

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

NEWSLETTER

Vocations Sunday



**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

The Church has chosen this Sunday, also known as **'Good Shepherd Sunday'** to pray for **vocations to the priesthood**. It is, therefore, also **'Vocations Sunday'**. Our Lord in today's Gospel calls Himself the Good Shepherd (John 10:14) because He wants to take care of us all personally. *"The sheep that belong to Me listen to My voice: I know them and they follow Me. I give them eternal life"* (John 10:27-28). The priest is an 'alter Christus' or 'another Christ', whose task it is to bring those entrusted to his care to eternal salvation, to save their souls. Today, as we all know, there is a grave lack of priests, so this affects all of us, whether we like it or not. More and more parishes are having to be amalgamated, and in some areas one priest can be taking care of up to four churches. Daily Mass in a parish church is quickly becoming a thing of the past. So what do we do?

Our Lord told us what to do. *"Pray to the Lord of the harvest, that He send labourers into His harvest"* (Matthew 9:38). In other words we have to **pray** for vocations and we have to pray very hard. Where there are vocations, it is a sign that there has been much prayer. Where there are no vocations it is a sign that prayer has been lacking, or at the very least, there has not been enough of it. We can do all the promotion and advertising imaginable, but without prayer there will be no fruits. St Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, *"The most important hours for my communities are the four hours of community prayers each day."* And the result is plentiful vocations.

Today we hear frequently that the seminaries are empty with many closing, and people even wonder if God has stopped calling men to the priesthood because He wants the laity to take over. No! The Catholic Church needs priests to function, otherwise it would not be the Church Christ founded. A Church without priests would be Protestant. **Our Lord founded a hierarchical Church with bishops and priests to offer the Sacrifice of the Mass, to administer the Sacraments and to govern.** God keeps calling people to this life, but do people hear Him? There needs to be a fervent Catholic environment in families, and the young must be taught not to deny God whatever He asks for. We must pray continuously for vocations from our own homes and families, and that those God is calling will hear that call.

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St George, Patron of England

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Fr John Warnaby
Rosalind Mottram
Harold Glover
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Daniel O'Connell
Jack Brady
Edward Connell
Peter Cawley
Jeff Field
Robert Misiura
Joan Brain
Monica Davidson
Barry Clarkson
Giovanni Di Cosmo
Barbara Carpenter
Danuta Ereminowicz
Jan Orzeszek

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 20th	Vigil Mass	
6.00pm	Giuseppina Giorgio (RIP)	

Sun 21st	Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)	
9.00am	Deceased of the Monaghan & Kenyon Families	
11.15am	For the Parish	
4.00pm	Italian Mass	

Mon 22nd	Easter Feria	
9.15am	William & Edward Angrave (RIP)	

Tues 23rd	St George, Patron of England (Solemnity)	
9.15am	Patrick Brennan (RIP)	

Weds 24th	Easter Feria	
6.30pm	Intention for the living (Sung Latin of St George)	

Thurs 25th	St Mark, Evangelist (Feast)	
9.15am	Sr Anna Patricia (RIP)	

Fri 26th	Easter Feria	
6.00-6.25pm	<i>Confessions</i>	
6.30pm	Vittorio Giorgio (RIP)	

Sat 27th	Easter Feria	NO PUBLIC MASS
10.00am	Intention for the living	
10.30am	<i>Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	
-12.30pm	<i>with Confessions 10.30-11.30am & Benediction 12.20pm</i>	
6.00pm	Vigil Mass: Henryka Abucewicz (RIP, Anniversary)	

Sun 28th	Fifth Sunday of Easter	
9.00am	For the Parish	
11.15am	Betty Lane (RIP)	
4.00pm	Italian Mass	

Rosary: Mon, Tues, Thurs after 9.15am Mass; Wed, Fri at 6.00pm; First Saturday of each month after 10.00am Mass

This week at St Mary's

Mon 22nd	First Holy Communion Class - 4.15pm in the hall
Tues 23rd	Bible study - 7.00pm in the library
Weds 24th	UCM - 2.00pm in the library

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At the beginning of the nineteenth century in this country, a woman spent an hour a day in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament that just one of her ten children would consecrate themselves to God. After some years, nine of them became consecrated religious and the tenth became the famous Victorian Cardinal, **Nicholas Wiseman** (1802-65).

