

# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

PRESENTATION  
OF THE LORD  
(CANDLEMAS)

# NEWSLETTER

## Candlemas and blessed candles



**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

Today, Sunday 2nd February, the Feast of **Candlemas**, or the **Presentation of the Lord**, is the fortieth day after Christmas and the traditional **end of Christmastide**. It was forty days after His birth into this world that Mary and Joseph took JESUS to the temple (Luke 2:22-40), where according to the Law of Moses, Mary His Mother presented Him, and He was "*consecrated to the Lord*" (Exodus 13:2). Mary also underwent the ceremony of **ritual purification**, and it is for this reason, in the traditional Roman Rite, today's Feast is known as the **Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. Of course, she needed no purification because she was a virgin before, during and after Our Lord's birth, and she is also the **Immaculate Conception**. Neither did Our Lord need to be presented in the temple to be consecrated to God, because He was the Son of God by nature and therefore a Divine Person. But Our Lady carried out this ceremony as it would have given God infinitely more glory than all the sacrifices of the Old Testament put together, because it was His Divine Son Who was being offered as the Victim for our sins, the culmination of which would take place on Mount Calvary thirty-three years later.

On this Feast, it is customary to have the **Blessing and Procession with Candles** – a ceremony which dates from at least the seventh century. When Our Lord was presented in the temple, the aged **Simeon**, inspired by the Holy Spirit, proclaimed JESUS to be the fulfilment of God's promise and declared Him to be, "*a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Thy people Israel*". This is the reason we process with candles. They represent Christ Who is the "*Light of the World*" (John 8:12). As candles are consumed by their flame, they symbolise Christ's sacrifice on the Cross out of love for us. Just as light pierces the darkness, so Christ conquers the powers of darkness and evil, and enlightens the hearts of believers. The lighted candle also reminds us of our **Baptism** when we were presented with a lighted candle, symbolising the light of faith that we must carry into the world. And just as Simeon and Anna longed to see the Messiah before they died, the **procession** reminds us that we are pilgrims journeying towards Heaven guided by the light of Christ.

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*St Blaise, Patron of Throats*

**Please pray for those who are sick**

**for those who have recently died**

Paul Anthony Astill  
*May he rest in peace*

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

David Hibbin  
Gladys Orton  
Hugh Mead  
Patricia Dorsey  
Gwen Moson  
Patrick Doyle  
Anna King  
Frankie Bulger  
Czeslaw Szychowski  
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**

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**Sat 1st Vigil Mass**  
6.00pm Henry Pineda (RIP)

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**Sun 2nd The Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)**  
9.00am For the Parish  
11.15am Marta Moson (RIP)  
2.30pm *Baptism*  
4.00pm **Italian Mass**

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**Mon 3rd St Blaise (Memoria)**  
9.15am Mary John Nedumakal (RIP, Anniversary)

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**Tues 4th St Gilbert of Sempringham (Memoria)**  
9.15am George Houston (RIP)

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**Weds 5th St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr**  
6.30pm Constance Mavis Stanford (RIP) (Latin)

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**Thurs 6th Ss Paul Miki & Companions (Memoria)**  
9.15am Private Intention

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**Fri 7th Feria First Friday (Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart)**  
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*  
6.30pm For our Deceased Family & Friends

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**Sat 8th St Josephine Bakhita (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:** Anna Chmielowiec (RIP)

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**Sun 9th Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
9.00am Teresa & Joe Frankow (RIP)  
11.15am For the Parish  
2.30pm *Baptism*  
4.00pm **Italian Mass**

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**Rosary** *Mon, Tues, Thurs after 9.15am Mass; Wed, Fri at 6.00pm; First Saturday of each month after 10.00am Mass*

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**THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S**

**Mon 3rd** First Holy Communion parents meeting - 7.00pm in the Hall  
**Tues 4th** Catch Up Cafe - 2-4pm in the Hall

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Blessed candles are **sacramentals**. They don't confer grace as the Sacraments do, but they dispose those **who use them with faith** to receive grace and sanctify their daily lives. That said, the Church teaches that blessed candles convey the following effects:

- **Spiritual protection**, driving away the influence of demons and evil spirits. The prayers of blessing often include an exorcism, asking God to drive away the powers of evil.
- They **sanctify the environment** making it more conducive to prayer.
- They are often lit during **storms, natural disasters or in times of fear**, invoking God's protection over homes and families.
- They are traditionally placed near **the sick or dying** as a source of consolation, where the flame symbolises Christ's light leading the soul through the darkness of death to eternal life.

