

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NEWSLETTER



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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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

The God Who keeps His Promises

In last Sunday's reading from the Letter to the Romans (13:11-14), St Paul told us to **wake up, clean up and get ready for the Coming of the Lord**. Now on this Second Sunday of Advent we have two roaring prophets, **Isaiah and John the Baptist** declaring: **"Get ready now, because Christ is coming!"**

The Prophet Isaiah in today's First Reading (11:1-10) announces that from this **dead stump of Jesse** the Messiah will arise. The **Spirit of the Lord** will rest upon Him, and He'll bring **justice to the poor and judgment to the wicked**. This is not guesswork. It's **divine prophecy**. The great **Archbishop Fulton Sheen** (1897-1979) loved to point out that JESUS Christ is the only founder of a world religion who was **preannounced**. He was described centuries before His coming in **prophecies** that fit Him like a glove. After all, anyone can stand up and say they are sent by God, but one of the ways God let us know that Christ was the promised Messiah, is that there are over 450 prophecies in the Old Testament that are fulfilled exactly in Him. This is no coincidence.

Then seven centuries later, **John the Baptist** enters the scene. He is the final prophet before Our Lord begins His public mission. He was like the **megaphone of the Holy Spirit** preaching in the wilderness of Judea. John was no soft touch, and he called sin what it is, and warned of judgment and the urgency of repentance. Why? Because what Isaiah saw centuries earlier was about to be fulfilled. Therefore, says John, **"Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand ... Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight."**

Then in the midst of all this, we celebrate on Monday the great **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady**. And the timing is perfect, because God's work of salvation didn't begin at Bethlehem. It began in the **Garden of Eden**. Mary's Immaculate Conception is the fulfilment of the prophecy in Genesis 3:15, when God said to the serpent, **"I will put enmity between thee and the Woman, and between thy seed and her seed; she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in**

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The Immaculate Conception

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:

James Callan
Cyril Dale
Salvatore Corbinzolu
Terry Oliver
Filomena Micciche
Teresa Denton
James Slevin
Dolores Miller

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 6th **Vigil Mass**
3.00pm Maltese Mass
6.00pm Catherine Connolly (RIP, Anniversary)

Sun 7th **Second Sunday of Advent**
9.00am Venancio Castillo Jr (RIP, Anniversary)
11.15am Michael Smith (RIP, Anniversary)
4.00pm **No Italian Mass**

Mon 8th **The Immaculate Conception (Solemnity)**
5.30pm **Rosary**
6.00pm Stephen Bowmer (RIP)
Followed by Organ Recital by Colin Walsh

Tues 9th **Advent Feria**
9.15am Intention for the living

Weds 10th **Advent Feria**
6.30pm Intention for the living (Latin)

Thurs 11th **St Damasus I, Pope**
9.15am Holy Souls

Fri 12th **Our Lady of Guadalupe**
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Sheila McFerran (RIP)

Sat 13th **St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr**
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
-12.30pm *with Confessions 10.30-11.30am & Benediction 12.20pm*
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** Gregory Baker (RIP)

Sun 14th **Third Sunday of Advent**
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am John McEnery (RIP)
5.00pm *Carol Service*

Rosary *Mon, Tues, Thurs after 9.15am Mass; Wed, Fri at 6.00pm;*
First Saturday of each month after 10.00am Mass

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Mon 8th **Organ Recital by Colin Walsh - 6.45pm in the church**

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wait for her heel." Immediately after the Fall of Adam and Eve by which Heaven became closed to the entire human race, God promised Satan would not have the last word, and He prepared Mary, **"full of grace"** from the first moment of her existence to be that 'Woman.' She is God's masterpiece, conceived in the mind of God from all eternity. Then, at the appointed time, she was **created** to be the spotless vessel through whom the promised Redeemer, the Word made Flesh, would enter the world.

So let Mary be our model. She shows us what it's like to say 'yes' to God without compromise. She shows us what it is to cooperate with grace. **So the best way we can prepare the way and clear the path is by responding to God's grace, and making a good, honest confession of our sins this Advent.** Renounce the slavery of sin and return to the freedom of God's grace. The King is coming. Make sure your heart is ready to receive Him!

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Preparation for Christmas: As we set out on our Advent journey of preparation for the Lord's coming, this is a gentle reminder that Confessions are available on Friday evenings before the 6:30pm Mass and on Saturday mornings at 10:30am. Please take the opportunity to receive the Sacrament if you haven't done so recently. I would also encourage you in this holy season to attend an extra Mass during the week, if you are able. Daily Mass is a beautiful way to deepen our prayer, find some quiet time, and prepare spiritually for Christmas.

Fr Paul

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.

St John Henry Newman was recently proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo. There are a limited number of prayercards commemorating this at the back of the church. St John Henry Newman came to St Mary's in 1845, straight after his conversion to the Faith, to visit Fr Luigi Gentili, the first Rosminian in England.

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. The Rosary will be recited at 5.30pm.

Bambinelli Sunday: Next weekend you are invited to bring your cribs or figures of JESUS for blessing at the end of Mass. This tradition was begun in Rome by Pope St John Paul II.

Journey through Advent with the Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Service as we await the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, with a printable Advent prayer journal produced by the Team. To download your free copy visit www.ndcys.com/advent2025/



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.

Christmas Fayre/Raffle: Please see the noticeboard for information about the prize winners. Unclaimed prizes can be collected from the parish office.

Christmas Fayre: A big thank you to those who organised, ran the stalls and supported the Christmas Fayre in any way. Thank you also to Miss Jordan for making the school hall available for the event. And thank you to the church choir and St Mary's school children for providing music. A total of £1,747.19 was raised. Well done!

Fr Paul

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

From the Saints

"The New is in the Old concealed, the Old is in the New revealed."

St Augustine of Hippo (354-430)



CHRISTMAS MASSES

Weds 24th December

5.30pm: Carols

6.00pm: Family Vigil Mass

Thurs 25th December

12.00am: Midnight Mass

10.30am: Solemn Mass

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

Missio Red Box holders:

The 2026 calendars have now arrived. Please speak to Samantha Edwards for your copy.

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

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £802 (of which £60 was G/A)

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

Attendance: 532

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

