

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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office@

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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

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Headteacher: Mr C Maher

NEWSLETTER

A virgin shall conceive

With our carol services and Rorate Mass, we have already heard St Luke's account of the Annunciation several times this Advent, and it's our Gospel for Mass today (1:36-28), the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

In Isaiah chapter 7 we hear about how *"a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel"* (7:14). Then in the Gospel of the Annunciation we learn *how* the prophecy is to be fulfilled.

After all, how can a virgin conceive a child, because then she would no longer be a virgin? The paradox is unlocked in the Gospel. The virgin of Nazareth conceives **by the power of the Holy Spirit**, and she doesn't just conceive any child, but One Whose **human** nature is hypostatically united to His **divine** nature, so that He can truly be called "Emmanuel" – which means, **"God with us"**. That is God in the flesh, God in the midst of mankind. And His first dwelling is the spotless womb of the most pure Virgin Mary, immaculate from the moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, St Anne.

This is a powerful reminder to us of **God's activity**, because without **His action**, this miraculous conception couldn't have happened.

In other words, **He initiated it** – He intervened in history to bring about our salvation. God desires our salvation and arranges the events of history to help bring it about, including taking on our human flesh and then suffering in it. This was the purpose of His coming. In the past, people had spoken of God in all kinds of different ways, and God has spoken to us in many different ways.

But with the Incarnation something new has happened – **He has actually appeared among us and is visible to us**. God is no longer merely an idea. We no longer have to form a picture of Him in our minds on the basis of mere words, because He has now actually appeared in human form. As we read in the letter to the Hebrews, *"In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days, He has spoken to us by a Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world"* (1:1)

May God bless you all, and on behalf of Fr David and myself, I wish you a very Merry Christmas (Mary, Christ, Mass) and a blessed New Year.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC



St Stephen

**Please pray for those
who are sick**

**for those who have
recently died**

Mary Nash

Liam Sloan

May they rest in peace

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

Sue Moreland, Ian Merriman,

Palma Chomik, Christine

Temple, Norah Thurland,

Tony Ready, Veronica

Hammond-Young, Mary

Cochrane, Louis Madge,

Peter Harvey, Eileen

Sutton, Linda Wagstaff

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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 23rd

6.00pm

Vigil Mass

Vivincia Castillo (RIP, Anniversary)

Sun 24th

9.00am

Fourth Sunday of Advent

For the Parish

11.15am

Wladyslaw Moson (RIP)

Sun 24th

5.30pm

Vigil Mass of Christmas (Solemnity) *Holiday of Obligation*

Carols

6.00pm

Henryka & Piotr Abucewicz (RIP)

11.30pm

Carols

Mon 25th

12.00am

Nativity of the Lord (Solemnity) *Holiday of Obligation*

Midnight Mass: Andy Newbold (RIP)

10.30am

Derek Whymark (RIP)

Tues 26th

10.30am

St Stephen (Feast) *Mass for Altar Servers*

Greg O'Connor (RIP)

Weds 27th

6.00-6.25pm

St John the Evangelist (Feast)

Parish Rosary

6.30pm

Norah Thurland (RIP) (Ordinariate Mass & blessing of wine)

Thurs 28th

9.15am

The Holy Innocents (Feast)

Dennis Edwin Hargreaves

Fri 29th

6.00-6.25pm

St Thomas Becket (Feast)

Confessions

6.30pm

Intention for the living

Sat 30th

10.00am

Advent FERIA

Intention for the living

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: Stephen Bowmer (RIP)

Sun 31st

9.00am

The Holy Family (Feast)

For the Parish

11.15am

Pope Benedict XVI (RIP, Anniversary)

7.00pm

Te Deum and Benediction

Mass Intentions *(continued)*

Mon 1st **Mary Mother of God (Solemnity)**
10.30am For the Church

Tues 2nd **Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen (Memoria)**
9.15am Mario Sepede (RIP)

Weds 3rd **Christmas Feria**
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary*
6.30pm Intention for the living (Latin)

Thurs 4th **Christmas Feria**
9.15am Phyllis Harrison (RIP)

Fri 5th **Christmas Feria** *First Friday*
6.30pm For our Deceased Relatives & Friends

Sat 6th **Christmas Feria** *Five First Saturdays Devotion*
10.00am Brian Smith (RIP, Anniversary) **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:** Anthony Joseph Heath (RIP)

Sun 7th **The Epiphany of the Lord (Solemnity)**
9.00am Domenico Romano (RIP)
11.15am For the Parish
4.00pm Italian Mass

Wednesday 27th December is the Feast of St John the

Evangelist and Apostle: There is a traditional **blessing of wine** on this day. The story is that an attempt was made to kill St John with poisoned wine. However, he blessed the cup and the poison extracted itself from the wine and crawled out of the chalice in the form of a snake. Bring a bottle of wine for blessing at the end of 6.30pm which Fr David will celebrate in the Ordinariate rite.

St Mary's School: Throughout Advent the school have prepared for Christmas through liturgies, services of Reconciliation, Nativity plays and culminating in a carol service led by the Key Stage Two children. We wish the children, their families and all the staff a Happy Christmastide. Thanks to Frs Paul and David for their continued support of the school community.

Jane Monaghan

The Christmas Vigil Mass

this Sunday will be preceded by carols at 5.30pm.

Altar Servers: The 10.30am Mass on **Tuesday 26th December** will be a special Mass for our altar servers on the feast day of their patron, St Stephen. All are welcome to attend.

On Sunday 31st December, at 7.00pm, there will be the traditional *Te Deum* and Benediction in thanksgiving for the year. There is a plenary indulgence attached to this devotion.

The Epiphany next year will be celebrated on **Sunday 7th January**. Chalk blessed at all the weekend Masses will be available for you to take, together with the instructions to inscribe the traditional blessing on your homes.

Anniversaries *(continued)*

Estrella Hunter, Patrick Tunney, Carmen DeSousa, Gary Moore, Alice Onions, Brian Marchant, Joseph Simpson, Sabine Sienko, Joe Guarasci, Frank Savage, Roy Dakin, Dorothy Boyce, Jim Moreland, Frank Barraclough, Brian Smith

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.

Knights of St Columba: The young adults of the Loughborough and Sileby parishes will again be leading an end of Christmastide service of lessons and carols at 4.15pm on **Sunday 7th January 2024** in Sacred Heart Church, Park Road, Loughborough. There will be refreshments for everyone afterwards in the parish hall. Undergraduates and students in Years 5 to 13 willing to participate, please contact Richard Mitchell (Rmitchell@constructivebusiness.com or 07812-997847) by Monday evening **1st January 2024**. Thank you.

The office will be closed next week and there will be no newsletter next weekend

From the Saints

"He took on the form of a servant without the defilement of sin, thereby enhancing the human and not diminishing the divine."

(Pope St Leo the Great, d.461)



Christmas Masses

Sunday 24th December

5.30pm: *Carols*

6.00pm: Family Vigil Mass

11.30pm: *Carols*

Monday 25th December

12.00am: Midnight Mass

10.30am: Solemn Mass

Thank you for all your Christmas greetings, cards and gifts. We are very grateful, especially in these difficult times.

Fr Paul & Fr David

Fr Simon would like to wish everyone at St Mary's a happy and blessed Christmas.

Christmas Collection:

The collection will be for parish funds. If you wish to make a personal offering to the priests, please put it in one of the white (IOC) envelopes. thank you.

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £894 of which £131 was gift-aided

Standing orders: £722 @ 30/11, of which £650 was gift-aided

Attendance: 478

Thank you