I would encourage you all to take a blessed candle home today and make it part of your daily spiritual life. Let its light remind you that Christ is always with you, no matter how dark the world may seem today. May they help strengthen your faith, protect your homes and draw you closer to the Lord in prayer.

*Fr Paul Gillbam, IC*

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**A Retreat for married couples on 'The Four Disciplines of a Family'** will take place on **Saturday 15th March** from 11.00am until 3.00pm. Mike and Alicia Hernon, founders of the famous Messy Family Podcast are coming from Ohio, USA to lead this Retreat. For more details and to book, visit [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-messy-family-project-st-vincents-mission-hub-sheffield-tickets-1116789079199?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discover&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-messy-family-project-st-vincents-mission-hub-sheffield-tickets-1116789079199?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discover&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl)

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**The life and teachings of Edith Stein:** Father Matthew Blake, OCD will offer a weekend (**Friday 14th – Sunday 16th March**) exploring the life and teachings of Edith Stein, or Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, and her indomitable search for truth that led her to the Catholic faith. For more information and to book, visit <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-search-for-truth-edith-stein/>

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## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Thursday 27th March, 7.00pm:** Station Mass for the Holy Year at St Mary's with Bishop Patrick. Remember we are a Jubilee Year church.

**Tuesday 1st May, 7.00pm:** Consecration of St Mary's Church by Bishop Patrick.

## **Enhanced DBS holders:**

Those due for a 3 year check will receive an email from gov.uk. To continue to make your subscription valid you will need to click onto the site highlighted in blue and follow the instructions. If you have missed this email then you will need to apply for a new DBS check which I will action for you. Please get in touch with me via [office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk](mailto:office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk). Thank you for your support and volunteering

*Jane Monaghan*

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## **New People's Missals, with the new translation of the readings:**

The CTS Sunday Missal (£19.95) can be ordered through the Repository now. The Daily Missal (£69.99) with both Sunday and Weekday Masses, and The Weekday Missal (£55) with weekday Masses only, will be available on **30th April**. Pre-order now through the Repository.

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**De Lisle College is looking to employ exam invigilators** at a rate of £12.26-12.45 ph. Closing date for applications: **12th February**. Call 01509 268739 or apply online at <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/138298/EDV-2025-DLCLL-63211>

## 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.

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**Parish Hall fire doors:** I am delighted to inform you that the installation of the required fire doors in the parish hall, library and presbytery has been successfully completed. I am most grateful to the donor who provided the doors. This important work ensures the safety and security of our parish facilities. *Fr Paul*

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**White Flower Appeal 2025:** The Society for the Protection of the Unborn Children (SPUC) will hold its annual appeal next weekend (**8th and 9th February**). SPUC's mission is to see abortion abolished and this year's appeal postcards call on the Government to adhere to the United Nations' Convention on the rights of the child. Please help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers. And please note that **only cash donations can be accepted**.

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## From the Saints

*"The blessed candle with its light and warmth, signifies the divine wisdom of Christ and the charity with which He illumines and inflames our souls."*

(St Thomas Aquinas, ca 1225-1274)

## This Monday 3rd

**February is the feast of St Blaise**, the patron saint of throats. Therefore, we will bless throats in anticipation after all Masses this weekend and after Mass on Monday.

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## First Holy Communion:

A reminder that there will be a short parents' meeting in the hall this **Monday 3rd February** at 7pm

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## Last Rites does not mean Last Minute!

As soon as a person begins to be in danger of death because of illness, injury or old age, the time for anointing has surely already come. *Fr Paul*

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## Last Week's Finance

**1st Collection:** £782 (£178 gift-aided)

**Standing orders:** £837 @ 31/12 (£692 gift-aided)

**Attendance:** 641

*Thank you*

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## 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

