

# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

PALM SUNDAY

# NEWSLETTER

## Palm Sunday



**St Mary of the Annunciation  
Catholic Church**

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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

Today is **Palm Sunday** and the beginning of **Holy Week**, and our procession today with blessed palms recalls Our Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when the crowds cried out "Hosanna" and spread their garments and palm branches in His way.

The palm is a **sacramental** of the Church, and carrying them in procession goes back to the Old Testament. God commanded the Israelites on the feast of Tabernacles to take the branches of the palm tree and rejoice with them before the Lord (Leviticus 23:40). We also read of palms in the second book of Maccabees where they were used in the victory procession over Israel's enemies (13:51), and in the book of the Apocalypse the martyrs are represented carrying palms (7:9).

The custom of carrying palms in procession on Palm Sunday originated in the East probably around the eighth century, and most likely the idea of a procession preceded that of the blessing. It was later on that the principle of whatever is used in God's service should first of all be sanctified by the blessing of the Church. However, the name "Palm Sunday" is mentioned at least as far back as the fifth century. And in the 'Sacramentary' of **Pope St Gregory the Great** at the end of the sixth century, mention is made of the faithful being present at Mass with leaves and palm branches in their hands. And in our own country, **St Bede** mentions their use in the seventh century.

The palms are blessed before the Solemn Mass on Palm Sunday. The priest reads the Gospel account of Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and we pray that we may in the end go forth to meet Christ, bearing the palm of victory, and that laden with good works, we may enter with Him into the eternal Jerusalem. The procession then follows outside the church.

The palm, as mentioned above, is a symbol of victory. It should be a continual reminder of the victory won by Our Lord by humbling Himself and dying on the Cross for our salvation, and also that all true victories in our own spiritual lives are won by triumphing over ourselves and our wayward passions and sinful inclinations. We should treat the palm we receive with respect and put it in a

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*The Last Supper*

**Please pray for those who are sick**

**for those who have recently died**

Fr John Daley IC

Fr Anthony Dolan

Mario Mancini

*May they rest in peace*

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

Joan Hodgson

Antony Askew

Richard Allan

Arthur Clarke

Yvonne Dyson

Barry Clarkeson

Olga Maker

Maria DiGirolano

Raymond Johnson

Beryl Flatley

Salvatore Chiaramonte

Pauline Taylor

### **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**

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**Sat 23rd Vigil Mass**  
6.00pm Peter Allen (RIP)

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**Sun 24th Palm Sunday**  
9.00am For the Parish  
11.15am Mario Sepede (RIP)  
4.00pm Italian Mass  
7.00pm *Youth Enactment of the Passion*

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**Mon 25th Monday of Holy Week**  
9.15am In Thanksgiving

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**Tues 26th Tuesday of Holy Week**  
9.15am Intention for the living

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**Weds 27th Wednesday of Holy Week**  
6.30pm Denise Kabala (RIP) (Latin)

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**Thurs 28th Maundy Thursday**  
6.30pm Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper and Procession to the Altar of Repose followed by Watching until 11.15pm  
For all Priests

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**Fri 29th Good Friday**  
10.00am *Children's Stations of the Cross in the Church Hall*  
3.00pm Sacred Liturgy  
7.00pm *Stations of the Cross followed by Confessions*

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**Sat 30th Holy Saturday**  
9.00am *Blessing of Easter Baskets for the Polish Community*  
8.00pm Solemn Mass of the Easter Vigil: Holy Souls

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**Sun 31st Easter Sunday**  
9.00am For the Parish  
11.15am Stephen Bowmer (RIP)  
4.00pm **No Italian Mass**

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

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**All lost property items** held at the repository will be cleared away after Easter; please claim anything that is yours no later than **30th March**.

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prominent place at home. People often place it with a crucifix or a holy picture. I think it is well known that the remaining palms are later on burned and then used as ashes on Ash Wednesday the following year. This brings out the connection between suffering and victory.

