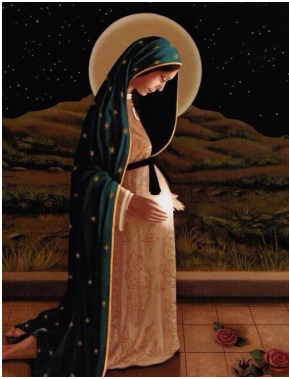


St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

NEWSLETTER

God's answer - a child!



St Mary of the Annunciation
Catholic Church

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Loughborough LE11 3AB
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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

enquiries@delisle.leics.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr C Maher

Everyone is rooting for an unborn child, then exploding in celebration when he is born. It's that time of year again. The yearly December pro-life celebration that has everyone rooting for an unborn child, then exploding in celebration when he is born. Everyone gets involved: Our town and city streets are redecorated to celebrate the birth to come. Music in shops celebrate an impoverished mother and adoptive father who committed to carrying the child to term. And everywhere you look, corporations entice you with new ways to celebrate a refugee couple giving birth far from home.

Christmas is the biggest pro-life celebration in the world. **Advent reminds us why this joy ignited thousands of years of Christmas celebrations.** Advent is the season of darkness. It takes place in the literal darkest days of the year, and it is filled with the words of prophets who are deeply unsettled about the state of the world, *"Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down!"* Isaiah cries. He sees *"a root from the stump of Jesse"* and predicts *"a child will be born to us"*.

In **Advent**, a dark world longs for a saviour, and the great Jewish prophet sees what God will do: **He will send a baby. Into this darkness, God sent an angel to Mary in Nazareth.** The angel who visits Mary gives her remarkable news: She will be pregnant with a child who will receive an eternal kingdom. The story has many layers of meaning, but one thing it spells out is that **unborn children and infants** are critically important. As if to emphasize that point, the angel tells Mary that her relative, Elizabeth, is also pregnant, in her sixth month. Mary goes "in haste" to her house in the "hill country of Judea," a trip that, even if you hurried, would have taken at least a week or two. After that, Mary stayed at Elizabeth's, presumably, for at least three months. We now know what this would mean in Jesus' development. Around day 20, Jesus' heart began to beat — the **Sacred Heart's** first activity. A month later, all of his bodily systems would be present, including little fingers and toes. But on the day Mary first arrived — when Jesus was just 10 to 20 days old — none of that had happened. **What was Jesus like then?** At the earliest stage, a human embryo is already a **boy or girl**, with DNA setting life expectancy and other traits.

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The Immaculate Conception

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Carmelina Cuff

Norah McKeown

Carmela Sepede

Barbara Morrison

Stephen Bowmer

May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Robert Di-Niro, Margaret

Sheafe, Fernando

Buttarazzi, Bill Flatley,

Dorothy Fellows, Elizabeth

Kendell, James Callan,

Cyril Dale, Arthur Makey,

Salvatore Corbinzolu, Terry

Oliver, Teresa Denton,

James Slevin

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 Charles Connolly (RIP)

Sun 3rd First Sunday of Advent
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Michael Smith (RIP, Anniversary)
4.00pm **Italian Mass**

Mon 4th St John Damascene (Memoria)
9.15am Gracy de Souza (RIP, Anniversary) & Ashwin de Souza (RIP)

Tues 5th Advent Feria
9.15am Peter Sadd (RIP)
11.15am *Requiem Mass: Barbara Morrison RIP*
5.30pm *Reception of Carmela Sepede RIP*

Weds 6th St Nicholas, Bishop & Confessor
12.30pm *Requiem: Carmela Sepede RIP*
6.00-6.25pm *Parish Rosary*
6.30pm Derek Whymark (RIP) (Sung Latin)

Thurs 7th St Ambrose (Memoria)
9.15am Venancio Castillo Snr (RIP, Anniversary)
4.30pm *Reception of Stephen Bowmer RIP*

Fri 8th Immaculate Conception (Solemnity)
12.30pm *Requiem Mass: Stephen Bowmer RIP*
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Evelyn Woodhouse (RIP)

Sat 9th St John Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin (Memoria)
10.00am Donna Brighton (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:** Catherine Connolly (RIP)

Sun 10th Second Sunday of Advent
9.00am James O'Rourke (RIP)
11.15am For the Parish
4.00pm **Italian Mass**
6.00pm Parish Carol Service

This week at St Mary's

Thurs 7th RCIA - 7.00pm in the library

Continued from front page

Jesus the embryo, was already Jesus, but He didn't look at all like Jesus yet.

