

Thank you
