

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

5th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

Are you preparing for Lent?

Do you know that **Lent** is less than two weeks away? **Ash Wednesday** falls on 14th February this year. Let's not wait until Shrove Tuesday to decide what we're going to do for Lent! **Now** is the time to prepare ourselves.

A good preparation for Lent is to ask ourselves, "What in my life needs to change?" If you were to die today, what would happen when you had to stand before the Judgment Seat of JESUS Christ? We would all like Him to say to us, "*Well done, good and faithful servant ... enter into the joy of your master*" (Matthew 24:21), but is that what He would say to us? It's not enough to say, "I believe in JESUS." Remember, even the devil believes in JESUS and knows Who He is, as we heard in last week's Gospel (Mark 1:21-28). Our Lord told us, "*Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.*" (Matthew 7:13-14). Unfortunately we all want the easy way, but JESUS told us that is not the way that leads to life. And so that's why over the next few days we really need to look at ourselves and see what we need to change in our own lives.

What is it I do all the time that offends God? What are the sins I bring up constantly in Confession? Take one of your main weaknesses and work on that. There's no point in giving up chocolate and alcohol if I merrily carry on sinning! So we need to be serious. There are terrible things going on in the world today and we don't know what the future may hold for us or our country. So we need to be ready, and not just with food stacked up in the cellar. **We need to have our souls ready.**

Increase your prayer life. This is most important. If you're just saying an Our Father and Hail Mary each day, that's not enough. **We must all be seeking deeper union with JESUS.** Spend time before Him in the Blessed Sacrament. The church is open a lot during the day, and there are two hours of Adoration every Saturday morning between 10.30am and 12.30pm concluding with Benediction. Read



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

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St Josephine Bakhita

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Fr Stephen Ortiger OSB
Kathleen Pagett
Michele Calabrese
Salvatore Brida
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Gladys Orton
Hugh Mead
Patricia Dorsey
Gwen Moson
Patrick Doyle
Anna King
Frankie Doyle
Jim O'Flynn

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 3rd Vigil Mass
6.00pm 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

Mon 5th St Agatha (Memoria)
9.15am Joan Meynell (RIP)

Tues 6th Ss Paul Miki and Companions (Memoria)
9.15am For the Parish
11.00am *Requiem Mass: Salvatore Brida RIP*

Weds 7th St Romuald, Abbot
6.30pm Henryk & Irena Prusaczyk (RIP) (Latin)

Thurs 8th St Josephine Bakhita (Memoria)
9.15am David Mumford (RIP)

Fri 9th Feria
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Barbara Morrison (RIP)

Sat 10th St Scholastica (Memoria)
10.00am Sr Mary David (RIP) **NO 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:** Deceased of the Giorgio & Mancini Families

Sun 11th Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Stephen Bowmer (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 5th First Confession Class - 4.15pm in the hall
Tues 6th Bible Study - 7.00pm in the library
Thurs 8th RCIA - 7.00pm in the library

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and meditate on the Scriptures, especially the Gospels. Say the Rosary devoutly thinking on the mysteries. And then through that growth in the spiritual life, it becomes much easier to address the other areas in your life that need attention, like anger or lack of faith, addictions and so on. Then God will give you the grace to improve on them. This is the hard road to sanctity we are all being called to. *“If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me”* (Luke 9:23). In other words, don't think as the world thinks. Think as Christ thinks. Be faithful to Him. Keep the Commandments. Obey the moral law as the Church has always understood it. If we strive to do these things, even if we sometimes fall, we will be pleasing to God, and He will reward us for our labours with eternal life.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

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.

Calling Catholic Teachers: If you are a Catholic teacher currently working outside of Catholic education and would like to find out more about the joys of working in a Catholic school within the Diocese of Nottingham, a virtual information session will take place on **Monday 4th March from 7.00pm – 8.00pm**. More information can be found on the poster at the back of church, or contact Julie Sweeney at the Diocesan education Service: julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk

LACY Walk for CAFOD Sharing in the ‘Big Lent Walk’

Sunday 17th March 2024: All welcome to join a short walk starting from St Mary's, Countesthorpe Road, South Wigston, LE18 4PG at 2.00pm. Walk as much as you can. Mass at 4.00pm praying for all those in the areas of conflict in the world. For more details, sponsor forms and details of Just Giving Account email paulinepayne@hotmail.com or just turn up at 2.00pm where this information will also be available.

New readers: There will be a short meeting for new readers, that is those who have joined in the past twelve months, on **Saturday 10th February** at 9am, for approximately one hour. Please attend if you can! Thank you. *Anne Murphy*

Volunteer church cleaners

The Church is open for cleaning every Friday from 9.30am to 11.30am More volunteers are needed so please come and help if you can; you can stay for as long as you like. 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.

Applications for The Briars Team 24/25 are now open:

If you feel called to a volunteer year at The Briars, get in touch with us via any of our social medias [@NDCYS](https://www.facebook.com/ndcys) or email programmeleader@ndcys.com. Application forms are available on our website: www.ndcys.com/volunteer/

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

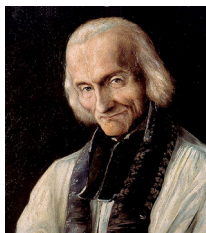
Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all the wicked spirits who wander through the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

"Worldly people say it is too difficult to save one's soul. Yet nothing is easier. To observe the Commandments of God and the Church and to do good and avoid evil; that is all."

(St John Vianney, 1786-1859)



Fr David Tobin will be available after this weekend's three Sunday Masses to talk to anyone interested in joining the retreat-pilgrimage to Italy he is leading in May this year.

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

Next weekend's second collection will be for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC)'s annual White Flower Appeal. Your donations will help SPUC continue its campaign to defend the right to life from the moment of conception until natural death. Please remember to bring cash.



Scan to visit the parish website

Last Week's Finance

1st Collection: £813 of which £138 was gift-aided

World Leprosy Day: £434

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

Attendance: 570

Thank you