Later in the week we will be with Our Lord as He institutes the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Priesthood on **Maundy Thursday**. This will be followed by the Solemn Procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose where there will be Watching until 11.15pm. *“Could you not watch with Me one hour?”* (Matthew 26:40). We will also be with Him as He sweats blood during His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, His arrest and trial. On **Good Friday** we will be with Him in the scourging and crowning with thorns, and the terrible journey on the **Via Dolorosa** which will culminate in His suffering and dying on the cross. Then on Saturday evening we celebrate the **Easter Vigil** beginning with the blessing of the Easter Fire and the Procession of the Paschal Candle into the dark church symbolising the Risen Christ Himself, Who is *“the light of the world”* (John 9:5). The Sacred Liturgy makes all these events present to us. I strongly recommend you do your best to be present at these beautiful and solemn ceremonies of Holy Week.

*Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

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**Holy Week Enactment:** This year’s enactment of the events of Holy Week by young adults of the Loughborough parishes is at 7.00pm here in St Mary’s this **Palm Sunday evening, 24th March**. Your support for them with your presence would be much appreciated

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**Good Friday (29th March)** is a day of fasting and abstinence. This means Catholics who are 18 years old and above, until their 59th birthday (when they begin their 60th year), are bound to fast (one full meal in the day, and perhaps some food at a couple of points). All Catholics who are 14 years old and above are bound to abstain from meat. *Fr Paul*

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**Nottingham Diocese vacancies:** The vacancies below are listed on the careers page of the diocesan website. For more information, and to apply (deadline **8th April** for all) visit: [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers)

- Clergy Health and Wellbeing PA: Nottingham / Hybrid
- Mission Support Assistant: Nottingham / Hybrid
- Assistant Communications Officer: Nottingham / Hybrid
- Parish Administrator: Shepshed and East Leake

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**The Chrism Mass**, at which the Bishop blesses the Holy Oils for the year, will be at St Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham this **Wednesday 27th March** at 11.30am.

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**UCM Novena:** Please join us in saying our Novena between **Friday 22nd of March - Holy Saturday 30th March**. We will be saying our UCM prayer daily. Copies are at the repository; please take one.

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**The Catch Up Café** will be running monthly starting **Tuesday 9th April** from 1pm - 3pm in the Church Hall. Meet up with old friends and make new friends. **All welcome**. Any offers of help would also be gratefully appreciated.

*Dorothy Hutchings*

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**SPUC:** There will be an EGM of SPUC Loughborough on **Monday 8th April** at 7.30pm in the Church Hall. Members and non-members welcome

*Michael Murphy, Chair*

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**Food Bank:** Many thanks for your donations of chocolate, confectionery and groceries. Once again the response was excellent and greatly appreciated by staff at John Storer House. Thank you. *Jane Monaghan*

## 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.

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## St Mary's School

Throughout Lent the children have been taking part in the 'Big Lent Walk' to raise funds for CAFOD. Liturgies in school focused on the Lord's Passion, and Stations of the Cross were led by the children - a fitting end to the Lent term. Good wishes for a Happy Easter from all at St Mary's School.

*Jane Monaghan*

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## Fr John Daley IC (RIP) Funeral Arrangements

St Joseph's Church, 12 Goodwood Rd, Leicester LE5 6SG

**Wednesday 10th April, 7.00 pm:** Reception into church

**Thursday 11th April, 11.00 am:** Requiem Mass celebrated by Bishop Patrick McKinney. Homily to be given by Fr Joe O'Reilly IC

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CAFOD have written to thank you for your latest generous donation of £527. Thanks to you, James the fisherman is now able to catch enough fish to keep his family and crew fed and healthy!

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## From the Saints

*"Mount Calvary is the academy of love."*

St Francis de Sales (1567-1622)



[www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk](http://www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk)

## Holy Week Services

### **Maundy Thursday**

**6.30pm:** Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper and Procession to the Altar of Repose followed by Watching until **11.15pm**

### **Good Friday**

**10.00am:** Children's Stations of the Cross in the hall

**3.00pm:** Sacred Liturgy

**7.00pm:** Stations of the Cross followed by Confessions

### **Holy Saturday**

**9.00am** Polish food blessing

**10.30-11.30am:** Confessions

**8.00pm:** Easter Vigil and Solemn Mass

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**Stock on sale at the repository** includes gifts and cards for Easter. Card payments are now accepted, as well as cash.

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**Please could any parishioners holding Kwediboma collection boxes return them to the repository by Saturday 30th March. Thank you.**

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## Last Week's Finance

**Collection:** £946 of which £113 was gift-aided

**Standing orders:** £701 @ 29/02, of which £634 was gift-aided

**Attendance:** 616

*Thank you*

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