

# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

## 20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# NEWSLETTER

## Guarding Against Rash Judgment



### St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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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

Of the many sins we find ourselves falling into easily, **rash judgment** must be near the top of the list, when we judge the thoughts and actions of another. Our Lord warned, *"Judge not, that you may not be judged"* (Matthew 7:1). Now this is not to forbid all judgment. Our Lord is telling us not to judge our neighbour **without good cause**. It's very common today to interpret these words of Our Lord to mean, "You have no right to say anything is wrong" or "All moral evaluation is forbidden" but this is not what Our Lord is saying. Elsewhere He says, *"Beware of false prophets"* (Matthew 7:15) and *"Judge with right judgment"* (John 7:24). We have to judge all the time between truth and falsehood, good and evil, virtue and vice. And this is particularly the case where our soul is concerned, or the souls of those entrusted to our care. So what Our Lord is forbidding is judgment that is rash, and a judgment is rash when it is formed **without any real evidence**, or when we attribute bad motives to people for which we have no grounds for doing so, reasons for which we would be extremely annoyed if people used the same criteria to judge us. **St Thomas Aquinas** (1225-1274) defined rash judgment as *"the habit of forming an evil opinion of another without sufficient reason."* We cannot know what is in a person's heart. That is known by God alone.

For example, you might see someone leave Mass early, and without knowing the reason, you conclude they are being irreverent, whereas they might be rushing home to look after someone who is sick. Or you see the police talking to a neighbour, and you immediately think they must have committed a crime, whereas they may have simply witnessed an accident. And these things are not just being mistaken. **It's choosing to assume the worst about a person** when you don't know the facts. **St Francis de Sales** (1567-1622) wisely tells us, *"If you cannot excuse the act, excuse the intention. If you cannot excuse the intention, excuse the circumstances. And if you cannot excuse anything, be content to say, 'Perhaps I do not understand the whole story.'"* We often form these opinions thoughtlessly, but if they are the result of malice, pride, envy or hatred, the sin is more grave, because they presuppose the **injuring of our neighbour**, which is obviously contrary to the law of charity.

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*The Queenship of Our Lady*

**Please pray for those who are sick**

**for those who have recently died:**

Fr Jim Gordon IC  
Sheila Mary Monaghan  
*May they rest in peace*

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

David Taylor  
Joan Van Ristell-Brown  
Jeffrey Barrington  
Vittorio Acierno  
Vincenzo Pasquale

**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 16th**      **Vigil Mass**  
6.00pm      Keith Newton (RIP)

**Sun 17th**      **Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
9.00am      John & Andrew Marples (RIP)  
11.15am      For the Parish  
4.00pm      **No Italian Mass**

**Mon 18th**      **Feria**  
9.15am      Constance Mavis Stanford (RIP)

**Tues 19th**      **St John Eudes, Priest**  
9.15am      Intention for the living

**Weds 20th**      **St Bernard, Abbot & Doctor**  
5.00pm      *Confirmation*  
6.30pm      Intention for the living (Latin)

**Thurs 21st**      **St Pius X, Pope**  
9.15am      Barbara Teresa McEvoy (RIP)

**Fri 22nd**      **The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
6.00-6.25pm      *Confessions*  
6.30pm      Thabani Ncube (RIP, Anniversary)

**Sat 23rd**      **St Philip Benizi, Confessor**  
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 sanctification of priests

**Sun 24th**      **Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
9.00am      Gino, Salvatore & Annamaria Romano (RIP)  
11.15am      For the Parish  
4.00pm      **No Italian Mass**

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

The next Italian Mass will be on **Sunday 31st August** at 4.00pm

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**What are the remedies?** Firstly, **slow down** coming to a conclusion. Do I know this for certain or am I giving in to speculation? Then **attribute good motives** to people rather than condemning them. And then **examine your own heart**. Often, the faults we suspect in others are the same things we suffer from ourselves!

So the standard is clear. We must always judge actions and teachings according to the truth, but we cannot judge what is in another person's heart. We must call sin "sin", but we should never pronounce someone guilty unless the evidence is beyond doubt.

