

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

33rd SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

The Deadly Sin of Sloth



In today's Gospel we hear the famous **Parable of the Talents** (Matthew 25:14-30) in which JESUS urges us to be ready for the Master's return. He Himself is that Master, and that return will be either at the moment of our death or at His Second Coming.

In the parable, the talents are not distributed equally. One servant received five talents, another received two, and the other just one, each according to their ability. The Master returned after a long time. The first two had doubled their investment and were rewarded, whereas the third who had done nothing and hid it in the ground was punished and *"thrown out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth"*. He hadn't done anything immoral but his sins were those of omission rather than commission. So it is possible to lose our souls by doing nothing. He had been lazy or slothful and had not used the talents he had been given.

Sloth or laziness is one of the **Seven Deadly Sins**. It does not refer to legitimate recreation or rest. We all need time for ourselves to relax and chill out, especially if we've been working hard. But when we think only of ourselves and our own comfort and become unwilling to do anything for anybody else, and when we neglect our **spiritual duties**, this can cause us serious damage. **St Thomas Aquinas** (1225-1274) speaks of sloth as *"sorrow for spiritual good"* and as *"a sadness arising from the fact that the good is difficult"*. In other words, we can have an aversion to improving our spiritual lives because it involves too much effort. It involves the setting aside of worldly or carnal pleasures, some of which may even be sinful. We all hear the devil whispering in our ear that God accepts me and loves me just as I am and so I don't have to bother improving myself. If we give in to these thoughts it causes our spiritual life to deteriorate and we begin to fall into more serious sins. Neither do we want to be so 'busy' in life that we neglect spiritual things. God does love us, but He wants us to become holy, and that **requires effort on our part**. **St Jane Frances de Chantal** (1572-1641) said, *"Hell is full of the talented, but Heaven of the energetic"*. In other words, we will be judged

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

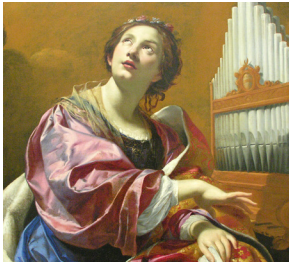
Loughborough LE11 4SQ

01509 268739

enquiries@delisle.leics.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr C Maher

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St Cecilia, Patron Saint of Music

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 18th Vigil Mass
6.00pm Dec'd of Giorgio & Mancini Families

Sun 19th Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Gino Romano (RIP, Anniversary)
4.00pm **Italian Mass**

Mon 20th Feria
9.15am Vincenzo Caruso (RIP)
6.30pm *Holy Hour for the Holy Souls in Purgatory*

Tues 21st The Presentation of the BVM (Memoria)
9.15am Emily Houston (RIP)

Weds 22nd St Cecilia, virgin and martyr
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary*
6.30pm Natalie Gillham (RIP) (Latin)

Thurs 23rd St Clement I (Memoria)
9.15am Aislabie Harrison (RIP, Anniversary)

Fri 24th St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions (Memoria)
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Holy Souls

Sat 25th St Catherine of Alexandria (Memoria)
10.00am Ray Wainwright (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:** John McDermott (RIP)

Sun 26th Christ the King - Solemnity
9.00am Paola & Luigi Bellofatto (RIP)
11.15am Andy Newbold (RIP, Anniversary)
4.00pm **Italian Mass**

This week at St Mary's

Tues 21st Bible Study - 7.00pm in the library
Weds 22nd UCM - 2.00pm in the hall
Thurs 23rd RCIA - 7.00pm in the library
Sat 25th Christmas Fair - 10.30am-2.00pm in the hall

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Fr Sean Walsh IC
Francesca Carmela Sepede
Barbara Morrison
Stephen Bowmer
May Sweetman
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Jean Woodcock
Tina Cassella
Carmela Giancola
Pat McLoughlin
Vincenzo Caruso
Lidia Buttarazzi
Michele Caggiano
Andy Newbold
Jennifer White

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.

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not on how many talents we had, but on how we used the ones we were given, and whether we used them towards a supernatural end.

