

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

4th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

The new Baptistery

Many of you will have noticed we have a newly installed Octagonal stone Baptismal Font in the side chapel (at one time the sacristy) by the Sacred Heart altar. Feel free to have a look. The font itself is not new. It is Victorian and has been lying in the garage for almost thirty years. Moving its five parts from the garage to the church, even with machinery, was a herculean task. It is unbelievably heavy! The font was obtained by Fr Chris Fuse from Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Loughborough when it ceased functioning as a church in 1996. The font was damaged in places but has been repaired and cleaned, and a new oak lid made for it. The project and redecoration of the chapel has been financed by funds left specifically for this purpose by our well-known late parishioner, Vera Hurry. The chapel will still be used for the Altar of Repose during Holy Week.

The original Baptistery in St Mary's was at the back of the church where the Repository now stands. I'm not sure what happened to the font, but you can see its shape marked clearly on the floor behind the kiosk. For several years I have been keen to have a permanent font in the church, and it is fitting that a Parish Church like St Mary's should have one. I shall be doing the first Baptism in it this Sunday afternoon. Since the 1970s we have been using a wooden portable font made in memory of Eric and Elsie Hammond, dated December 21st 1976. We will be hanging on to this font for historical reasons, and it may even be appropriate to retain its use on certain occasions, and many of you would have been baptised in it.

A Baptistery is traditionally placed near the entrance to the church, since it is through the Sacrament of Baptism that we enter the Church and become members of Christ's Mystical Body. While it obviously wasn't possible to position the new font at the entrance to the church as it is today, it is, however, at the entrance of what was the original St Mary's Church. The outside doors in the new Baptistery would have been the main entrance to the church when it was first built in 1834, and what is now the Sanctuary area was basically the entire church. It was enlarged to what it is today in 1925. So next year we will celebrate the centenary of the present church.

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St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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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 Presentation in the Temple

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Michele Calabrese

Teresa Hurley

Salvatore Brida

May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Pat Lavery

Tony Benincasa

Maurice Keetly

Eliza Aldiss

Adelaide Taylor

David Hibbin

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 27th Vigil Mass
6.00pm Marie Styvén (RIP, Anniversary)

Sun 28th Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Matthew Galvin & Dennis Thurland (RIP, Anniversary)
11.15am For the Parish
2.30pm *Baptism*
4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 29th Feria
9.15am Fr David Jones (GE)

Tues 30th Feria
9.15am Barbara Morrison (RIP)

Weds 31st St John Bosco, Confessor
6.30pm Intention for the living (Latin)

Thurs 1st Feria
9.15am Barry Hallam & Elsie Faulks (RIP)

Fri 2nd Candlemas (Feast) (First Friday)
9.15am St Mary's School (School Mass)
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm For our Deceased Relatives and Friends

Sat 3rd St Blaise (Memoria) (Five First Saturdays Devotion)
10.00am Michele Calabrese (RIP) **PUBLIC MASS**
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am & Benediction 12.20pm*
-12.30pm
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** Mary John (RIP, Anniversary)

Sun 4th Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am George Houston (RIP)
11.15am Marta Moson (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 29th First Holy Communion Parents meeting - 7.00pm in the hall

Tues 30th Bible Study - 7.00pm in the library

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.

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Do you know the date of your Baptism? If you don't, try and find out, and then celebrate it. Most people don't know when they were baptised, but we ought to, because it's far more important than your birthday, because the day you were baptised was the moment you were born to eternity. You were born to eternal life by becoming a child of God.

So let us thank God for our own Baptism through which we became His adopted sons and daughters, and through which the gates of Heaven were opened to us, and we became heirs of Heaven. And let us pray for all those who in the future will be born of God through our new font at St Mary's.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

First Holy Communion: There will be a short parents meeting this **Monday 29th January** at 7pm in the hall during which books will be distributed. The first class will be on **Monday 5th February** at 4.15pm.

Next Friday 2nd February is Candlemas and the traditional end of Christmastide. There will be a school Mass at 9.15am and a Solemn Mass at 6.30pm by candlelight, with a short procession. After Mass there will be the blessing of throats in anticipation of the feast of St Blaise on Saturday. Throats will also be blessed after both Masses on Saturday.

Events at the Rosmini Centre, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, LE7 4SJ

Email: rosminicentre1855@gmail.com

Reconciliation and Healing service: Friday 16th February.

7.00pm-8.30pm. Mass followed by Adoration (with Confessions) and Benediction.

'Stand and Stare', a day of recollection: Saturday 9th March.

10am: Mass. 11am: Talk by Fr Ted. 12.30pm: Lunch. 2.00pm: Talk. 3.00pm: Adoration. 4.00pm: Benediction. Cost: £10.

As part of Nottingham's annual Light Night trail, St Barnabas' Cathedral will be candlelit and its interior illuminated by coloured spotlights. The exterior will also be flooded with coloured light. The Cathedral Choir and other parish choirs will provide music as visitors will be invited to walk through the Cathedral and to light a candle before they leave. **Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd February, 5.30 – 10.00pm.**

KSC Quiz

The Knights of St Columba are holding their next quiz in Sacred Heart Parish Hall at 7.30pm on **Saturday 3rd February 2024**, with all profits from the evening going to Intercare, a charity dedicated to providing medical aid to Africa. The cost remains at £7 a head, £3 for children and students, to include a cheese supper, wine and soft drinks. Call Will Holland on 07811 353 248 to book.

Volunteer church cleaners

The Church is open for cleaning every Friday from 9.30am to 11.30am. More volunteers are needed to help keep our church looking its best. Please come and help if you can; stay for as long as you like. All cleaning materials are supplied. If you are able to help please let Emily or Elvira know – elviralallo@icloud.com. Thank you.

Community Mass at Loughborough Amherst Chapel, Thursday 22nd February, 4.15pm

Followed by refreshments. All welcome. Please enter via the main car park on Gray Street.

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.

40 Days for Life will have a prayerful witness outside the BPAS abortion centre in Aylestone, Leicester from **Wednesday 14th February to Sunday 24th March**, and we welcome you to join us, to be part of God's work in stopping abortion in our city. You will never be on your own and you can sign up for one hour or two, whenever you are available (even weekends and evenings). Prayer outside an abortion centre can close it down. If you feel called to this special work call Francisca Martinez in confidence on 07943 711549 for an informal chat, or email leicester40daysforlife@gmail.com. You can also directly sign up for hours at <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/leicester> There will be a launch event at 7.30pm on **Monday 5th February** at St Edwards Parish Hall in Aylestone (633 Aylestone Road, Aylestone, Leicester, LE2 8TF) to explain how 40 Days works and the importance of this unique apostolate. Please contact Francisca for more information.



From the Saints

"Baptism is ransom, forgiveness of debts, death of sin, regeneration of soul, a resplendent garment, an unbreakable seal, a chariot to Heaven, a royal protector, a gift of adoption."

(St Basil the Great, 329-379)

Year of Prayer Podcast

To listen to this month's episode of Encounter Prayer search Diocese of Nottingham on any podcast provider (Google, Apple, Amazon, Spotify etc) or visit diocesefofnottingham.uk/yearofprayer to listen/download.

The Lent 2024 'Walk with Me' booklets are now available at the back of the church. Suggested donation: £1.

Sunday 28th January is World Leprosy Day

The second collection this weekend will be for Lepra, an international charity working in India and Bangladesh to support people affected by leprosy and refer them for treatment and care. This year will mark the charity's centenary.



Scan to visit the parish website

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £735 of which £109 was gift-aided

Standing orders: £699 @ 31/12, of which £631 was gift-aided

Attendance: 572

Thank you