**Speak the truth clearly, but at the same time be merciful and slow to condemn.** Think of Our Lord hanging on the Cross. Far from condemning His enemies who were jeering at Him, He prayed for and forgave them, and even made excuses for them to His Heavenly Father: *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing"* (Luke 23:24).

*Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

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**Organ Restoration Update:** The organ has now been dismantled, and its parts have been taken away for repair and cleaning. As part of the project, there will be a general restoration and an upgrade of the electric action. The console will also be relocated from the Lady Chapel to the choir gallery. In the meantime we have the use of an electric keyboard while the work is being carried out. *Fr Paul*

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**Interested in Becoming Catholic?** The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) classes will begin soon. These classes are intended primarily for adults who are interested in becoming Catholic, but it is also open to Catholics who simply want to know more about their faith, and for Catholics over 18 who would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. We meet every other Thursday at 7pm in the library. The first class will be on **Thursday 25th September**. Application forms are available from Fr Paul. Please note that signing up for the course does not commit you to becoming Catholic. It is a journey of exploration and discernment, allowing you to learn more and decide at your own pace.

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**March for Life 2025:** On **Saturday 6th September** the annual UK March for Life will take place in London. There will be a coach from Nottingham, picking up from Good Shepherd Arnold and Cathedral Derby Road, costing adults £30, unwaged including students £15, under 16s £10. To book on the coach or for more information contact Marie ([marieclangford@live.co.uk](mailto:marieclangford@live.co.uk), 07948 151264)

**'Walk to Rome':** To assist places for the eight young people joining the Parish Pilgrimage in October, I am organising a collective 'Walk to Rome' - a distance of 1220 miles. Everyone taking part will track how far they walk and then come together for a planned (historical treasure hunt) walk of about 3 miles around Loughborough on **Saturday 13th September**. We will meet outside Olivia's Café in Queens Park at 12.30pm (after Adoration). Do please support if you can. There will be sponsorship forms at the back of church leading up to 13th September. *Liz Abell*

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**The Martyr-Saints of the North-West, Friday 12th until Sunday 14th September:** A weekend studying some of the Reformation-era martyrs of the North-West region. Part-retreat, part-biographical, the weekend will be led by Monsignor John Allen of Salford Diocese, who has recently published a history of the diocese with a foreword by Eamon Duffy. For more information and to book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-martyr-saints-of-the-north-west/>

## 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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**Queenship of Our Lady: Next Friday 22nd August**, the Octave Day of the Assumption of Our Lady, we celebrate the Feast of her Queenship. This feast completes the mystery of her Assumption, for it was at that moment she was crowned Queen of all Creation by the Blessed Trinity. Here, the true glory and greatness of Mary, previously hidden, is revealed to the entire universe. Although we may not often reflect on it, her Queenship is deeply woven into Catholic devotion: the fifth Glorious Mystery of the Rosary is her Coronation as Queen of Heaven; we sing the Salve Regina ("Hail, Holy Queen"); and her Litany overflows with titles proclaiming her royal dignity. So let us be greatly encouraged that we have such a powerful advocate in Heaven and a Mother who cares for us so tenderly.

*Fr Paul*

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## From the Saints

*"To avoid rash judgment, everyone should be careful to interpret insofar as possible his neighbours thoughts, words and deeds in a favourable way."*

St Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556)

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**SPUC Meeting: Save the Date.** The next meeting of the Loughborough SPUC Branch will take place on **1st September** at 7.00pm in the parish hall. All welcome.

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**The Diocese is looking to appoint an IT and GDPR Administration Assistant** based at the Diocesan Curia Office. For more details visit [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers). Send application forms to: Christa Wardle, HR Officer: [office@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:office@dioceseofnottingham.uk) by 9am on **26th August**.

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## Last Week's Finance

**Collection:** £716 (of which £88 was Gift-Aided)

**Standing orders:** £831 @ 31/07 (of which £710 was Gift-Aided)

**Attendance:** 512

*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

