

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

CHRIST THE KING



**St Mary of the Annunciation
Catholic Church**

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01509 262123

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

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Headteacher: Mr C Maher

NEWSLETTER

What's the point of the Feast of Christ the King?

The incredible thing is that it is on the absolutely worst day of his life – the day he is on the verge of death – that the Good Thief recognizes Jesus Christ to be a king. And maybe that is the point of the feast of **Christ the King** which we keep this weekend.

Minutes from dying, the Good Thief finds himself still looking for something more ... still longing, still moved by hope, desperate for compassion. The deriding rulers at the foot of the cross sneer at Jesus, *'Let him save himself.'* But the Good Thief does something **even more brazen** than daring Jesus to come down from the cross. The Good Thief *begs Jesus for mercy*. Instead of fixating on his own lifetime of crime, the Good Thief looks into the face of the man fixed to the cross beside him. And there in the human gaze of Jesus, the Good Thief discovers what he had been searching for all his long lawless life.

"The more truly a person knows their own misery," says **St Albert the Great**, *"the more fully and clearly do they behold the majesty of God."* The Good Thief is living proof of this. For what is a **"king"** but an unassailable force, a protection against enemies, a refuge? The **"king"** in our life is our **"go-to"**: the **unsurpassable something** we ultimately take recourse in and rely on when gutted by desolation.

Why does the Good Thief acclaim Jesus as a King headed for Paradise? Because he recognizes in Christ a majestic love that races to attend him in his affliction and woo him in his misery. The Sacred Heart that in mere moments will be pierced by a lance is even now bursting with love for the Good Thief. *"God's Kingship is a rule of love that seeks and finds us by an inventiveness that is new"* (Pope Benedict XVI). That is what St Teresa of Ávila calls Christ's **"startling majesty."**

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St Andrew Dung-Lac

**Please pray for those who
are sick**

**for those who have
recently died:**

Beatrice Murton

Eleuterio Jesus

May they rest in peace

**and for those whose
anniversaries occur at
this time:**

Michele Caggiano

Rose Tidy

Andy Newbold

Jennifer White

Lina Cuff

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 22nd <i>6.00pm</i>	Vigil Mass Mathew Abraham (RIP, Anniversary)
Sun 23rd <i>9.00am</i> <i>11.15am</i> <i>4.00pm</i>	Christ the King (Solemnity) For the Parish Emily Houston (RIP) No Italian Mass
Mon 24th <i>9.15am</i>	St Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, & Companions Vittorio Giorgio (RIP)
Tues 25th <i>9.15am</i>	St Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr Christopher Dover (RIP)
Weds 26th <i>6.30pm</i>	St Sylvester, Abbot Ray Wainwright (RIP) (Latin)
Thurs 27th <i>9.15am</i> <i>6.30pm</i>	Feria Holy Souls <i>Mass for the Bereaved</i>
Fri 28th <i>6.00-6.25pm</i> <i>6.30pm</i>	Feria <i>Confessions</i> Charles Connolly (RIP, Anniversary)
Sat 29th <i>10.30am</i> <i>-12.30pm</i> <i>6.00pm</i>	Saturday Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary <i>Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am & Benediction 12.20pm</i> Vigil Mass: Keith Bowles (RIP)
Sun 30th <i>9.00am</i> <i>11.15am</i> <i>4.00pm</i>	First Sunday of Advent For the Parish Andy Newbold (RIP, Anniversary) 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

Weds 26th	UCM - 2.00pm in the library
Sat 29th	Christmas Fayre - 11am-2pm in the hall

SPUC: Next meeting: **Monday 1st December, 7pm**, in the hall. All welcome. Contact spucloughborough@gmail.com for information

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Why doesn't Jesus come down from the cross? Simply because no king worthy of the title ever would. For a king is someone who *"seeks the common good of the people and not his own private profit"* (St Thomas Aquinas). Christ exemplifies his kingship by acting like a servant toward us. *"God's sovereignty is not manifested in keeping what belongs to him for himself, but in abandoning it"* (Von Balthasar). Jesus is made king in the midst of excruciating suffering simply because that is when we need a king the most. *"Jesus' kingship is his surrender of himself to people ... the yielding up of his very existence"* (J Ratzinger). All our King asks of us is to accept his kingship – a Eucharistic gift.

But keep in mind: I will never want Christ the King as long as I am occupying the throne myself. To claim Christ is King is to confess that I am not the master of my own life and situation. I am *not* in control; I do *not* direct my own destiny; I do *not* have the answers; I do *not* wear the crown. **All has been given to me.** We pay homage to **Christ as King** by relying on Him when what we experience in ourselves is **failure, confusion, powerlessness, negativity, waywardness, misery, shame.**

At Mass, as we pray the Our Father and say the words *"Thy Kingdom come"*, let's lay down all our **resistance, self-reliance**, and regret, and let's **beg** Christ our King for **the Paradise that begins right here and now** in the Faith we share with each other in Him, the Son of God.

Happy Feast Day!

Fr David Jones, OLV

The next gathering for the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for the Loughborough Deanery will be held at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Park Road, on **Saturday 13th December** at 11.00am. It will begin with a Holy Hour on the theme of Peace, concluding at 12 noon and followed by an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All Ministers are warmly invited to attend.

VACANCY: Parish Bookkeeper sought to join the Nottingham Diocesan Finance Team and support parishes across the diocese in maintaining accurate financial and Gift Aid records. Based at St Hugh's House in Nottingham, this is a 2-year fixed-term role. For full details and to apply (by 9.00am on **Monday 1st December**) go to <https://dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers/parishbookkeeper>

The Walk with Me booklets with daily meditations from Advent to the Epiphany are now available with a suggested donation of £1.

Our annual Mass for the Bereaved will be on Thursday 27th November at 6.30pm. All parishioners are invited to attend.

The next Foodbank/Your Store collection will be on Saturday 6th December from the car park from 10.30 to 11.00am. For information about items requested please see the posters on the church and hall doors. Kindly note this will be the Christmas collection. Continued appreciation is expressed from the staff at John Storer House to St. Mary's parishioners. Thank you.
Jane Monaghan

Quiz night: The Knights of St Columba are holding a quiz in Sacred Heart Parish Hall at 7.30pm on **Saturday 6th December 2025**, with all profits from the evening going to the Knights Youth Fund. 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 353248 to help plan the catering.

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.

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.

A reminder: Standing Order and Gift Aid Declaration forms (and the routines for using them) have been updated and are available from the Parish Office and via the Repository. Samples are available in church (with instructions). A Standing Order with your bank covers your regular offertory donation. A signed gift Aid Declaration (from you as a UK tax payer) increases the value of your donation by 25%, which is then refunded to our Parish. If you are not already committed to these schemes, for continuing to support our long-term costs, please consider helping to make best use of your generous donations. Thank you.

From the Saints

"Do not let your troubles disturb your trust in God."

St Catherine of Alexandria, patron saint of philosophers (d.305)



CHRISTMAS FAYRE
Saturday 29th November
11am-2pm
Please come and support

Next Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the new liturgical year. Advent is the time when we prepare our hearts for Christ's coming, and the Church calls us to pray more, to stay alert, and to live our faith more faithfully. The lighting of the Advent wreath will mark the start of this season. May these weeks help us all to draw closer to God with hope. *Fr Paul*

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £688 (of which £123 was G/A)

Standing orders: £852 @ 31/10 (of which £730 was G/A)

Attendance: 706

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

