

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

SEVENTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

NEWSLETTER

Statues and images of the saints



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

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Loughborough LE11 5AX

01509 212621

office@stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk

Headteacher: Miss P Jordan

De Lisle College

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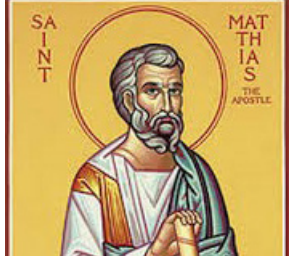
Headteacher: Mr C Maher

We Catholics are often accused by other Christians of worshipping statues of Mary and the saints. **We do not!** We worship God alone, but we do ask Mary and the saints in Heaven to pray to God on our behalf, and we might often do this in front of an image or a statue of the person as a visual aid to help us in our prayer. The non-Catholic objection to our using statues and sacred images is based on a misrepresentation of Exodus 20:4-5 in which God says: *"You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them."*

The thing to notice here is that God is forbidding the making of an image or statue for **the purpose of idolatry**. Idolatry is worshipping anything other than the one true God which the Israelites were in the habit of doing. One thinks immediately of the golden calf incident (Exodus 32). But Exodus 20 is not prohibiting the making of statues or images. After all, there are many legitimate reasons for having them. After all, even in our own homes, we usually have pictures of our loved ones to remind us of them. Similarly in towns and cities throughout the world, you will find statues of war heroes and past Prime Ministers such as Churchill in Parliament Square, Nelson in Trafalgar Square, and most recently of the late Queen Elizabeth II at the Albert Hall. Nobody would suggest that the public were worshipping these statues, because common sense dictates otherwise!

But then an objector might continue that God forbids it only for religious purposes. Really? There are a number of places in Scripture where God actually **commands** the making of religious images. In Exodus 25, God commanded the Israelites to make statues of cherubs and put them on the Ark of the Covenant. During the plague of fiery serpents, God told Moses to make a serpent of brass and put it on a pole, so that anyone who was bitten by one of the venomous snakes, when they looked upon the brass serpent would live (Numbers 21:8-9).

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St Matthias

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Peter Massey
Joan MacMillan
Deacon Peter Astill
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Kath Brooks
Jean Walvin
Fr Terry Watson
Len Almond
Tony Jackson
Noeline Overlunde
Stan Trojan
Betty Stewart
Katie Wardle
Peter Darlestone
Vito Caruso
Anna Pelosi
Anna Krauze
Irene Callis
Tony Wade

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 11th Vigil Mass
6.00pm Keith Newton (RIP, Anniversary)

Sun 12th Seventh Sunday of Easter
9.00am Louie Palmieri (RIP)
11.15am Eamonn Johnston (RIP)
4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 13th Our Lady of Fatima (Memoria)
9.15am Intention for the living

Tues 14th St Matthias (Feast)
9.15am Lidia & Jan Orzeszek (RIP)

Weds 15th St John Baptist de la Salle, Confessor
6.30pm Terry Hutchings (GE) (Latin)

Thurs 16th Easter Feria
9.15am Intention for the living
12.30pm *Requiem Mass: Joan MacMillan (RIP)*

Fri 17th Easter Feria
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Vito Caruso (RIP, Anniversary)

Sat 18th Easter Feria
10.00am Reg & Ambro Faulks (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: Rita & Rocco Acierno (RIP, Anniv.)**

Sun 19th Pentecost Sunday (Solemnity)
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Phyllis Harrison (RIP, Anniversary)
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 13th First Holy Communion Class - 4.15pm
in the school hall

Thurs 16th RCIA - 7.00pm in the library

Continued from front page

And what about relics? Is it legitimate to honour the bodies and relics of saints? Yes it is, and you will find it even in the Old Testament. The Jews always respected the bodies of the dead, and Moses took the **bones of Joseph** with him from Egypt to bury them in the Promise Land (Exodus 13:19). A dead man whose body was thrown into the grave of the prophet Elisha, when he touched **Elisha's bones**, came back to life instantly (2 Kings 13:21). And in the New Testament, God worked miracles through **objects used by St Paul**. His handkerchiefs and aprons were taken to the sick and they were cured of their diseases, and even evil spirits came out from them (Acts 19:11-12). And so today, we revere and respect the bodies and relics of the saints.

We pray to Our Lady and the saints because they are already in Heaven and they can **intercede with God on our behalf** because of their closeness to Him. We venerate the bodies and relics of the saints because they have been members of the Body of Christ and temples of the Holy Spirit, and as such will be raised up in glory on the Last Day, and so naturally that veneration extends to objects closely connected with them. Relics are not magical, but God uses them as a means to perform miracles, because He wants to direct our attention to them, both as **models** and as **intercessors**.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Prayer for Peace: On **Monday 20th May at 11.50am** you are invited to join Bishop Patrick in Prayer for Peace. This is a schools' response to the various conflicts affecting thousands of people across the world, especially in Sudan, Gaza and Ukraine. . Please join with Bishop Patrick in praying the Angelus and CAFOD's Prayer, 'Peace is...'. This online event can be accessed via a link on this page of the parish website: <http://www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk/prayer-for-peace/>. Cameras and microphones will be automatically turned off to ensure the safeguarding of all students.

Gift-aiding at St Mary's: 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 experiencing daily. Thank you. *Geoff Mercer*

Last Sunday was Safeguarding Sunday

There is a letter from Bishop Patrick which Jane Monaghan will read out at this weekend's Masses.

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.

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*

Scan the code to visit the parish website



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.

Parish hall refurbishment: As announced at last weekend's Masses, work will begin on the refurbishment of the parish hall on **Monday 13th May** and is likely to take 3-4 weeks to complete. The project will include the replacement of the kitchen area and toilet, a new floor, new light fittings and blinds, and the redecoration of the entire room. This means that the hall will not be available for any meetings, post-Mass coffee sessions or other events while the work is in progress. Please accept our apologies for any disruption this will cause.

From the Saints

"Through these images which we kiss and before which we kneel and uncover our heads, we are adoring Christ and venerating the saints whose likeness these images bear."

(Council of Trent, 16th century)



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Day: Saturday 22nd June at St Peter's, Hinckley.

For further details email bernardmonaghan@btinternet.com

New look website: Elvira has been working on a new design for the parish website, which she will launch in the next week or two. The transition from the old site should be smooth, but there may be a short period of down time.

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.

The second collection this weekend is for Catholic Communications.

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £858 (£135 gift-aided)

Standing orders: £698 @ 30/04 (£635 gift-aided)

Attendance: 574

Thank you
