

# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

## The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

# NEWSLETTER

## The Cross: centre of history and centre of worship

Every year on 14th September, the Church celebrates the Feast of the **Exaltation of the Holy Cross**. At first it might seem odd to exalt something used as an instrument of torture. But it's because of what Christ **accomplished** on the Cross that we rejoice. What the world saw as shame, God transformed into the instrument of our salvation.

The Cross is the very **centre of human history**, because Christ's Sacrifice redeems every age. Everything in the Old Testament prepared for it. The blood sacrifices of lambs and goats in the Temple all pointed towards the **true Sacrifice** that would take away the sins of the world. And it was fulfilled when Christ, the **true Lamb of God**, was lifted up on the Cross on Good Friday, which Our Lord Himself prophesied in today's Gospel (John 3:13-17), when He said to Nicodemus, *"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life."* Then everything after Calvary flows from it: the Resurrection, the birth of the Church, the Sacraments, the saints, and every grace given until the end of time. All of this comes through the merits Christ won on the Cross. Calvary was the place where sin was defeated, death was conquered and the gates of Heaven were opened.

This then brings us to the **Sacrifice of the Mass**. Holy Mass is not separate from Calvary – it **is** Calvary. Suppose you had a time machine and could travel back to Good Friday. You could be standing right next to Our Lady and St John and St Mary Magdalene at the foot of the Cross. You would see JESUS, having poured out all His Blood die to save you and the whole world. But at Mass, God does something even greater than a time machine. **He makes the Sacrifice of JESUS on Good Friday present to us right now on the altar.** It's not another sacrifice or a mere reminder. It is the **same** Sacrifice of Calvary, but without blood and suffering. JESUS offers Himself to the Father again, through the priest at the altar for you and for me, and for the whole world.

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### 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



*St Francis receiving the Stigmata*

**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:**

Connie Moulton,  
John Walsh,  
Olga Keane,  
Janet Edwards,  
Charles Farrell,  
Salvatore Fele,  
Jane West,  
Mary Scrivens,  
David Hammond,  
Brian Tallon

### **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 13th**      **Vigil Mass**  
6.00pm      Venancio Castillo (RIP, Anniversary)

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**Sun 14th**      **The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**  
9.00am      Connie Moulton (RIP, Anniversary)  
11.15am      For the Parish  
4.00pm      **Italian Mass**

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**Mon 15th**      **Our Lady of Sorrows**  
9.15am      Jerzy Kowalski (RIP)

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**Tues 16th**      **St Cornelius (Pope) & St Cyprian (Bishop), Martyrs**  
9.15am      For Vocations to the Priesthood & religious life

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**Weds 17th**      **The Impression of the Stigmata of St Francis (Conf)**  
6.30pm      Bozena Siwek (RIP) (Latin)

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**Thurs 18th**      **Feria: 24th Week in Ordinary Time**  
9.15am      Eva Wain (RIP) **No Public Mass**

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**Fri 19th**      **St Januarius, Bishop & Martyr**  
6.00-6.25pm      *Confessions*  
6.30pm      Eric King (RIP)

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**Sat 20th**      **Ss Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang & Companions**  
10.30am      *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*  
-12.30pm      *with Confessions 10.30-11.30am & Benediction 12.20pm*  
2.30pm      *Baptism*  
6.00pm      **Vigil Mass:** John Nedumakal (RIP, Anniversary)

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**Sun 21st**      **Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
9.00am      Intention for the living  
11.15am      For the Parish  
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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*Continued from front page*

You may have noticed that when Mass is celebrated at St Mary's, there is always a **central cross on the altar**. The cross is there because **Calvary and the Mass are one and the same thing**. The priest doesn't just say prayers like a Protestant minister. He stands in the place of Christ - "*in persona Christi*" offering the **same Sacrifice** to God the Father. The bread and wine at the **Consecration** become the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of JESUS Christ Who died on that Cross. This is why the altar (and tabernacle) are the focal point in every Catholic Church, **because it is on an altar that sacrifice is offered**. Of course, on Good Friday, there was no altar of stone like we see in our churches today. **The Cross itself was the altar**, because it's where JESUS offered the Sacrifice of His Body and Blood to the Father. In a Protestant church there is no altar. They have a table or a pulpit as the focal because there is no sacrifice.

So when you go to Mass, you are truly at Calvary. Time disappears, and you are there with Our Lady, St John and St Mary Magdalene, just as if you were there on Good Friday. That's why the Cross is the centre of our faith, because everything we believe and everything we receive comes from JESUS' Sacrifice.

*Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

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**Could you be a Catholic School Governor or Trustee?** Today is Education Sunday, and the St Thomas Aquinas Multi-Academy Trust are seeking practising Catholics (18+) to serve as Foundation Governors, appointed by the Diocese. They are vital to upholding the Catholic mission of the school. No prior experience needed. There are 6 meetings a year and occasional school visits. To find out more or to apply, please contact [governance@aquinas-cmat.org](mailto:governance@aquinas-cmat.org)

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**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.

## PLEASE NOTE

There will be **no Mass this Thursday (18th)** due to electrical work being carried out in the church. The Mass intention for that day will be offered privately.

Mass on **Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd September** will be at **6.30pm** instead of 9.15am due to emergency lighting work being carried out in the church. Apologies for any inconvenience.

*Fr Paul*

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## CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal this Harvest:

Please donate to CAFOD's Family Fast Day parish collection to share God's abundant gifts with our global neighbours as they find lasting solutions to poverty and climate challenges. Your generosity offers "signs of hope" in this Jubilee Year, helping build more water tanks in communities like Waré's in Ethiopia where women have to walk for hours to get water. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFOD to 70560 to donate £10, or use the QR code to go to a virtual envelope to make an offering.

Fast Day is  
**Friday 3rd  
October.**



## 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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**The Knights of St Columba are holding their next quiz in Sacred Heart Parish Hall at 7.30pm on Saturday 20th September**, 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 please book by calling Will Holland on 07811 353 248. This helps plan the catering.

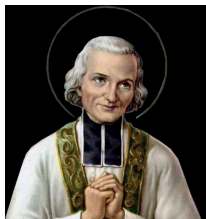
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**Accommodation sought:** A parishioner and his family are looking for a house to rent in Loughborough from the end of September. If you, or anyone you know, can help, please contact Fr Paul.

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**Update on Fr Simon Giles:** Fr Simon has made a great improvement and they hope to discharge him from hospital in the next few days. Your continued prayers are much appreciated. Thank you. *Fr Paul*

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## From the Saints

*"The Mass is the same Sacrifice as that of the Cross; for there is the same Priest, the same Victim, and the same Oblation."*

St John Marie Vianney (1786-1859)

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## Marie Brookes will be selling her cakes and jams after Sunday Masses this weekend.

All the proceeds will go towards assisting the eight young people joining the Parish Holy Year Pilgrimage.

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## Fr Noah Monday wishes to thank you all for the welcome and generous response to the Red Box Appeal last weekend.

If you didn't get a chance to get a Red Box or Direct Debit form, please speak to Samantha Edwards or Fr Paul. More information at: [www.missio.org.uk](http://www.missio.org.uk)

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## Last Week's Finance

**Collection:** £658 (of which £124 was Gift-Aided)

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

**Attendance:** 480

*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

