

# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# NEWSLETTER



### 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

## Be children of the light

**T**oday, the **First Sunday of Advent**, is the beginning of the **new Liturgical Year**, and the Church fixes our attention not so much on the First Coming of Christ in the manger at Bethlehem, but on His **Second Coming in glory** at the end of time. Only later on in Advent do we begin to focus on that First Coming when He was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the stable of Bethlehem. So we could say Advent is a **time of two comings**, but both are invitations to **"wakefulness."**

St Paul gives it to us very clearly in today's Second Reading from his letter to the Romans (13:11-14). *"The hour has come for you to wake from sleep ... the night is far gone; the day is at hand."* The **"day"** he speaks of here is the **Day of the Lord**; in other words, His Second Coming as Judge at the end of time. Then Paul urges us to **"cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light."** It was at our **Baptism** that we first became **children of the light**. The light of Christ's Resurrection was poured into our souls, and we became heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven. If we're children of the light, we can't be living in the shadows, and so Paul is commanding us to reject sins, habits and compromises that dim the light of Christ in us.

And what better way to cast off darkness than by making a good, honest **sacramental Confession** this Advent. The life of grace in our souls is of the utmost importance, and Confession **restores the brightness of Baptismal grace**, and equips us to really live as "children of the day" and ensures we are on the path to Heaven. In the rite of Baptism, as the white garment is wrapped around the newly baptised, the priest says, *"Receive this white garment. Never let it become stained, so that, when you stand before the judgment seat of Our Lord JESUS Christ, you may have life everlasting."* Confession makes our souls beautiful again and removes the stains of sin.

St Paul concludes the reading today with the heart of the Christian life: **"Put on the Lord JESUS Christ."** That's what Advent is for –

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*St Francis Xavier*

**Please pray for those who  
are sick**

**for those who have  
recently died:**

Madeline Cornelius  
Dr Eileen Phillips  
*May they rest in peace*

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

Michael Smith  
Filomena Micciche  
Fernado Buttarazzi  
Dorothy Fellows  
Elizabeth Kendall

#### **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**

<b>Sat 29th</b> <i>6.00pm</i>	<b>Vigil Mass</b> Keith Bowles (RIP)
<b>Sun 30th</b> <i>9.00am</i> <i>11.15am</i> <i>4.00pm</i>	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b> Intention for the living Andy Newbold (RIP, Anniversary) <b>No Italian Mass</b>
<b>Mon 1st</b> <i>9.15am</i>	<b>St Ralph Sherwin &amp; Companion Martyrs</b> In Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart & Holy Spirit
<b>Tues 2nd</b> <i>9.15am</i>	<b>Advent Feria</b> Mandy Giorgio (RIP)
<b>Weds 3rd</b> <i>6.30pm</i>	<b>St Francis Xavier, Confessor</b> Michael Wiatrzyk (GE) (Sung Latin)
<b>Thurs 4th</b> <i>9.15am</i>	<b>St John Damascene, Priest &amp; Doctor</b> Intention for the living
<b>Fri 5th</b> <i>6.00-6.25pm</i> <i>6.30pm</i>	<b>Advent Feria</b> <i>First Friday</i> <i>Confessions</i> For our Deceased Relatives and Friends <i>Followed by Benediction</i>
<b>Sat 6th</b> <i>10.00am</i> <i>10.30am</i> <i>-12.30pm</i> <i>6.00pm</i>	<b>St Nicholas, Bishop</b> <i>Five First Saturdays Devotion</i> Derek Whymark (RIP) <i>Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am &amp; Benediction 12.20pm</i> <b>Vigil Mass:</b> Catherine Connolly (RIP, Anniversary)
<b>Sun 7th</b> <i>9.00am</i> <i>11.15am</i> <i>4.00pm</i>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> Venancio Castillo Jr (RIP, Anniversary) Michael Smith (RIP, Anniversary) <b>Italian Mass</b>
<b>Rosary</b>	<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**

<b>Mon 1st</b>	SPUC branch meeting - 7pm in the hall
<b>Tues 2nd</b>	Catch Up Cafe - 2-4pm in the hall
<b>Thurs 4th</b>	RCIA - 7pm in the library

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polishing up our spiritual armour, sharpening our hope, and **keeping our gaze fixed on the One Who is coming** – the One Who came at Bethlehem, and the Who will come again in glory. And we must be awake and ready, because as Our Lord tells us in the Gospel today, *“you do not know on what day your Lord is coming”* (Matthew 24:37-44). This can refer to His Second Coming, which will be sudden and without warning, and also to the moment of our own death, which likewise comes at an hour we cannot foresee. So in either case we want to be in a state of readiness, fidelity and grace.

Finally, the **Advent wreath** on which we light an additional candle each Sunday in Advent is not just a decoration. **It beautifully reflects our identity as children of light.** The evergreen branches symbolise the **eternal life** given to us in Christ, while the circular shape signifies God’s **unending faithfulness**. Each candle, lit progressively week by week, pushes back the darkness, and reminds us that the light of Christ is meant to grow within us. As the wreath brightens throughout Advent, so too should our souls, preparing to welcome the Christ Child.

*Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

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**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.

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**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.

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**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>

**New Liturgical Year:**  
On this First Sunday of Advent, we enter into Liturgical Year A, which means the Sunday Gospel readings are taken primarily from the Gospel of Matthew. Parishioners who bring their own missals will need to switch to the Year A cycle of readings. *Fr Paul*

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**Immaculate Conception:**  
Please note that on **Monday 8th December**, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, there will be only one Mass at 6pm. This will be followed by Colin Walsh’s organ recital at 6.45pm.

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**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*

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**Last Rites does not mean Last Minute!** As soon as a person begins to be in danger of death because of illness, injury or old age, the time for anointing has surely already come. *Fr Paul*

## 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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**Music to counter dark days:** A warm evening of traditional folk music with mulled wine and mince pies, is being held in Cathedral Hall, Nottingham NG1 5AW, on **Friday 5th December** at 7.00pm. All are welcome to this free event, with arts and crafts, and Christmas gifts on sale too.

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**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.

*Geoff Mercer*

## From the Saints

*"Let your soul be a lamp shining with good deeds, ready for the Master's return."*

St Gregory the Great (ca.540-604)

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**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. Admission to the recital is free.

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**The parish carol service will be on Sunday 14th December at 5.00pm**

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**There will be a Second Collection next weekend for the poor and needy parishes of the diocese**

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## Last Week's Finance

**Collection:** £872 (of which £195 was G/A)

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

**Attendance:** 638

*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

