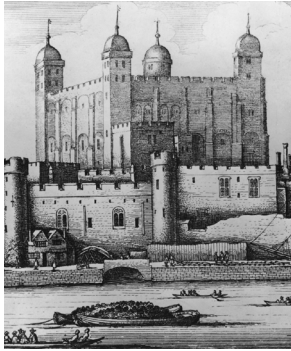


St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

11th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

Keeping their souls while losing their heads



Next Saturday, 22nd June, we celebrate the Feast of two great English saints: **St John Fisher and St Thomas More**. Both were executed under **King Henry VIII** in 1535 during the Reformation.

St John Fisher (1469-1535) was the Bishop of Rochester. As well as being very holy, he had a great intellect, was a renowned scholar and was regarded by many as being the most holy and learned prelate in the whole of Christendom. He was a great orator and preacher too and worked very hard as a Bishop. He had even taught Henry as a boy.

St Thomas More (1478-1535) was a family man and a good friend of Henry. He was a committed Catholic and spent long hours in prayer and performed many penances. Before marrying he had considered the religious life. Once while Thomas was hearing Mass, King Henry sent for him. Thomas remained until the Mass was finished, but sent this message, *“As soon as my audience with the King of Heaven is ended, I will at once obey the desire of my earthly king.”* King Henry made him Chancellor of England where he enforced the law of the land and saw that the poor were protected against any injustice.

The story of how these two saints met their death is well known. King Henry VIII wanted to divorce his wife **Catherine of Aragon** because she seemed unable to give him a son as an heir. Catherine did produce children, both boys and girls, but the only one who survived was **Mary Tudor**. So he asked the Pope for an annulment, and the Pope said that he had no grounds for one. Henry then proclaimed himself head of the Church in England, and granted himself the annulment. He forced all bishops and government officials to swear two oaths: first, that the king was head of the Church, and secondly, that he had the right to name his own heir to the

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

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 Thomas More

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Magaret Murray
May she rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Maria Di-Niro
Maureen Modlen
Fr Michael Hare
Barbara Nolan,
Vittorio Giorgio
John Corbert
John Scott
Regina Wojciechowska,
Stuart Lynch
Irene Calus
Maria Tolera
Weronika Kandula

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 15th Vigil Mass
6.00pm Ann O'Rourke (RIP)

Sun 16th Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Intention for the living
4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 17th Feria
9.15am Vittorio Giorgio (RIP, Anniversary)

Tues 18th Feria
9.15am Bernard Michael Lane (RIP)

Weds 19th St Juliana Falconieri, Virgin
6.30pm Fr Paul Gillham (GE) (Latin)

Thurs 20th St Alban (Memoria)
9.15am Eladia & Rich Faboz and Cachella Patel (RIP)

Fri 21st St Aloysius Gonzaga (Memoria)
12 noon *Requiem Mass: Margaret Murray RIP*
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Phyllis Harrison (RIP)

Sat 22nd Ss John Fisher & Thomas More (Feast)
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:** Mario Mancini (RIP)

Sun 23rd Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Katarzyna Hönl (RIP)
11.15am Margot & Stanislaw Trojan & 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

Amherst School: You are all warmly invited to attend the next Community Mass at Loughborough Amherst School on **Thursday 20th June** at 4.15pm in their beautiful chapel. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Continued from front page

the throne despite what the law said. Failure to swear the oaths was considered **treason** and Henry executed many laity who tried to dissuade him from this action. Bishop John Fisher was the only bishop in England who would not take the oaths, and Sir Thomas More was the highest-ranking layman not to do so, and both were put in the Tower of London. Eventually Henry ended up having had six wives, two of whom he beheaded and two others he simply dismissed.

