

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

NEWSLETTER

St Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

This Tuesday, 23rd September, the Church celebrates the Feast of **St Padre Pio of Pietrelcina** (1887-1968). Few saints of our time have captured the imaginations and stirred hearts as much as him. We have a fine statue of him in St Mary's donated by the Italian community in the Chapel of St George on the right hand aisle of the church.

On 20th September 1918, Padre Pio was kneeling in front of a large crucifix in his Friary when he received the **stigmata** (the wounds of Christ) on his hands, feet and side. Doctors and sceptics came to investigate, and they found no medical explanation for it. The wounds neither healed nor became infected, and they remained for fifty years, and disappeared shortly before his death in 1968. They would continually bleed and give him great pain, but he bore them patiently for the **salvation of souls**.

He was also known for astonishing miracles. **Gemma di Giorgi** was born in 1939 with no pupils in her eyes, and was therefore blind from birth. In 1947 Padre Pio cured her, and yet she still has no pupils in her eyes, which makes this an **ongoing miracle**. Gemma is still alive today and can see clearly the things around her.

Padre Pio also had the ability to **read souls**. In the confessional, he would tell people exactly what their sins were before they even had time to confess them, and even sins they had forgotten! Soon huge numbers of penitents would flock to him and he would spend ten to twelve hours a day hearing confessions. For countless souls, Padre Pio's confessional was the **doorway to conversion**. He also had the gift of **bilocation**, which is the ability to be in two places at once, and many soldiers during wartime testified to Padre Pio appearing to them in times of danger, and yet he never left his monastery. Multiple witnesses also claimed to have seen him at the canonisation of **St Thérèse of Lisieux** (1873-97) in St Peter's, Rome in 1925. From a very early age he saw his **Guardian Angel** and would converse with him and even send him on errands! He also suffered physical attacks from the devil. Souls suffering in **Purgatory** would appear to him and ask for his prayers for their release from Purgatory and for him to celebrate Mass for them – we should



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

Continued on page 3



Ss Cosmas & Damian

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:

Margaret Warren,
Andrew Mitchell,
Margaret Kuzniar

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 20th	Vigil Mass
<i>6.00pm</i>	John Nedumakal (RIP, Anniversary)
Sun 21st	Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
<i>9.00am</i>	Intention for the living
<i>11.15am</i>	For the Parish
<i>4.00pm</i>	Italian Mass
Mon 22nd	Feria
<i>6.30pm</i>	Elizabeth (Louise) Johnson (RIP)
Tues 23rd	St Padre Pio of Pietrelcina (Priest)
<i>6.30pm</i>	Rowena Orton (RIP)
Weds 24th	Our Lady of Walsingham (Feast)
<i>6.30pm</i>	The Pinchbeck & Knudsen Families (RIP) (Ordinariate)
Thurs 25th	Feria
<i>9.15am</i>	Intention for the living
Fri 26th	Ss Cosmas & Damian, (Martyrs)
<i>6.00-6.25pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
<i>6.30pm</i>	Jerzy Kowalski (RIP)
Sat 27th	St Vincent de Paul (Priest)
<i>10.30am</i>	<i>Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
<i>-12.30pm</i>	<i>with Confessions 10.30-11.30am & Benediction 12.20pm</i>
<i>6.00pm</i>	Vigil Mass: For the Parish
Sun 28th	Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
<i>9.00am</i>	Paul Lallo (RIP)
<i>11.15am</i>	Ken Gillham (RIP)
<i>2.30pm</i>	<i>Baptism</i>
<i>4.00pm</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 22nd	Christmas Fair meeting - 7.30pm in the hall
Tues 23rd	Bible Study - 7.00pm in the library
Weds 24th	UCM - 2.00pm in the hall
Thurs 25th	RCIA - 7.00pm in the library

Continued from front page

always remember that having Masses offered for the dead is the best help we can give our deceased loved ones.

Those who witnessed Padre Pio **celebrate Mass** never forgot it. He offered the Holy Sacrifice with such reverence and intensity that many present wept openly, convinced they were standing at Calvary itself (which they were – see last weekend's newsletter). He never criticised the Church publicly, but he loved the ancient liturgy and was reluctant to embrace the huge liturgical changes of the 1960s. For him, the traditional **Latin Mass** wasn't just a form. It was a lifeline where heaven and earth met, and where Christ's sacrifice became present anew.

Pope St Paul VI (1897-1978) said Padre Pio was a man of suffering and of prayer. So why did God allow Padre Pio to suffer so much and for so long? Padre Pio was a **victim soul** in that he suffered, like Our Lord did, for the salvation of souls. He himself said his sufferings give glory to God, and through them he made reparation for sin. With his conformity to Christ through the stigmata, like St Paul, he could say, *"I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I that live, but Christ who lives in me"* (Galatians 2:20).

Padre Pio's life was also a living out of the message of **Our Lady of Fatima** and he said the **Rosary** many times a day. Our Lady asked us to make sacrifices and to do penances for the conversion of sinners that they might be saved. Padre Pio really lived this. Let us be inspired by this great saint to do the same.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Christmas Fair meeting, Monday 22nd September, 7.30 pm in the hall: Please come and share your ideas for this event. Could we improve on last year's, if so how? How could you help? Maybe run a stall; make cakes, jams and pastries; help set up on the Friday evening and clear away on the Sunday (lunch time); organise advertising and posters; source prizes for the raffle. Most importantly, we will need support on the day. If you can't make it to the meeting please send your suggestions/offers of help to office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk. Thank you.

Bernie McEnery

The overhaul and installation of the organ in the choir gallery is now nearly complete. If everything goes to plan, it should be ready for use by next weekend. The entire cost of the project has been generously covered by donations from parish members. Our grateful thanks to you all.

Fr Paul

CHANGE TO MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

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

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
Ware'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 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

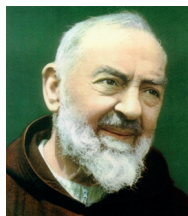
- Leader:** Please kneel for our prayer for vocations. Let us ask God to give worthy Priests to His Holy Church and Brothers and Sisters to Religious Orders.
- All:** O God, we earnestly beseech You to bless this diocese with many priests, brothers and sisters, who will gladly spend their entire lives 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.
-

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.

Choir news: The choir are beginning rehearsals for the Advent season and there is a warm welcome for anyone wishing to join them. Rehearsals take place on Thursdays at 6.00pm, Saturdays at 6.00pm and Sundays after the 11.15am Mass.

Day of Healing: You are invited to join Bishop Patrick for a day of Freedom and Inner Healing led by 'Unbound UK'. The day will be held at Saint Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham on **Saturday 25th October**. There will be talks on freedom and healing, Mass with the Anointing of the Sick, Confession and Intercessory Prayer, and an Evening Healing Service with music from One Hope Project. You can come from the full day or for any of the sessions. It is open to all ages at no cost, but donations are welcome. More information: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events or email formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk



From the Saints

*"JESUS Himself wants my sufferings;
He needs them for souls."*

St Padre Pio of Pietrelcina (1887-1968)

Marie Brookes raised £164.45 from the sale of her cakes and jams last weekend. All the proceeds will go towards assisting the eight young people joining the Parish Holy Year Pilgrimage.

Today is Evangelii Gaudium Sunday, previously known as Home Mission Sunday. There is a second collection to support the Bishop's Conference Mission Directorate, which promotes evangelisation, dialogue and catechesis throughout England and Wales.

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £655 (of which £132 was Gift-Aided)

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

Attendance: 508

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