St John Vianney (1786-1859) the Patron Saint of Parish Priests wrote, *“Without the Sacrament of Holy Orders, we would not have the Lord. Who put Him there in that tabernacle? The priest. Who welcomed your soul at the beginning of your life? The priest. Who feeds your soul and gives it strength for its journey? The priest. Who will prepare it to appear before God, bathing it one last time in the blood of JESUS Christ? The priest, always the priest. And if this soul should happen to die (as a result of sin) who will raise it up, who will restore its calm and peace? Again, the priest ... After God, the priest is everything! Only in Heaven will he fully realise what he is.”*

The Church and the world needs priests and we need holy and faithful priests! Pray for your priests that we live up to our calling. Could God be calling someone reading this to the priesthood or religious life? Do you know somebody who might make a good priest? Pray for them. Perhaps even suggest it to them. We can all be vocation promoters by helping those around you to live a Christian life. A priestly vocation, and therefore the salvation of many souls, could be depending on you!

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Foodbank/Your Store The next collection will be on **Saturday 27th April** in the car park from 10.30 to 11.00am. Suggested items for donation include shower gels, shampoo, washing machine products, small jars of coffee, tea bags, biscuits, long life milk and canned foods. Thank you for your continued support.

Jane Monaghan

Quiz Night: The Knights of St Columba are holding their next quiz in Sacred Heart Parish Hall at 7.30pm on **Saturday 27th April**, with all profits from the evening going to the Diocesan fund for sick and retired priests, and the training of new priests and deacons. The cost is still just £7 a head, £3 for children and students, to include a cheese supper, wine and soft drinks. If you would like to go, please call Will Holland on 07811 353 248. This helps with the catering.

There will be a Holy Hour for Vocations on Tuesday 30th April from 6.30 to 7.30pm.

The Diocesan Education Service is seeking to appoint a highly professional, motivated Governance, Admissions and Appeals Officer to join their small and friendly team. The post will start on **1st September**, at a salary between £38k and £42k, and applications should be received by **Tuesday 7th May**. More details can be found at www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers

The UCM Walsingham Pilgrimage will take place on **Tuesday 2nd July**.

Come and join us. Please add your name to the list at the repository and leave £10 in an envelope with your name on to cover the Pilgrims cost for the day. The coach cost will be collected later. Please see the article “Changes to the UCM National Pilgrimage 2024” on the notice board at the back of the church. Note: the whole day will be spent at the Basilica.

Fr Simon will be celebrating his Golden Jubilee of Priesthood on Sunday 5th May. If you would like to send him your good wishes, his address is St Mary’s Derryswood, Wonersh, Guildford, Surrey GU5 0RA.

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.
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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.

Grub Club: During the Easter school break Grub Club ran three sessions. We served 187 three course lunches to 32 families, which meant that 74 children and 34 adults enjoyed a hot and nourishing mid-day meal. Each child also received an Easter Egg and all the children had fun with a variety of activities. We had some new families join us, which was wonderful, and we received many thanks and positive feedback from both new and existing families. Grub Club will be open again at May half-term for two sessions and in the summer school holidays for 11 sessions over four weeks.

We are looking for more volunteers. See the noticeboard at the back of the church, or contact Eileen Smith on 07855 456375 or Catherine Brady at catherinemarybrady@gmail.com for more information.

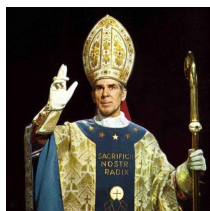
Eileen Smith

The Repository will be open for the First Holy Communion candidates' parents and guardians **on Monday 29th April** between 4.00pm and 5.00pm.

From the Saints

"The Sacred Heart wishes great graces to be distributed to souls through the hands of His priests."

Venerable Fulton Sheen (1895-1979)



UCM Evening Meetings

To accommodate women unable to attend afternoon meetings, we plan to have monthly evening meetings which will depend on a positive response and therefore need. The inaugural meeting will be on **Wednesday 1st May** in the hall, 7.30pm - 9pm. All women are welcome regardless of whether they are married, unmarried or mothers. Hope to see you there. *Dorothy Hutchings*

De Lisle College Open Days - 7th, 8th, 9th & 10th May 2024:

There will be two sessions each day, at 9.00am & 10.00am. To book a place, call 01509 268739 or email enquiries@delisle.leics.sch.uk

The second collection this weekend is for the Clergy Formation Fund.



Scan to visit the parish website

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £828 (£105 gift-aided)

Standing orders: £691 @ 31/03 (£632 gift-aided)

Attendance: 557

Thank you
