

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

7th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

The Pearl of York



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

Next Thursday, 27th February, we celebrate the feast of a remarkable woman from York, **St Margaret Clitherow** (1555-1586) whose faith and courage still inspire us today. During the Protestant Reformation she risked her life to stand against threats to the ancient Faith and to protect Catholic priests and give them a place to celebrate Mass and the Sacraments. For this she was martyred, which earned her the title of the **"Pearl of York"**.

The **English Reformation** began in the 1530s when **King Henry VIII** broke away from the Catholic Church because the Pope refused to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon. So Henry pronounced himself the Supreme Head of the Church of England, and appointed a new Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury, **Thomas Cranmer**, thereby ending nearly one thousand years of Catholic England. Henry, who was in desperate need of money, closed all the monasteries and seized all their land and property. Under his son **Edward VI**, who became King at nine years old, things became much worse. Anti-Catholic laws were passed, altars and shrines were destroyed, the Mass was abolished and Catholic doctrine was officially replaced with Protestant beliefs. Edward didn't live long dying aged fifteen and was succeeded by Catholic **Queen Mary I** who reigned for just five years. She was succeeded by her half-sister **Elizabeth I**, who to begin with was content to just fine Catholics who didn't attend the Protestant services. But then a second wave of persecution began, **when being a priest or even hiding one became punishable by death**. So priests had to travel in secret and celebrate Mass and the Sacraments in the homes of brave Catholics who were willing to risk everything.

St Margaret Clitherow was one such person. She was born into a Protestant family and married a Protestant butcher. But after meeting a **missionary priest**, she converted to Catholicism. She was very fervent, secretly arranging for Masses to be celebrated in her home and hiding priests, while her husband John turned a blind eye. The priests, many of whom were **Jesuits** trained in France, would have to travel in disguise pretending to be merchants or common labourers to avoid detection, but there was always a danger of spies and informers.

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St Anne Line

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Milo Henry
May he rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Sr Anna Patricia
Les Prentice
Ann Folkes
Linus Linkevicius
Zbigniew Czybai
Jan Wisniewski
Margaret Jackson
Vivienne Ashleigh
Salem Issa
Anna Corbinzolu
Gary Clarke

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 22nd Vigil Mass
6.00pm John McEnergy (RIP)

Sun 23rd Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Ann Folkes (RIP, Anniversary)
4.00pm **Italian Mass**

Mon 24th Feria
9.15am Henryka Abucewicz (RIP)

Tues 25th Feria
9.15am Private Intention

Weds 26th Feria
6.30pm Vera Hurry (RIP) (Ordinariate)

Thurs 27th Ss Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line, Margaret Ward, Martyrs
9.15am Intention for the living

Fri 28th Feria
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Wladyslaw Chmielowiec (RIP)

Sat 1st St David, Patron of Wales (Feast) *Five First Saturdays Dev'n*
10.00am Pope Francis (GE)
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:** For the Parish

Sun 2nd Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Louie Palmieri (RIP)
11.15am Mario Mancini (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*

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Mon 24th First Confession Class - 4.15pm in the Hall
Weds 26th UCM - 2.00pm in the Hall
Thurs 27th RCIA - 7.00pm in the Library

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In 1586, her home was raided and vestments and sacred vessels were found, proving that she had been sheltering Catholic priests who had been celebrating Mass. She was arrested and refused to enter a plea, because she knew a trial would endanger her family and friends. For that refusal, she was martyred on 25th March 1546 by being **pressed to death beneath a heavy wooden door**, loaded with stones. As the life was squeezed out of her and her unborn child, her final words were, “JESUS, JESUS, JESUS, have mercy on me!” She was 36 years old.

Margaret Clitherow was canonised a saint in 1970 as one of the **Forty Martyrs of England and Wales**. Her house, 36 The Shambles in York, is now a shrine where Mass is celebrated daily. May her great faith and courage inspire us today. She and many others risked their lives so that priests might offer to God the **Holy Sacrifice of the Mass** and preserve the True Faith. Yet how often do we, who at least for the time being, have plenty of opportunities to attend Mass, neglect to do so? What she treasured more than life itself, we often regard so lightly. Let us pray through her intercession for a great love of the Mass and for a deepening of our faith, especially in the **Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist**. St Margaret Clitherow is the patron saint of both the **Union of Catholic Mothers** and the **Catholic Women’s League**.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

The Sisters from the St Elisabeth Convent in Belarus will be returning after several years and selling religious articles, made in their convent, after the 9.15am Mass on **Monday 3rd March**.

Grub Club was held on Tuesday and Thursday during school half term break. We served 124 meals over the 2 days to a total of 15 families, many who came both days, and some new families. Great activities and food were enjoyed by all. Our next dates will be during the Easter school holidays. Thank you to all for your support. *Eileen Smith*

Sing the Mass: a day for parish choirs, cantors and anyone who believes that those who sing pray twice. **Saturday 15th March**, 10.30am for an 11.00am start at Saint Wilfrid of York, Coalville, LE67 3JB. For full details, see the poster at the back of the church.

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.

Thursday 1st May, 7.00pm: Consecration of St Mary’s Church by Bishop Patrick.

Praying for the Pope: I’m sure you are all aware that Pope Francis is very unwell in hospital with double pneumonia and the Vatican has described his situation as “complex.” Let us unite in our prayers, lifting him up to the Lord’s mercy and grace. May Our Blessed Mother intercede for him. *Fr Paul*

Enhanced DBS holders: please see safeguarding information regarding renewal of certificates on the safeguarding notice at the back of church.

Jane Monaghan

Your Heritage, Your Voice! As part of a PhD project, we are exploring what urban heritage means to local communities in Loughborough. This survey will take no more than 20 minutes to complete. Please see the poster at the back of the church for full information

P Aftabi, L’boro University

Quiz Night: Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 7.30pm, **Saturday 1st March** (the profits will to the Knights of St Columba youth fund). Cost: £7 a head, £3 for children and students, to include a cheese supper, wine and soft drinks. Please call Will Holland on 07811 353 248 to book - this helps plan the catering.

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.

Parents' Retreat: The Diocese of Nottingham is organising a day retreat for parents, with activities for children, on **Sunday 16th March** at Our Lady of Lincoln Church, Lincoln. See the poster at the back of the church for details.

The Catholic Union is holding a webinar on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill on Thursday 3rd April at 6.30pm.

It will give members and supporters the chance to unpick the Bill before it returns to the Commons' Chamber for a Third Reading on **25th April**. To sign up for the webinar, register at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hard-cases-dont-make-good-law-assisted-suicide-webinar-tickets-1233106176769?aff=oddtcreator.

New selection of Lenten booklets now available to buy from the Repository



From the Saints

"In condemning us, you condemn all your own ancestors, all the ancient bishops and kings, all that was once the glory of England."

St Edmund Campion (1540-81), addressing the court at his trial

Ash Wednesday this year falls on 5th March.

Masses will be at 9.15am, 12 noon (Sung Latin) and 6.30pm (English). It is a day of fasting and abstinence but not a day of obligation.

Pancake Party for the children and all parishioners after 9.00am and 11.15am Masses on **Sunday 2nd March**. No cost and all welcome. Do please join together to celebrate Shrove Tuesday with the children.

Organised by the UCM

SPUC: The next meeting will be on **Monday 3rd March** at 7.00pm in the parish hall. All welcome.

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £754 (£165 gift-aided)

Standing orders: £819 @ 31/01 (£701 gift-aided)

Attendance: 610

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

