

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER



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, OLV
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

The Nativity of Our Lady and our mission

On Monday of this week (8th September), we have the great joy of celebrating the **Nativity or Birthday of Our Lady** – the **most beautiful**, the **most holy** and the **most humble** creature to ever walk this earth. Her birth was a momentous event in history because it marked the **dawn of our salvation**. Although her birth went unnoticed by the world, the eyes of the Eternal Father looked down on this little child who had been **preserved from Original Sin**, and He saw the woman who would one day give flesh to His only begotten Son – our Lord and Saviour, JESUS Christ.

Mary's birth into this world signalled that Satan's days were numbered. In the first pages of Scripture, God promised the *"woman"* would crush the head of the serpent. *"I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel"* (Genesis 3:15). The woman is Mary and her seed is Christ. This is why Mary is often depicted crushing a serpent's head. Although Christ is the Redeemer, God willed that victory over Satan would come about **through** Mary, just as the Incarnation itself (God becoming man) came about through Mary's *"fiat"* or *"yes"* (Luke 1:38).

Satan hates Mary because she is everything he is not. He wanted to put himself above God, whereas Mary in her humility called herself *"the handmaid of the Lord"* (Luke 1:38). Satan, by virtue of his angelic nature is higher and far more intelligent than any human being, and yet she, having a lower nature (although higher by grace), defeats him and humiliates him. And because of her **Immaculate Conception**, he had no claim on her at all – she never committed a sin in her life - and that in itself is an eternal humiliation for him. And that's why every time you pray the **"Hail Mary"** it is like a hammer blow to Satan's head. So if you want to be close to JESUS, stay close to Mary. **"To JESUS through Mary"** St Louis de Montfort tells us. Love her, honour her, **pray her Rosary every day**, and she will lead you straight to her Son. She will teach you how to say *"yes"* to God just as she did.

Saying *"yes"* to God is to have a sense of **mission**. The Bishop in his pastoral letter last weekend said he wants all of us to be more **missionary** and **outward looking**. In other words, God has a plan for you and He wants **saints** for these times.

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St Carlo Acutis

Please pray for those who are sick:

for those who have recently died:

Elizabeth (Louise) Johnson,
Jerzy Kowalski,
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Leslie Betts,
Nina Martoccia,
Frank Hately,
Vera Cunningham,
Dreda Clarke,
Brian Dzudzewicz,
Paul Lallo

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 6th
6.00pm

Vigil Mass
Justin Andrew Johns (RIP)

Sun 7th
9.00am
11.15am
2.30pm
4.00pm

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
For the Parish
Intention for the living
Baptism
Italian Mass

Mon 8th
9.15am
11.00am
5.00pm

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Feast)
For the grace of purity and holiness in families & youth
Mary & Guy Nash (RIP) (Latin)
Baptism

Tues 9th
9.15am

St Peter Claver, Priest
St Mary's School Staff and Pupils

Weds 10th
6.30pm

St Nicolas of Tolentino, Confessor
George Houston (RIP) (Latin)

Thurs 11th
9.15am

Feria
Vera Hurry (RIP)

Fri 12th
6.00-6.25pm
6.30pm

Most Holy Name of Mary
Confessions
Emily Houston (RIP)

Sat 13th
10.30am
-12.30pm
6.00pm

St John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor
Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am & Benediction 12.20pm
Vigil Mass: Venancio Castillo (RIP, Anniversary)

Sun 14th
9.00am
11.15am
4.00pm

Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Connie Moulton (RIP)
For the Parish
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

Weds 10th UCM - 2.00pm in the hall

The Mass on Tuesday 9th will be attended by St Mary's School

The new RCIA group will meet on Thursday 25th September at 7pm in the library. RCIA is for adults (over 18s) interested in becoming Catholic, or adult Catholics who wish to be confirmed or simply to learn more about the Faith. Please see Fr Paul for an application form.

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He wants courageous men and women who are not afraid to **live their faith boldly**, and who are not afraid to **stand against the culture of death, despair and confusion** in which we now find ourselves living. He wants men and women who are not afraid to **bring Christ into a world that so desperately needs Him**, because as Hilaire Belloc (1870-1953) put it, **“You either have Christ or chaos.”** The world now is in total chaos and in desperate need of the redeeming truth of JESUS Christ and of the Catholic Faith. Only JESUS can save us.

So are you ready? God has a plan for you just as He had a plan for Mary, and her “yes” changed the course of history. Your “yes” can also change the lives of so many. The question is: will you give it?

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

First Millennial Saint:

The Church is about to receive her first saint of the digital age. This morning (Sunday), Pope Leo XIV will add the name of Blessed Carlo Acutis to the Catalogue of Saints. Carlo, who died aged 15 in 2006, made the Holy Eucharist the very centre of his life, which shows the world that sanctity is not of another time, but of every time. May the example of St Carlo inspire us to live with purity, courage and an ever deeper love of Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist.

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

This weekend we welcome Fr Noah Monday to give a Red Box appeal. Thank you to parishioners who already give to Missio, the Pope's charity for World Mission. Your generous donations, either through the Red Box or Direct Debit, support the Church around the world where it is young or in need. There will not be a second collection as the appeal is for membership to the Red Box scheme. Please keep the work of Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries in your prayers. To find out more, visit www.missio.org.uk

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.

Life Charity has worked nationally to support women in crisis pregnancies. In Nottingham the **Saint Colette's Pregnancy Support Centre** works in close collaboration to offer support to women who are pregnant in difficult circumstances. On **Wednesday 10th September** at 6.00pm a joint presentation will be given in Cathedral Hall, North Circus Street NG1 5AE. If you would like to assist in helping vulnerable women, or if you just want to know more, please come along! For more information contact pro-life@dioceseofnottingham.uk.

‘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

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.

SPUC: House of Lords are considering the **Assisted Dying Bill** on **10th September**. Writing to Peers does make a difference to how they vote. Information on how to do this is available in church. Also, the SPUC website has a tool which will generate a random peer for you to write to. **Please help.** The vote could be very close. SPUC Loughborough committee members will be available in the hall over coffee after both Sunday Masses.

Knit a Hat for a Seafarer! This year the UCM at St Mary's is inviting all parish knitters to join us in supporting Stella Maris, the Catholic charity caring for fishers and seafarers worldwide. Many of these men and women spend long months away from home, often in cold conditions. Stella Maris offers them spiritual support, access to the sacraments, and through donations like ours - a reminder that they are loved and remembered. Please help our parish to be part of this mission by sending as many knitted hats as we can from St Mary's. Simple patterns are available at the back of church and on the Stella Maris website. It's also a wonderful way to use up leftover wool! Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

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.

If you missed the **Parish Census** last weekend, would you please take a form from the back of the church, fill it in and return it to the Parish Office or to one of the priests. Thank you.



From the Saints

"God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another."

(St John Henry Newman, 1801-1890).

Fr Simon Giles, who retired from the parish a couple of years ago, had a nasty fall last Tuesday and is in hospital. Please keep him in your prayers. Thank you.

Fr Paul

The Knights of St Columba are holding their next quiz in Sacred Heart Parish Hall at 7.30pm on Saturday 20th September 2025, with all profits from the evening going to the Knights Emergency Fund, which helps when disasters strike at home and abroad. The cost is £7 a head, £3 for children and students, to include a cheese supper, wine and soft drinks. Recent quizzes have been very well attended, so if you would like to come please call Will Holland on 07811 353 248 to help plan the catering.

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £677 (of which £115 was Gift-Aided)

Standing orders: £841 @ 31/08 (of which £724 was Gift-Aided)

Attendance: 521

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