And so it was that, before the Sacred Heart had begun to beat, before the hands of Christ that would break bread had formed, before the feet that would walk on water had toes, Mary arrived at Elizabeth's house. And Luke's Gospel tells us that *"She entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb."* Mary brought the unborn Jesus to Elizabeth's house, and as soon as she arrived, an unborn child reacted to the sound of her voice. A baby more than six months in utero witnessed to Jesus Christ, who was just a few days in utero.

This astounding witness to the unborn Jesus was greatly amplified after Jesus was born.

Before his birth, an unborn prophet witnessed to him with a jump. After birth, a multitude of angels proclaimed: "To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Men came from the Far East with gifts and asked, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him."

The birth of Jesus is so important, it remains part of Christian spirituality to this day. Jesus tells Nicodemus, and us, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* St. Paul explains that this birth by baptism makes us adopted sons of God, like Christ, *"all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ... When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God."*

So, this Advent and Christmas, let's pray for the unborn.

A great and powerful king was once in the same position as them, and He came to save us all!

Fr David Jones OLV

Advent begins this Sunday. Are you ready spiritually? Don't forget to get your copy of 'Walk with Me' (from the back of the church) with short daily meditations for Advent and Christmas. Suggested donation: £1.

Loughborough Food Bank/Your Store: The Christmas collection will be on Saturday **16th December** between 10.30 and 11.00am in the car park. There are posters on the notice boards and the front door with ideas for contributions. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Jane Monaghan

Parish Carol Service

Please note there will be only one Parish Carol Service, **on Sunday 10th December at 6.00pm.** The one advertised for 17th December will not take place.

Rorate Mass

As is our tradition, there will be a 'Rorate Mass' (the Advent Mass of Our Lady celebrated by candlelight) on **Friday 15th December** at 6.45am. Please note there will be no evening Mass that day. Make the most of Advent as this year, as with Christmas Day falling on a Monday, we lose an entire week of Advent.

Christmas Masses

Please note that with Christmas Day falling on a Monday, Masses will be as follows:

Sunday 24th December

6.00pm: Family Vigil Mass
11.30pm: Carols

Monday 25th December

12.00am: Midnight Mass
10.30am: Solemn Mass

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.

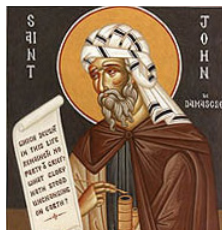
There will be a gathering of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at Sacred Heart Church, Park Road, Loughborough, on **Saturday 9th December**. There will be a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 2 to 3pm with an opportunity for Confession afterwards. Three priests will assist. All Extraordinary Ministers are encouraged to attend.

The second collection this weekend is for Exaireo, a local Christian charity that houses, rehabilitates and finds work for homeless people. The money raised will contribute to a Christmas lunch held for about 50 residents and volunteers in the week before Christmas. You can also donate by bank transfer to the following account: The Exaireo Trust Ltd | Sort code: 40-52-40 | Acc No: 00017334. Thank you.

From the Saints

'The whole earth is a living icon of the face of God. All is His handiwork.'

(St John Damascene, 676-749)



Winter coat appeal

Year 10 students at Ratcliffe College are supporting Care4Calais as their charity this academic year. Care4Calais is a volunteer run charity delivering essential aid and support to refugees living in the UK, France and Belgium. The students are collecting coats which are no longer needed but are imperative for the comfort of refugees this winter. If you have any coats to donate, please drop them off at the church after Mass on **Saturday 9th or Sunday 10th December** for collection. Alternatively contact Alicia Corbinzolu at acorbinzolu@ratcliffecollege.com for further information.

Christmas Fair

Many thanks to all who supported or contributed to this year's Christmas Fair which raised £1,300. See the raffle prize list at the back of the church for the names of all the winners.

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £697 of which £105 was gift-aided

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

Attendance: 555

Thank you