Both St John Fisher and St Thomas More were beheaded and died as **martyrs of conscience**, but also for the **integrity of the Catholic Faith**. They firmly held that what Henry wanted to do was not only wrong, but impossible. A king could not be head of the Church; and there was no such thing as the Church 'of England'; there was one Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, under the visible headship of the Vicar of Christ, the Pope who is Bishop of Rome. And the Pope of the day, **Paul III** actually made Bishop Fisher a Cardinal which really annoyed Henry, and he had him beheaded within a month. The red robes of a Cardinal are a sign that they are prepared to shed their blood for the truth of the Faith and be prepared to die rather than deny one iota of the truth.

St Thomas More famously said, *"I die the king's good servant, but God's first"* and St John Fisher told Henry he could not sign an oath against his conscience. Cardinal Fisher, a half hour before his execution opened the New Testament for the last time, and his eyes fell upon the following from St John's Gospel: *"Eternal life is this: to know You, the only true God, and Him Whom You have sent, JESUS Christ. I have given You glory on earth by finishing the work You gave Me to do. Do You now, Father, give Me glory at Your side"* (17: 3-5).

These two saints are models for us today. Our actions must be consistent with a **well-formed conscience according to the mind of Christ and His Church**. St Thomas More also said, *"My conscience is so clear that although I suffer pain, I will not suffer harm."* In other words, a man may lose his head for fidelity to Christ, but suffer no harm to his soul.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Loughborough Food Bank/Your Store: The next collections will be on **Saturday 13th July** in the car park from 10.30 to 11.00am. Once again small jars of coffee and hot chocolate are requested along with shower gel, toothpaste, soap and kitchen cleaning products. Thank you for your continued support. *Jane Monaghan*

Happy Father's Day to all fathers in the parish

Walsingham pilgrimage

All pilgrims names and £10s need to be in by this **Sunday 16th June**, which is also the deadline for booking attendance at the Mass for the Sick; would those wishing to attend please contact Dorothy on 07742 620268. The coach cost is £25 per person to be paid by **Sunday 23rd June**. Please place your payment in an envelope with your name on and either hand it in at the repository or give it to Dorothy who will be available after all Masses that weekend.

Confirmation 2025: I

intend to invite the Bishop to come and administer the Sacrament of Confirmation in the parish next year. Applicants should be in at least Year 7 by September 2024. This is advance notice that anyone wishing to be confirmed should be attending weekly Mass now. A serious commitment is required. Those not already attending weekly Mass for a considerable time by the time the application forms are available will be asked to postpone their application until such a time as they are. *Fr Paul*

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.

Diocesan Day for Families – This great annual celebration is next Saturday (22nd June) at Trinity School in Nottingham. Join Bishop Patrick and families from across the diocese for a great FREE day celebrating family life and the Year of Prayer. There are workshops with ideas for praying as a family, Mass, cultural food and a BBQ and lots of entertainment, games and activities for all ages. Book your place at: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events/diocesan-families-day-2

Calling Foundation Governors: A virtual information session about being a foundation governor in one of our Catholic schools is taking place on **Thursday 27th June** from 7.00pm to 8.00pm. See the poster on the notice board, or contact: Julie Sweeney at julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk

From the Saints

“A good man is not a perfect man; a good man is an honest man, faithful and unhesitatingly responsive to the voice of God in his life.”

St John Fisher (1469-1535)



Parish Hall: The new kitchen and ladies toilet facilities have now been installed and the hall decorated, which means it is available for use. There is some further work to be carried out on the hall floor which means that at some point very soon it will be out of use again for about a week. Thank you for your patience. *Fr Paul*

Marie Brookes would like to thank everyone who supported her cake and jam sale last weekend.

The total raised from the sale was £235 which will be donated to the Sudan Emergency Appeal

The second collection this weekend is for Day for Life

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £808 (£113 gift-aided)

Standing orders: £704 @ 31/05 (£636 gift-aided)

Attendance: 552

Thank you

St Mary's bank account details for online donations

Bank: Lloyds

A/c name: St Mary of Annun Lough RCP

Sort code: 30-95-21

A/c no: 00481028
