

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

23rd SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

Do ghosts really exist?



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, OLV

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

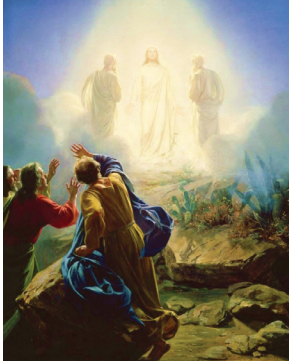
enquiries@delisle.leics.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr C Maher

Yes, ghosts do exist, but the Church has never given any binding teaching about them. We should not confuse them with angels or demons. **Angels** are an entirely different species from human beings, and **demons are fallen angels**. Ghosts are deceased human beings, and let me say from the outset, we should never try to communicate with or contact the dead in any way because it is sinful and can also be dangerous. Ghosts are real people who once lived on this earth, but with death having separated them from their body, they are now spirits. The reason it is sinful to try and contact the dead is because it can leave us open to diabolical influence and deception. This is why the Church teaches that the use of Ouija boards, consulting mediums or going to séances and such like are sinful. We leave ourselves wide open to evil since we could be summoning up a damned soul or even a demon.

There are **three kinds of ghosts**, and they come from each of the three places of the afterlife: **Heaven, Hell and Purgatory**. God sometimes permits a **soul from Purgatory** to appear, usually to ask for prayers to get them to Heaven. These are probably souls who barely made it to Purgatory and so they need a lot of help from us in terms of prayers and Masses. **St Padre Pio** (1887-1968) had many souls appear to him to ask his help in releasing them from Purgatory. Then there are the **damned souls**. As extraordinary as it might sound, there are many instances in Church history where God has allowed a damned soul to appear to a living person to warn them, so as to get them back on the right track. **Blessed Richard of St Ann** (died 1622) reported the apparition of a damned soul who before his conversion had been his companion in debauchery, but had suddenly died after both young men had visited a prostitute. God permitted the damned soul to appear to Richard that same night to warn him to repent, lest he, too, be damned. Then there are the **souls in Heaven** who might appear to family members to let them know they are okay and that they are saved. But damned souls can sometimes deceive us and appear as a good spirit, perhaps to try and get us to continue in some sin, whereas a good spirit will never appear as an evil one. So if a good ghost appears to us, it's a gift of God, **but we must never seek them out**, because we could be easily deceived by evil forces.

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Please pray for those who are sick:

for those who have recently died:

Dorota Cendrowska,
Sofia Rosa Battista,
Colm Fox
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Fr Dennis Hare IC,
Sr Mary Giovanna Jose,
Vera Cunningham,
Dreda Clarke,
Brian Dzdudzewicz,
Ambo Faulks,
Connie Moulton,
John Walsh,
Olga Keane,
Janet Edwards,
Charles Farrell,
Salvatore Fele,
Jane West,
Mary Scrivens

PLEASE NOTE

Due to government regulations regarding personal data (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 9th Vigil Mass
6.00pm 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**

Mon 11th Feria
9.15am Colm Fox (RIP)

Tues 12th The Most Holy Name of Mary (Memoria)
9.15am Emily Houston (RIP)

Weds 13th Feria
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary*
6.30pm Venancio Castillo Snr (RIP, Anniversary) (Latin)
Sung Mass of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Thurs 14th Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Feast)
9.15am Derek Whymark (RIP)
11.00am *Funeral Service: Sofia Rosa Battista (RIP)*

Fri 15th Our Lady of Sorrows (Memoria)
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Salvatore Fele (RIP, Anniversary)

Sat 16th Saints Cornelius and Cyprian (Memoria)
10.00am Intention for the living (GE) **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 17th Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Jennefer Tobin (RIP)
11.15am Andrew Carr (RIP, Anniversary)
4.00pm **Italian Mass**

This week at St Mary's

Tues 12th Bible Study - 7.00pm in the library

Weds 13th UCM, 2-4pm in the parish hall

www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk

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There are instances in the Bible where ghosts or spirits appear to the living. In the Old Testament, Saul gets the **Witch of Endor** to summon up the ghost of Samuel for evil ends (1 Samuel 28). Then in the New Testament, Moses who had died centuries earlier, appeared with JESUS on Mount Tabor at the **Transfiguration** (Matthew 17:1-8). And then in Luke (24:36-43), the resurrected Christ appears to the disciples and they think He is a ghost. Now JESUS here didn't tell them ghosts don't exist, but simply said He wasn't a ghost. If they didn't exist, He would have said, "Ghosts don't exist." So here is an affirmation by JESUS that ghosts do indeed exist.

