

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

NEWSLETTER

Get ready!

Today is the **First Sunday of Advent** and the beginning of the **new liturgical year**. The readings for Sundays now change to Year C, with the main theme being **readiness** for the coming of Our Lord. His **First Coming**, the greatest event in the whole of the universe, has already taken place at Bethlehem two thousand years ago, and while we prepare to celebrate this First Coming at Christmas, the beginning of Advent invites us to focus even more on His **Second Coming** at the end of time.

Therefore we hear in the Gospel reading today (Luke 25:25-28) that He will come on the clouds at a time we don't expect with power and great glory. *"But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place and to stand before the Son of Man."* These words of Our Lord should spark in us all a good and thorough **examination of conscience**, and if there are any habitual sins, particularly serious ones, Advent is the time to seek God's grace and try to rid ourselves of them and make our peace with God. This is how we get ready for Our Lord's Second Coming, which will be either at our own personal death or at the end of time, whichever comes first.

So it seems very appropriate that during this Advent season we should make a good, humble **Confession**. Don't put it off any longer! Confessions at St Mary's are on Fridays between 6 and 6.25pm and on Saturdays between 10.30 and 11.30am, or upon request. Receive absolution for those sins that weigh you down and ask for strength to overcome them. And then have a plan for your Advent preparations: take up some **spiritual reading**, the Scriptures or the life of a saint. Spend extra time in prayer with the aid of the **'Walk with Me'** booklet, and don't forget the Rosary. Make a list of the good works you hope to engage in. But don't be idle. As St Paul tells us, *"Now is the time to wake from sleep"* (Roman 13:11). So get ready! Life is short, and we know not the day or the hour.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

97 Ashby Road
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



St Nicholas

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 30th **Vigil Mass**
6.00pm Charles Connolly (RIP)

Sun 1st **First Sunday of Advent**
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Andy Newbold (RIP)
4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 2nd **Advent Feria**
9.15am Deceased members of the Myers family

Tues 3rd **St Francis Xavier (Memoria)**
9.15am Billie Cadwallader (RIP)

Weds 4th **St Peter Chrysologus, Bishop & Confessor**
6.30pm Intention for the living (Latin)

Thurs 5th **Feria**
9.15am Gracy de Souza (RIP)

Fri 6th **St Nicholas (Memoria)** *First Friday*
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Our Deceased Relatives & Friends

Sat 7th **St Ambrose (Memoria)** *Five First Saturdays Devotion*
10.00am Trevor & Eunice Ling (RIP)
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
-12.30pm *with Confessions 10.30-11.30am & Benediction 12.20pm*
3.00pm Maltese Mass
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** Venancio Castillo Jr (RIP, Anniversary)

Sun 8th **Second Sunday of Advent**
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Michael Smith (RIP)
4.00pm Italian Mass
6.00pm Advent Carol Service

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

Tues 3rd Catch Up Cafe - 2.00pm in the hall
 Bible Study - 7.00pm in the library

Thurs 5th RCIA - 7.00pm in the hall

**Please pray for those
 who are sick**

**for those who have
 recently died**

Fr Michele Botto Steglia IC
 Sabelo Joe Sibanda
 Patricia Bandura
May they rest in peace

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

Beverly Ryder
 Filomena Micciche
 Robert Di Niro
 Margaret Sheaf
 Fernando Buttarazzi
 Bill Flatley
 Dorothy Fellows
 Elizabeth Kendell
 James Callan

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.

Next Monday 9th December is the transferred Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. It is not a Holyday of Obligation in England. Masses will be at 9.15am (attended by St Mary's School) and 6.30pm. After the evening Mass I will bless Miraculous Medals (originally known as the Medal of the Immaculate Conception) and enrol anyone in it who wishes to be. *Fr Paul*

The New Lectionary: The Lectionary is the book which contains the Scripture readings for Mass. From this weekend in England, Wales and Scotland, we will be using a new translation: the **English Standard Version – Catholic Edition** (ESV-CE) for the Scripture readings, and the Psalms will be from the **Abbey Psalter**. For several decades we have been reading from the Jerusalem Bible, so you may well notice some changes from what you are used to hearing. The readings and psalms will have the same content – it is only the translation that will be changing. While no translation is ever perfect, the ESV-CE is based on the Revised Standard Version which is highly regarded for accuracy and faithfulness to the original languages, and only slight changes have been made to modernise the language and to reflect the latest scholarship. We may have become over-familiar with some Biblical passages, so hearing them in the new ESV-CE might bring us all some new insights. St Jerome who translated the Bible in the fourth century famously said, *“Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ”*. So may this change inspire us to read the Scriptures more frequently – daily if possible, thereby coming to a deeper knowledge and love of Our Lord and Saviour JESUS Christ. *Fr Paul*

School admissions to Catholic Primary Academies (Reception class) - children born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021. The deadline for submitting applications for a school place is **15th January 2025**. Application forms are available on 'home' Local Authority websites. For every Catholic school application where a child is to be considered and ranked under a faith criterion there should also be a supplementary information form, completed and returned to the school by the deadline; these forms are available from the LA and the school. Applicants must also include the supporting evidence as required with this form, eg baptism certificate (photocopies acceptable; contact the parish of baptism for a copy if needed, in good time). Failure to supply the required supporting evidence will mean the child is ranked in a lower criterion, which may affect the chances of a place.

As is our tradition, there will be a Rorate Mass (the Advent Mass of Our Lady celebrated by candlelight) on **Friday 13th December** at 6.45am. Please note there will be no evening Mass that day.

Our Advent Carol Service will be on Sunday 8th December at 6pm and will be sung by the 11.15am Mass choir. There is a lot of great music composed for Advent and this is distinct to our usual **Christmas Carol Service** which will be on **Sunday 22nd December at 4.00pm**. I hope both will be well supported as a lot of work goes into preparation. *Fr Paul*

The Christmas Food Bank/Your Store collection will be on Saturday 7th December in the church park from 10.30 to 11.00am. Requested are biscuits, chocolate treats of any kind, Christmas crackers, hot chocolate sachets, sweets. There's a full list is on the church door as you enter the building. Thank you very much for your support of this venture over the past year; the staff greatly appreciate St Mary's donations. We continue to be one of the greatest contributors. *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.

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.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are invited to come together on **Saturday 14th December** at Sacred Heart Church, Loughborough. There will be a Holy Hour for Advent, starting at 2.00pm, followed by an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Pre-ordered copies of the CTS Sunday Missal, with the new translation of the readings, can be collected from the Repository; there are also a limited number of copies available for sale.

The second collection this weekend is for Exaireo, a local Christian charity supporting homeless people by providing accommodation, work, training and rehabilitation. Your donations will help pay for a Christmas lunch for the charity's residents. Bank details: 40-52-40/00017334. Tel: 01509 266422.

From the Saints

"In vain, then, do we attempt to compute definitely the years that may remain to this world, when we may hear from the mouth of Truth Himself that it is not for us to know this."

St Augustine of Hippo (354-430)



'Walk with me' booklets for Advent are available. Suggested donation: £1.

Thank you to all who supported the Christmas Fayre and especially the sponsors, stallholders and Miss Jordan, St Mary's School Headteacher. Our combined efforts raised just over £2000. Well done to all.

The Catch up Cafe on Tuesday 3rd December will be a Christmas Celebration with a shared table. All welcome to come and join in the fun (2-4pm)

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £687 (£127 gift-aided)

Standing orders: £829 @ 31/10 (£688 gift-aided)

Attendance: 632

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

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

