

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

NEWSLETTER

29th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME



**St Mary of the Annunciation
Catholic Church**

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office@
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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

When God seems silent

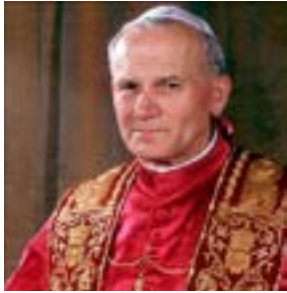
In this Sunday's Gospel, Our Lord tells the Parable of the **Persistent Widow and the Unjust Judge** (Luke 18:1-8). The judge *"who neither feared God nor respected man"* finally grants the widows request, simply because she won't stop bothering him. And then Our Lord assures us that if even an unjust judge can respond to persistence, how much more will our loving Heavenly Father respond to His children who cry out to Him day and night.

If this is so, why is it that so often God appears to be silent and not answer our prayers? The devil likes to tell us, "God isn't listening. Prayer is a waste of time." That's a lie straight from Hell. First we must remember **God always hears us**. Silence never means He is absent. **His delay is divine wisdom**. God sees the **full picture** – not only our requests, but the eternal consequences of them. So we might ask for something in good faith that we genuinely believe to be good, but God in His infinite wisdom knows it wouldn't be good for us or for others. So God's "no" is **not rejection, but protection**. Sometimes He might give us something even better, but He never ignores us.

Secondly, God often allows us to wait to **deepen our faith**. If He were to grant everything we ask for immediately, we would be spoiled and our faith would remain shallow. **Our faith grows when it is tested**. He withholds for a time to make us pray harder and seek Him more fervently. **St Augustine** (354-430) said that God delays to **"enlarge our desire"**, so that when the gift does come, our hearts may be wide enough to receive it. God wants us to prove our faith. He knows what we need before we ask (Matthew 6:8), but He wills that we ask again and again, to teach us humility, patience and trust.

Thirdly, the suffering we endure from unanswered prayer can be the **cause of our sanctification**. Think of JESUS in the Garden of Gethsemane. *"My Father, if it be possible, let this chalice pass from Me. Nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt"* (Matthew 26:39). The Father didn't remove the Cross. Rather He transformed it into salvation for

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St John Paul II

Please pray for those who
are sick

for those who have
recently died:

Jill Brennan
May she rest in peace

and for those whose
anniversaries occur at
this time:

Frank Mazzotti
Andrew Carr
Annie Owens
Dolores Cunningham

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 18th <i>6.00pm</i>	Vigil Mass Allen Junio (RIP, Anniversary)
Sun 19th <i>9.00am</i> <i>11.15am</i> <i>4.00pm</i>	Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Intention for the living For the Parish Italian Mass
Mon 20th <i>9.15am</i>	Feria Annamma Abraham (RIP, Anniversary)
Tues 21st <i>9.15am</i>	Feria Sheila Monaghan (RIP)
Weds 22nd <i>6.30pm</i>	St John Paul II, Pope Joe & Fryda Price (RIP) (Ordinariate)
Thurs 23rd	St John of Capistrano, Bishop NO MASS
Fri 24th <i>6.00-6.25pm</i> <i>6.30pm</i>	St Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop <i>Confessions</i> Rich Chardaile Fabol (RIP)
Sat 25th <i>6.00pm</i>	Our Lady’s Saturday NO EXPOSITION OR CONFESSIONS Vigil Mass: For the Parish
Sun 26th <i>9.00am</i> <i>11.15am</i> <i>4.00pm</i>	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Paul Lallo (RIP) Intention for the living 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

Tues 21st	Bible Study - 7.00pm in the library
Weds 22nd	UCM - 2.00-4.00pm in the hall
Organ recital: To celebrate the Centenary of the present church and the restoration of the organ, Colin Walsh, organist emeritus at Lincoln Cathedral, will be giving a recital here on Monday 8th December at 6.45pm, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. It will be preceded by Mass at 6.00pm.	