Finally, **there is a vast difference between praying to a saint and summoning up the dead**. When the Church **canonises** a saint, she is formally telling us that a particular person is now in Heaven, and so in that sense they are **alive**, and it is therefore good to pray to them and ask for their intercession. So when the Bible tells us not to communicate with **the dead** (Deuteronomy 18:11), it's referring to the damned, who spiritually speaking are dead. They are dead in mortal sin for all eternity, whereas as praying to the saints is not communicating with the dead, because they are alive in Christ.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

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.

School admissions to Catholic Secondary Academies (Year 7) - Children born between 01/09/2012 and 31/08/2013.

The deadline for submitting your application for a school place is 31st October 2023. Application forms are available on your 'home' Local Authority website. For every Catholic school you apply for if you wish your child to be considered and ranked under a faith criterion you should also complete a supplementary information form, and return this form to the school by the deadline, (forms are available from the LA and the school). You **MUST** also include the supporting evidence as required with this form, eg baptism certificate (photocopies acceptable; if you do not have the evidence contact the parish where your child was baptised for a copy certificate in good time). Failure to supply the required supporting evidence will mean your child is ranked in a lower criterion which may affect your chance of a place.

Today is Education Sunday and there is a Pastoral Letter from the Bishop in which he is seeking to appoint new foundation directors and governors for our Catholic Multi-Academy Trusts and schools. If you would like to know more about these rewarding voluntary roles, please contact Peter Giorgio (Director of Education) by emailing the Director's PA, Julie Sweeney (julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk) or by telephoning 01332 293833

Ahead of Education Sunday the Catholic Union is encouraging people to sign an open letter to the Education Secretary calling for the 50 percent cap on faith-based admissions to new free schools to be lifted. The cap is preventing the Catholic Church in England from taking part in the free schools programme. The letter is available to sign at www.catholicunion.org.uk

'No sacrifice seems too great to follow Him'. The monthly gatherings to discern a vocation to the Priesthood will be starting on Friday 29th September at Holy Spirit, West Bridgford, beginning with Mass at 6pm. For more information email the Vocations Director at vocations@dioceseofnottingham.uk or telephone 01283 564814

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.

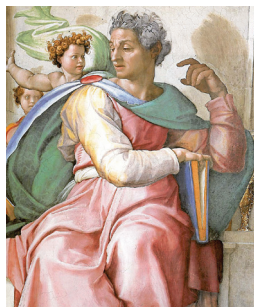
Vocation Day of Discernment: Saturday 7th October 10am-3pm at The Rosmini Centre, Ratchliffe-On-The-Wreake. There will be an opportunity to talk to Frs Antonio, Ted, and Philip about the calling to the Religious Life and to the Institute of Charity (Rosminians) in particular, an opportunity to join the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

The Knights of St Columba are holding their next quiz in Sacred Heart Parish Hall at 7.30pm on Saturday 23rd September 2023, with all profits from the evening going to local charities. 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.

From the Saints

And when they say to you, "Consult the mediums and the wizards who chirp and mutter," should not a people consult their God? Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living?'

(Prophet Isaiah, 8th - 7th century BC)



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

St.Mary's School As we begin the new academic year we welcome back to school the children, their families and the staff. The youngest members of the school community have settled in well. We extend a warm welcome to new members of the teaching staff, Mrs. Nicholls and support staff Miss Baratt, Miss Clark, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Hedley. We are grateful for the support of our Priests, Fr. Paul and Fr. David, both are a reassuring presence in the school community. Thank you to all. *Jane Monaghan*

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

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £747 of which £217 was gift-aided

Standing orders: £739 @ 31/08, of which £668 was gift-aided

Attendance: 441

Thank you
