

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

31st SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

Before or after?

Some years ago, a wise old priest was asked how many people had attended the early morning Mass on a particular day, and he replied, *“There were thousands but I only saw eight of them”*. So in addition to those eight who got up in time to attend the early Mass, **God had allowed thousands of souls in Purgatory to attend that Mass**, as He does at ever Mass, along with Our Lady, St Joseph, St Michael and myriads of angels and saints. We don’t see everything that actually happens at Mass, and if we did we would be utterly amazed and overwhelmed.

During **November** particularly, we celebrate Masses for the Holy Souls in Purgatory which is one of the great **Spiritual Works of Mercy**. But which is more profitable – to have Masses celebrated for us during life or after our death? The following points I have taken from the book **‘Charity for the Suffering Souls’** by Fr John Nageleisen.

Many Catholics leave funds in their Will to have Masses celebrated for them after their death, and this is a very praiseworthy thing to do and no one should be dissuaded from doing so. However, **St Leonard of Port Maurice (1676-1751) says it is more profitable and meritorious to have these Masses celebrated for us while we are still alive as opposed to having many celebrated for us after our death**. Here are some of the reasons:

1. If we have a Mass celebrated for us during our lifetime, we have been the cause of it and can assist at it, which after death is not possible.
2. If a Mass is celebrated for us during life and we are perhaps in a state of sin, by virtue of the Mass, we could well receive from God’s mercy the grace to recognise our sinful state, be moved to contrition, and then to reconcile ourselves with God by making a good, humble confession. This grace cannot be obtained after death, and if we die in a state of mortal sin, many thousands of Masses would not put us into a state of grace. We would remain cut off from God for eternity.

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www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk



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



St Michael, 'Guardian of Purgatory'

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Stephen Bowmer, May Sweetman
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Marion Uttley, Ron Lucas, Teresa Brewin, Andrew Slevin, Frances Ebong, Parny Tinker, Dirk Van Der Meyden, Margaret Veals, Alice Hoggan, Tony Daly, Michele Giorgio, Lea Chievetta, Peggy Hicks, Marion Scrivens, Domenico Romano, Ken Gillham

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 4th Vigil Mass
6.00pm Holy Souls

Sun 5th Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Colette McDermott (RIP)
11.15am For the Parish
3.00pm *Blessing of Graves, Loughborough Cemetery*
4.00pm **Italian Mass**

Mon 6th Feria
9.15am Reparation for disrespect to the Blessed Sacrament

Tues 7th Feria
9.15am Frances Ebong (RIP, Anniversary)

Weds 8th Feria
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary*
6.30pm Holy Souls (Latin)

Thurs 9th Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (Feast)
9.15am Michele Giorgio (RIP, Anniversary)

Fri 10th St Leo the Great (Memoria)
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Mass for the Bereaved - For the Faithful Departed

Sat 11th St Martin of Tours (Memoria)
10.00am Holy Souls **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: Giuseppina Giorgio (RIP)**

Sun 12th Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Domenico Romano (RIP, Anniversary)
11.15am Requiem for the Fallen
4.00pm **Italian Mass**

This week at St Mary's

Weds 8th UCM - 2.00pm in the hall
Thurs 9th RCIA - 7.00pm in the library

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3. A Mass offered for us during life can obtain for us the grace of a happy death, because it will move God to assist us in triumphing over the enemy in that decisive hour.
4. If Masses are said for us before our death, we will increase in merit and therefore spend a shorter time in Purgatory, especially if we attend them with real devotion. If they are celebrated only after our death, we could be a long time in Purgatory awaiting their celebration which could be very painful. Thus it is better to accumulate these benefits in advance than to wait for them in the cleansing fires of Purgatory.
5. By asking for a Mass to be said during life, we make an offering to God, thereby depriving ourselves of some earthly gratification. After death we deprive ourselves of nothing because our earthly joys have now ended. Therefore it must be more meritorious and pleasing to God to make this offering during our lifetime.
6. When we perform a good act in a state of grace, we receive a double reward: the remission of part of the punishment due to our sins, thus meriting a higher degree of glory in Heaven. When the Mass is offered only after our death, even though it pays part of our debt of sin, our glory is not increased in Heaven. Even if thousands of Masses were celebrated for us after our death, our heavenly glory would not be increased one iota.

Therefore, as **St Anselm** (1033-1109) said, *“To hear one Holy Mass devoutly in life is more profitable than to bequeath so much that thousands can be said after death”*.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Prayers for the Holy Souls in Purgatory: There are prayer sheets at the back of the church for the Holy Souls which you are encouraged to pray especially during the month of November.

NOVEMBER INDULGENCES FOR THE HOLY SOULS

Don't forget you may gain a plenary indulgence for the Holy Souls in Purgatory by visiting a cemetery **before 8th November** and praying there for the dead. The usual conditions of Confession, Holy Communion and prayers for the Pope's intention apply.

You may gain a partial indulgence for the Holy Souls anytime by saying the prayer: *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen*

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The UCM are collecting donations for their Christmas fair stalls. We would be grateful for new tombola prizes, toys and books in good condition. Please give your donations to any UCM member or leave them at the Repository labelled 'For the Christmas Fair'. Thank you *Dorothy Hutchings*

Donations of sweets, lollys and chocolate are also being requested for the fair. Please leave these at the Repository labelled 'Rebecca Offiler-Russell'.

First Holy Communion:

Applications for next years First Holy Communion are now closed. A reminder that there is a Parent's Meeting this **Monday 6th November** at 7pm in the hall at which Mass Attendance Cards will be distributed.

The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst is

offering a Pre-Advent Retreat 'Why God Became Man' from **Friday 24th to Sunday 26th November**. The retreat will be preached by Father Armand de Malleray FSSP. Information and registration is available at www.ChristianHeritageCentre.com/events/why-god-became-man

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.

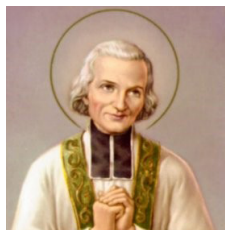
Prayer to Saint Michael

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, Fr Anthony Weaver: 0207 379 7273 - retreatsdover@gmail.com.



From the Saints

“If we knew the value of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, how much greater effort we would put forth in order to assist at it.”

(St John Marie Vianney, 1786-1859)

Our annual Mass for the Bereaved, will be on Friday 10th November

at 6.30pm. A Requiem Mass will be celebrated for all our departed loved ones. Votive lamps will be provided on which you may write the name of anyone you wish to remember. All are welcome.

Next Sunday 12th November is Remembrance Sunday, and the 11.15 am Mass will be a Requiem Mass for the fallen.

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: £824 of which £142 was gift-aided

Standing orders: £736 @ 30/09, of which £668 was gift-aided

Attendance: 595

Thank you
