

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

SIXTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

NEWSLETTER

Month of Our Lady



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

97 Ashby Road
Loughborough LE11 3AB
01509 262123

office@

stmarysloughborough.org.uk

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

For centuries, the Church has set aside the month of May to honour Our Lady – not just a day in May but the entire month. This tradition dates back to the thirteenth century when the Church Christianised the secular feasts which took place at that time. In recent times, honouring Our Lady in May has been recommended by all the popes. So we should try to increase our love of her during this month by contemplating her beauty, her goodness and her purity so as she can inspire us to grow in holiness. Remember, all graces come to us through Mary. Pope St Pius X put it like this:

“But Mary as St Bernard fittingly remarks is the ‘channel’ or, even, the neck, through which the body is joined to the head, and likewise through which the head exerts its power and strength on the body. For she is the neck of our Head, by which all spiritual gifts are communicated to His Mystical Body.”

In other words, it is God’s will that all good things come to us through her hands. She is the **“Mediatrice of all Graces”**. When Our Lady appeared to **St Catherine Labouré** in Paris in 1830, Sister Catherine saw a vision of Mary standing upon the earth, with rays of lights beaming from within a picture frame she had. The picture began to rotate, revealing twelve stars (Apocalypse 12: 1), the letter M, and the Sacred Heart of JESUS and Immaculate Heart of Mary. Catherine wondered why not all the rays of light were shining or directed towards the earth. Our Lady responded, “Those are the graces for which people forget to ask.”

Here are a few suggestions to help increase your devotion to Our Lady this month. Obtain a statue or picture of Our Lady for your home (if you don’t already have one) and put some flowers in front of it. Or make a little altar with her statue or picture and some candles and pray in front it as a family. Make a novena to her. Try extra hard to say the daily Rosary, especially in the family; Rosary times in the church are on page 2. Be enrolled in the Miraculous Medal and/or the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel - anyone interested just ask me. You don’t even need to be Catholic to be enrolled! Or perhaps you could read a book about her such as “The Secret of the Rosary” by **St Louis de Montfort** or “The

Continued on page 3



Ascension of the Lord

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Peter Massey
Joan MacMillan
Deacon Peter Astill
Mary Yandeh Njie-Wilson
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Lilian Fisher
Desmond O'Leary
Beatrice Roper
Kevin Mortell
Ernest Newton
Kath Ward
Rita Acierno
Joan Ramsden

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 Ines & Felixberto Cogal (RIP, Anniversary)

Sun 5th Sixth Sunday of Easter
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Michael Boakes (RIP, Anniversary)
2.30pm *Baptism*
4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 6th Easter Feria
10.30am Peter Barrow (RIP)

Tues 7th Easter Feria
9.15am Albert & Jean Robinson (RIP)

Weds 8th Vigil of The Ascension of the Lord
6.30pm Margaret Wilkinson (RIP) (Sung Latin)

Thurs 9th The Ascension (Holyday of Obligation)
9.15am Greg O'Connor (RIP)
6.30pm Michele Calabrese (RIP)

Fri 10th Easter Feria
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Frank Anthony Faulks (RIP)

Sat 11th St John Houghton & Companion Martyrs (Mem.)
10.00am For the Parish **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:** Keith Newton (RIP, Anniversary)

Sun 12th Seventh Sunday of Easter
9.00am Louie Palmieri (RIP)
11.15am Eamonn Johnston (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

Please note: As Monday is a Bank Holiday, Mass will be at 10.30am.

Month of Our Lady: This weekend we will have the crowning of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima at all Masses and, weather permitting, a short May procession at the beginning of the 11.15am Mass.

Continued from front page

Glories of Mary” by **St Alphonsus Liguori**. These spiritual classics are sure to inspire you. Or you might read a book about the apparitions at La Salette, Lourdes, Fatima, Akita, or in Paris to St Catherine Labouré. You could make a pilgrimage to Walsingham or to Aylesford in Kent where she gave the Brown Scapular to St Simon Stock in 1251.

Mary is not some ideal to be revered from afar. She is our Mother and she is very near to us, loving us with a motherly love. Just as a child afraid of the dark runs to safety in his mother’s arms, let us run to Mary in times of danger and temptation, and pray the prayer she taught to St Catherine Labouré and told her to have imprinted on the Miraculous Medal: “*O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.*” If we have confidence in her she will surely guide us safely to Heaven where we will be face to face with her Son and Saviour of the world, our Lord JESUS Christ.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

This Thursday 9th May is Ascension Thursday and is a Holyday of Obligation on which we are obliged to attend Mass, unless prevented from doing so for a serious reason. Masses will be at 9.15am and 6.30pm. The sung Latin Mass of the Vigil of the Ascension on Wednesday at 6.30pm also fulfils the obligation.

Gift-aiding at St Mary’s: Due to increased postage costs, the usual annual letter to our 77 regular Gift-aiders will not be available this May. If anyone needs a written confirmation of their annual total contribution for the tax year ended 31/3/24, could they please let me know. New boxed sets of numbered envelopes for UK tax payers will be available at the weekend Masses on **12th and 19th May. Please remember to take home the box bearing your name.** Gift-aided income in 2023/24 was £58.1k which attracts a further £14.5k refund from HMRC. **Any of our congregation** currently paying UK tax on their income can join this effective form of fundraising. Please help to raise our regular collection income so that we can continue to meet the increased costs we are all now experiencing daily. Thank you.

Geoff Mercer

This week at St Mary’s

- Mon 6th** First Holy Communion Class - 4.15pm in the hall
Tues 7th Catch Up Café - 2.00-4.00pm in the hall
Bible study - 7.00pm in the library
Weds 8th UCM - 2.00pm in the hall

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.

This Sunday is Safeguarding Sunday
There is a letter from Bishop Patrick about this on the noticeboard and on the parish website. Jane Monaghan will read it out at next weekend’s Masses.

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

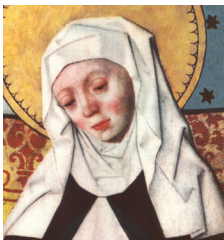
Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all the wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

All counters: A quick word of appreciative thanks to all those of you who regularly turn out to fulfil this weekly but crucial hidden task in support of St Mary's. You are all accurate and irreplaceable. The new rota will be issued soon. *Marion Shaw & Geoff Mercer*

Grub Club: We are looking for more volunteers (aged 18+), especially during the summer holidays. No experience is needed. For more information, see the noticeboard at the back of the church or contact Eileen Smith on 07855456375 or Catherine Brady at catherinembrady@gmail.com. *Eileen Smith*

Fr Simon has written to thank you all for your cards and greetings for his Golden Jubilee of Priesthood.

Marie Brookes' cake stall last weekend raised £155 for SPUC. The red Missio boxes raised £712 in 2023.



From the Saints

"There is no sinner in the world, however much at enmity with God, who cannot recover God's grace by recourse to Mary, and by asking her assistance"

(St Bridget of Sweden, 1303-1373)

The Novena for Pentecost begins on Friday, the day after the Ascension. There are many versions of the Pentecost Novena. You will find copies of a suggested version at the back of the church. You may make the novena for any intention.

Fr Paul

Silver Medals:

Congratulations to Paul, Felix and Amadea who received their Silver Medals for serving on the altar for ten years. However, I think Paul must have been serving here for nearly thirty years! *Fr Paul*

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 next weekend will be for Catholic Communications.

Last Week's Finance

1st Collection: £776 (£177 gift-aided)

CAFOD Emergency Fund for Sudan: £675

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

Attendance: 527

Thank you