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the whole of the human race. In the same way He uses our crosses to accomplish a greater good than we can imagine.

So we are called to imitate the widow: keep knocking at the door (Matthew 7:8), pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17), and keep trusting even if Heaven seems silent. Faith is not just asking and receiving. **It's staying on our knees, being persistent, and trusting that God's timing and wisdom are perfect.** And remember that every seeming unanswered prayer is not unanswered at all. It's God shaping us into the saints He wants us to become.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Under the mantle of Our Lady: We had a good congregation at Mass last Monday evening as I renewed the Consecration of our Parish to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I am grateful to all who were able to attend, and to those who united themselves in prayer with this act of dedication. I believe this Consecration is especially important in the spiritual battles we face today. No doubt it will be a special protection for us in the times to come. Let us place our trust in Our Lady's intercession.

Fr Paul

School admissions to Catholic Secondary Academies (Year 7): Children born between 01/09/2014 and 31/08 2015. The deadline for submitting your application for a school place is **31st October 2025**. Application forms are available on your 'home' Local Authority website. For every Catholic school you apply for, if you wish your child to be considered and ranked under a faith criterion you should also complete a supplementary information form, and return this form to the school by the deadline, (forms are available from the LA and the school). You must also include the supporting evidence* as required with this form, eg baptism certificate (photocopies acceptable). Failure to supply the required supporting evidence will mean your child is ranked in a lower criterion which may affect your chance of a place.

*If you do not have the required evidence please contact the parish where your child was baptised for a copy certificate in good time.

Be Still and Know that I am God, Friday 14th and Monday 17th November: a 3-day retreat led by Father Roger Dawson SJ, aiming to help participants find a greater attentiveness and disposition to God's presence in their lives. It will be held at the Christian Heritage Centre, Lancashire. More details can be found at: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/be-still-and-know-that-i-am-god>

This week's Masses: This Tuesday, **21st October**, a group from the Parish will depart on a Holy Year pilgrimage to Rome. As a result, there will be no Mass on Thursday, and no Exposition or Confessions on Saturday morning. Fr Colin Patey will celebrate Mass and hear Confessions on Friday at the usual times, and Fr Philip Sainter will celebrate the 6pm Mass on Saturday.

Playground parking:

The school playground is being resurfaced during half term, which means we won't be able to use it for parking on the weekends of **25th/26th October and 1st/2nd November** as the surface has to be allowed to settle. Sorry for the inconvenience. *Fr Paul*

Advance notice: Due to lighting work in the church, all Masses next week (**27th–31st October**) will be celebrated at 6.30pm to allow the workmen to carry out their work without interruption. Please note that the **Latin Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 28th**, and Wednesday's Mass will be in English. Normal service times will resume the following week.

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.

Looking for a place for your child in a reception class for the 26/27 Academic year? St Mary's school welcomes you to our open days: **Friday 14th November** (any time between 9am-3pm). Alternatively, we invite you to come at a time that works for you and experience our wonderful school. Just call us on 01509 212 621.

St Mary's Primary School are currently seeking expressions of interest from practising Catholics to serve as a Foundation Governor on our Governing body. No prior experience is necessary, and training and support will be provided throughout your term of service. If you are interested in this important and fulfilling role, please contact the school office for further information. School office@stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk or call 01509 212621.

From the Saints

"God does not delay. He has already answered our prayer, but He waits for the time it will bear fruit."

St Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)



First Holy Communion

2026: Application forms are now available from Fr Paul and the closing date is **Sunday 2nd November**. Candidates should be in at least Year 3.

Today is World Mission

Sunday: Please support Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, bringing God's compassion, peace and justice to those in need. To donate, use a Missio envelope, call 020 7821 9755 or visit missio.org.uk to give a gift or set up a Direct Debit. Please Gift Aid your donation if possible.

Last Week's Finance

1st Collection: £868 (of which £60 was G/A)

CAFOD Family Fast: £530 (of which £140 was G/A)

Standing orders: £841 @ 31/08 (of which £724 was G/A)

Attendance: 670

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