So what talents has God given you? How are you using them? Do you cultivate the gifts God has given you? If you have monetary gifts, do you help those in need? Almsgiving is an essential part of the spiritual life. Could you be a volunteer for a worthy organisation? Could you sing in the choir? Could you help clean the church? Is there a sick person you could visit or do shopping for? Do you pray and make sacrifices for the souls in Purgatory? **The majority of the saints didn't become holy overnight.** For most it was the result of a life of humble sacrifices and loving actions. Even insignificant actions done out of love of God have supernatural value. St Thérèse of Lisieux famously said, *"To pick up a pin for love can convert a soul"*.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Holy Hour for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. Please note that there will be a special Holy Hour on **Monday 20th November at 6.30pm** during which we will pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. There are also prayer sheets at the back of the church for the Holy Souls which you are encouraged to pray especially during the month of November. *Fr Paul*

CHRISTMAS FAIR, Saturday 25th November, 10.30am - 2.00pm.

The UCM are collecting donations for their stalls and would be grateful for new **tombola prizes, bottles, toys and children's books in good condition.** Please give your donations to any UCM member or leave at the Repository labelled 'Christmas Fair'. Donations of **sweets, lollys and chocolate** are also being requested. Please leave these at the Repository labelled 'Rebecca Offiler-Russell'. Thank you. **All donations needed by 21st November** please.

Loughborough Food Bank/Your Store: The next collection will be on Saturday **16th December** between 10.30 and 11.00am in the car park. Further details later.

The next KSC Quiz will be on Saturday 25th November 2023, 7.30pm in Sacred Heart Parish Hall. All profits from the evening going to The Carpenters Arms, the local Loughborough based Christian charity for men with addiction problems. £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.

VACANCIES

The Diocese of Nottingham is pleased to announce two opportunities for individuals to assist in the mission of the diocese, though **Young Adult Ministry** and through **Communication**. These new roles will provide key practical support in fulfilling and expanding the objectives of our small but effective one-person departments of Formation for Mission, Communications, and Outreach (Caritas). To apply visit: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers

English Martyrs' Catholic Voluntary Academy, Oakham are seeking to appoint a new **headteacher** starting April 2024. Further details and an application form can be found at www.aquinas-cmat.org/careers/vacancies. **Closing date: 24th November 2023**

MISSIO have written to thank you for your generous donation of £431 on World Mission Sunday.

They ask for your continued prayers.

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.

Statue of St Michael: A parishioner has kindly donated a beautiful statue of St Michael the Archangel which will remain at the front of the church during November. Tradition tells us that St Michael is the ‘Guardian of Purgatory’ and that he holds ‘The Keys of Purgatory’. In the life of mystics St Michael is often seen sending his angels to console souls in Purgatory by sprinkling them with the Precious Blood of JESUS. St Michael is also seen escorting souls from Purgatory into Heaven.

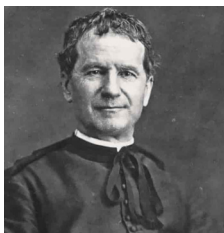
Retreat-Pilgrimage to Italy in the footsteps of Blessed Antonio Rosmini, 13-23 May 2024, with Fr David Tobin IC

Visiting Roverto, Verona, Bergamo, Domodossola, Stresa and Lake Maggiore. £1,645.00. See leaflet at the back of the church for more information. For any further details, contact the retreat organiser, Dr Anthony Weaver: 0207 379 7273 - retreatsdover@gmail.com.

From the Saints

“Idleness is the father of all vices.”

(St John Bosco, 1815-1888)



Catholic Schools Carol

Concert: A festive Concert in aid of Menphys. **Friday 1st December** at 7.15pm. Tickets sold by De Montfort Hall. A coach will be going from St Mary's school: please contact the school office if you would like a seat.

LACY (Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth)

are hosting an afternoon of craft and liturgy on **Sunday 10th December 2023** (3.00-4.30pm) at St Thomas More Church, Leicester LE2 3HN, creating cards with Christmas messages to be distributed to the sick and housebound. Christmas treats, mince pies and drinks will be served during the afternoon. Everyone welcome! More information available from Pauline Payne – Tel: 07885 187374 or email joshearer@hotmail.com/paulinepayne@hotmail.com.

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £764 of which £102 was gift-aided

Standing orders: £717 @ 31/10, of which £650 was gift-aided

Attendance: 604

Thank you
