

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

21st SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

This saying is hard, who can accept it?



Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?"... This Sunday marks the end of a series of readings from the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John that is commonly known as the **'Bread of Life Discourse'**. Over the past several Sundays we heard about how Jesus fed a vast crowd with only *five small loaves of bread and a few fish* and His teachings about the fact that He is the **"living bread from heaven"** that is the source of eternal life.

Finally, last Sunday, in a great climax, we heard Jesus declare that this **"living bread"** is His own body: *"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink"* (John 6:54-55).

In this Sunday's Gospel, we learn how many of Jesus' followers responded to His words. St John simply says, *"As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied Him"*. What a sad and decisive moment. But Peter spoke up, *"To who else can we go..."*

Like the women and men in that crowd, our lives are filled with choices. This holds true of our faith-life, as well. Although we might not think much about it, choices are a difficult reality because with every **choice** comes **consequences**. By committing ourselves to one choice – like extending or accepting a marriage proposal, being open to the gift of children, entering religious life, or simply making prayer a part of our daily lives – we are also choosing to let go of other options. This happens in countless ways – big and small – throughout our lives.

The most serious choice we can make in life, however, is our decision to follow Christ. And this choice, like every other, also has consequences for the way we live our lives. To choose to believe in Jesus and His teachings – including our belief that He is truly our **Bread of Life** – means to follow Him in every aspect of our lives. There is no part of our life that can be **compartmentalised** or **kept**

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

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01509 212621

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Headteacher: Miss P Jordan

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01509 268739

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Headteacher: Mr C Maher

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St Monica

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Billie Cadwallader
Nguyen Van Dong
Luong Duc Tinh
Tracey Allen
Rob Whitehouse

May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Irene Elsner
Kyle Rooney
Roderick MacMillan
Mary Durning
Richard Newton
Giovanni D'Amato
Des Scrivens
Nicola Palmieri

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 24th Vigil Mass
6.00pm For the Parish

Sun 25th Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Carmine Palmieri (RIP)
11.15am Intention for the living
4.00pm **No Italian Mass**

Mon 26th Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God (Memoria)
10.30am Intention for the living

Tues 27th St Monica (Memoria)
9.15am Rupert de Lisle (RIP, Anniversary)

Weds 28th St Augustine, Bishop, Confessor & Doctor
6.30pm Intention for the living (Latin)

Thurs 29th The Passion of St John the Baptist (Memoria)
9.15am Criselda Castillo (RIP)

Fri 30th The Dedication of St Barnabas Cathedral (Feast)
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Fr David Tobin - in Thanksgiving

Sat 31st St Aidan & Saints of Lindisfarne (Memoria)
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:** Thomas Herbert Palmer (RIP, Anniv)

Sun 1st Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Ann Folkes (RIP)
2.30pm *Baptism*
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

Please note

Mass on Monday, which is a Bank Holiday, will be at 10.30am
The Italian Mass resumes at 4.00pm on Sunday 1st September.

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separate from the **grace** He offers **or** the demands that discipleship places upon us.

Just like the crowd in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus asks us if we will stay with Him or if we will choose another path. Every day provides us with an opportunity to renew our commitment to follow Him. This is most especially true when we choose to receive **Holy Communion – the Body and Blood of Christ**. In the Mass, we recognize that Jesus has chosen to remain with us, nourishing and healing us, and giving us all of Himself. In the Mass, we find the strength to say yes, again and again, to the Lord's invitation to follow Him. **Yes**, I'll follow you. **Yes**, I'll trust you know best.

Choosing to follow Jesus and to live according to His teachings means opening up our hearts to something new. Jesus was offering **words** and the **ways** that were **"eternal life"**, but the people in the crowd weren't able to let go of their ideas about who Jesus was and what He was able to offer them. The words of this Sunday's Gospel remind us that when we make the commitment that comes with choosing to stay with Jesus and to live as He wants us to, we can become like Jesus and, like Him, we will be graced with the courage and love we need to offer all of our lives for God and for the good of all those around us, our families, friends and neighbours.

This gives full meaning to our existence, but it entails difficulties and sacrifices because very often we must swim against the tide of popular opinion.

Fr David Jones OLV

Interested in becoming Catholic? If you are and you're over 18, you can join the RCIA course (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) which will begin towards the end of September. We meet alternate Thursdays at 7pm and study the Catholic faith. If you enrol on the course there is no obligation to become a Catholic at the end of it. The course is also suitable for already Catholic adults who would like to be confirmed. Please contact Fr Paul or email the parish office.

Anniversaries in the Newsletter: A reminder that the anniversaries of your deceased family and friends will be printed in the newsletter for 10 years after their death. After that you need to request it each year by an email to the Parish Office, space being the issue. Thank you.

Confirmation 2025:

Those wishing to be confirmed in 2025 should be in at least Year 7 by September 2024. This is advance notice that anyone applying should be attending weekly Mass now. 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

Mass bookings: Please note Mass intentions are now fully booked until the end of October. It is advisable to book well in advance (preferably six months) if your request is for a specific date. *Fr Paul*

This Tuesday 27th

August, we welcome Fr Christian de Lisle from London; he will celebrate the 9.15am Mass for his recently deceased brother Rupert. *Fr Paul*

The parish hall will not be open for teas and coffees after this weekend's Masses due to the new floor being laid.

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.

The next Food Bank collection will be on Saturday 7th September between 10.30 and 11.00am in the car park. Items requested: small cans of fruit, tea bags, small jars of coffee and sachets of drinking chocolate, washing machine products, shampoo, shower gel, long life milk and small tubes/bottles of factor 30/50 sun cream. Thank you for your continued support. *Jane Monaghan*

Pilgrimage in honour of Blessed Cyprian Tansi, Mount St Bernard Abbey, Saturday 31st August, 10.30am: This annual event is resuming for the first time since the pandemic. Last year marked 25 years since Blessed Cyprian's beatification and this year it is 60 years since he died in Leicester Royal Infirmary. All welcome to experience a day of great blessings.

From the Saints

"Be gentle to all, and stern with yourself."

St Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)



Our Parish now has Contactless Giving

Your donations will maintain our beautiful church building and support the work, mission, and ministry of our parish.

Contactless giving is simple:

Select your amount and hold your card against the card reader. For donations of £100 or over, Chip & Pin can be used

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £787 (£93 gift-aided)

Standing orders: £816 @ 31/07 (£705 gift-aided)

Attendance: 444

Thank you

Please consider switching your weekly offering to Standing Order and adding Gift Aid if possible

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

Alternatively, scan this QR code to donate securely from your phone

