

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

22nd SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

The danger of lukewarm faith



**St Mary of the Annunciation
Catholic Church**

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Served by the Rosminians

Parish Priest

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One of the biggest dangers in the spiritual life isn't necessarily hatred or rejection of God. It's something far more subtle – **lukewarmness**. In the Apocalypse, the final book of the Bible, JESUS warns us, *"Because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will begin to vomit thee out of my mouth"* (3:16). In other words, God finds lukewarmness nauseating!

So what is spiritual lukewarmness? It's not an absence of faith, but the refusal of its demands. It's when a person thinks: *"I don't do anybody any harm. I go to Mass on Sundays. I do pray, but not every day, and I go to Confession every Easter. I don't have any terrible sins – I mean I haven't murdered anybody and I don't steal, so basically I'm a good person."* And that's the danger – **lukewarmness makes us think we are fine as we are**. Venial or less serious sins are swept under the carpet and we think, *"It's just a small lie, only a little gossip and no one got hurt."* But the saints tell us that repeated venial sins dull the conscience, weaken our will, and in time they develop into mortal sins. A lukewarm Catholic will compare themselves with the world and think, *"I am better than most."* **But the standard is not the world.** It is JESUS, Who commands us to love the Lord with **all** our heart, mind, soul and strength (Mark 12:30).

The good news is lukewarmness is curable! Here are some suggestions.

1. **Confess your sins regularly.** Don't wait until you've fallen into mortal sin.
2. **Stop comparing** and saying, *"I'm better than most."* A far better question is, *"Am I more like Christ today than I was yesterday?"*
3. **Pray** even if you don't feel like it. **St Alphonsus said**, *"He who prays will be saved; he who does not pray will be lost."* Prayer keeps us spiritually alive.
4. **Practice acts of mercy**; visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, forgiving those who have offended you, praying for the dead. It takes the focus off ME!
5. **Receive Holy Communion with fervour**, not just out of routine. Prepare before Mass and make a thanksgiving after.

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St Pius X

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died:

Jerzy Kowalski
Declan MacDaide
Sheila Mary Monaghan
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Lloyd Skelton
Christine Fornara
Peggy Cimelli
Olimpia Buccheri
Donna Bellucci
Violet Bowler

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 30th <i>6.00pm</i>	Vigil Mass For the Parish
Sun 31st <i>9.00am</i> <i>11.15am</i> <i>4.00pm</i>	Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time For peace in the world Michael Boakes (RIP) Italian Mass
Mon 1st <i>9.15am</i>	Feria Tony Farrell (RIP)
Tues 2nd <i>9.15am</i>	Feria Anne & Dick Whittington (RIP)
Weds 3rd <i>6.30pm</i>	St Pius X, Pope & Confessor HH Pope Leo XIV (GE) (sung Latin)
Thurs 4th <i>9.15am</i>	St Cuthbert, Bishop Clelia Paciolla (RIP)
Fri 5th <i>6.00-6.25pm</i> <i>6.30pm</i>	Feria: Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart <i>First Friday</i> <i>Confessions</i> For our deceased relatives and friends
Sat 6th <i>10.00am</i> <i>10.30am</i> <i>-12.30pm</i> <i>6.00pm</i>	Saturday Mass of the BVM <i>Five First Saturdays Dev'n</i> In reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary <i>Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am & Benediction 12.20pm</i> Vigil Mass: Justin Andrew Johns (RIP)
Sun 7th <i>9.00am</i> <i>11.15am</i> <i>2.30pm</i> <i>4.00pm</i>	Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time For the Parish Intention for the living <i>Baptism</i> Italian Mass
Rosary	<i>Mon, Tues, Thurs after 9.15am Mass; Wed, Fri at 6.00pm; First Saturday of each month after 10.00am Mass</i>

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Mon 1st	SPUC Meeting - 7.00pm in the hall
Tues 2nd	Catch Up Café - 2.00-4.00pm in the hall

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6. **Flee occasions of sin** – people, places and things. Root out any compromise and don't let small sins remain unchecked.
7. **Pray to the Holy Spirit.** The opposite of lukewarmness is **zeal** which is a Gift of the Holy Spirit. Pray every day, *"Come Holy Spirit, enkindle in me the fire of Thy love."* He can transform us from being tepid and lukewarm into a soul burning with zeal for God's glory.

So let's not settle for mediocrity. If you feel your faith has grown cold or lukewarm, don't be discouraged. **The awareness of it is a grace in itself.** Start doing the things suggested above. If you respond to the grace, you will see how quickly things can change. **JESUS is knocking at your door right now.** Don't keep Him waiting!

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

This weekend there will be a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Patrick on the Enabling Mission Appeal which has been launched in the Diocese.

St Mary's School: The new academic year is underway and we welcome our young children and their families to the Reception class. We also greet Mrs Elizabeth Clark as she joins the dedicated staff team in her role as Deputy Headteacher. We wish the school community continued success for the coming year. *Jane Monaghan*

St Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham will host the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco on Sunday 12th and Monday 13th October, in commemoration of the Centenary of the Five First Saturdays devotion. The Visitation will include a procession and enthronement of the Fatima statue, followed by Mass; opportunities to venerate the saints' relics; praying the Rosary for world peace; and talks and videos about the Fatima messages. A book table with devotional materials will be available, and attendees can enrol in the Brown Scapular devotion. For further details visit: worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk or email: membership@waf-ew.org.uk

Accommodation sought: A parishioner and his family are looking for a house to rent in Loughborough from the end of September. If you, or anyone you know, can help, please contact Fr Paul.

'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*

Marie Brookes will be selling her cakes and jams after Sunday Masses on 14th September. All the proceeds will go towards assisting the eight young people joining the Parish Holy Year Pilgrimage.

Food Bank/Your Store: The next collection will be on **Saturday 6th September** from 10.30 to 11.00am in the car park. Please see items requested on display on the doors as you enter the church. Thank you for your continued support.

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.

Lourdes Petitions: Many thanks to all who left petitions to Our Lady of Lourdes in the box in church recently. We duly delivered those petitions into the box at the Grotto. They were then taken to the evening torchlight procession and placed into two golden bowls before the beautiful statue of Mary which is processed around Rosary Square, in front of the Basilica, during the torchlight service which honours her. It's a beautiful ceremony with thousands of Pilgrims bearing candles and singing the Ave Maria's of Lourdes. Your prayers are now with Mary our mother. *Joan Baxter*

If anyone would like to have a Mass offered for a particular intention, there are many available dates in the next few weeks.



From the Saints

"The lukewarm Christian drags himself into religion, sighs when he prays, sleeps when he is in church, and rushes when he leaves it."

St John Vianney (1786-1859)

SPUC Meeting: This Monday 1st September at 7.00pm in the parish hall. All welcome.

Next weekend (6th and 7th September), Fr Noah Monday will be making an appeal on behalf of Missio. Missio is the Pope's charity for World Mission and through the Red Box we support the Church around the world where it is young and in need. Please consider supporting this important cause by taking a Red Box or signing up to give via Direct Debit.

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £696 (of which £107 was Gift-Aided)

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

Attendance: 446

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

