

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Loughborough LE11 3AB
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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

NEWSLETTER

Behold the Lamb of God

Each time we come to Mass, just before Holy Communion, the priest lifts the Host and says, **“Behold the Lamb of God; behold Him Who takes away the sins of the world.”** These words are so familiar to us, it's very easy to let them pass over our heads without reflection. But on this Sunday the Church asks us to pause and meditate on their profound meaning.

The phrase comes directly from today's Gospel (John 1:29-34) when John the Baptist sees JESUS approaching and proclaims, **“Behold the Lamb of God.”** John recognised Who JESUS was and helped others to see it too.

So why does John call JESUS the Lamb of God? To understand this, we have to return to **Old Testament times** where **lambs were offered daily in the Temple**, morning and evening, **for the sins of the people**. This was central to Israel's worship. Remember the story of the **Passover** (Exodus 12), when God commanded an unblemished male lamb be sacrificed, and the doorposts marked with its blood, so that the Angel of Death would ‘pass over’ God's chosen people and spare their first-born. If there was no lamb's blood, there was no deliverance, and death was the result. **So the lamb's life was given so that others could live.** And yet those Old Testament sacrifices never removed sin, and they had to be repeated over and over again. But they pointed forward to **something** and **Someone** far greater.

So when John calls JESUS the Lamb of God, he is saying; *This is the One all the others were pointing to – not just another sacrifice, but THE sacrifice.* In other words, He is the **one Sacrifice** that will truly take away sin, once and for all. JESUS freely accepted this mission. His Sacrifice on the Cross was the whole purpose of His coming. The prophet Isaiah said, He is **“like a lamb that is led to the slaughter”** (53:7). And that Sacrifice although it happened once in history and almost 2,000 years ago, **its effects last forever.**

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St Agnes

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died:

Katharina Hunt

May she rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Wanda Lapham

Vera Hurry

Michael Doyle

Velia Cappasso

Greg Baker

Michele Calabrese

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 17th Vigil Mass
6.00pm Gregory Baker (RIP, Anniversary)

Sun 18th Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Giovanni & Carmela Brunetti (RIP)
11.15am For the Parish
4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 19th St Wulstan, Bishop
9.15am Intention for the living
11.00am *Requiem Mass: Katharina Hunt RIP*

Tues 20th Blessed Cyprian Tansi, Priest & Religious
9.15am For Deceased Priests

Weds 21st St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr
6.30pm Cecylia Mirosława Fras (RIP) (Latin)

Thurs 22nd St Vincent, Deacon & Martyr
9.15am Intention for the living

Fri 23rd Feria
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Intention for the living

Sat 24th St Timothy, Bishop & 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: Ranjith Esperiar (RIP)**

Sun 25th Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Lena & Tom Walsh (RIP)
4.00pm Italian Mass

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

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This is why **Holy Mass** is so important. The Sacrifice of Christ on the Cross is not repeated, but is made truly present on the altar under the appearance of bread and wine. And when the priest holds up the Host and says, “**Behold the Lamb of God; behold Him Who takes away the sins of the world**”, this is the same JESUS pointed out by John and Who offered the supreme Sacrifice of His life on the Cross, and He is present in Person.

In the book of **Revelation**, the final book of the Bible, **St John has a vision of Heaven, where Christ appears as a lamb slain** (5:6-14). Though He is now **risen and glorified**, He still bears the **wounds** of His sacrifice, not as signs of defeat, but of victory and love. And the angels and saints praise Him because our salvation was won by the Sacrifice of the Cross. This is what the Church calls the “**eternal liturgy of Heaven**”, and at every Mass, we on earth take part in it (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1326). **Holy Mass is our preparation for Heaven**. The altar on earth is joined to Heaven, and we pray with the angels and saints before JESUS, the sacrificed Lamb of God. Even though we cannot yet see Him in His glory, He is truly present, and invites us to be part of that worship that one day will last for eternity in Heaven.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Wednesday is the feast of St Agnes, a young Roman virgin who lived in the early 4th century and consecrated her life wholly to Christ. Refusing marriage and to sacrifice to idols, she boldly confessed the Faith and was martyred while still in her youth. Her name recalls the ‘agnus’ or ‘lamb’, a symbol of her innocence and sacrifice. Thus lambs are traditionally blessed on her feast day, and their wool used for the ‘pallia’ of archbishops, a narrow woollen band worn by metropolitan archbishops as a sign of their unity with the Pope.

Enabling Our Mission Campaign: As many of you know, our parish is currently involved in the diocesan Enabling Our Mission Campaign which aims to support our mission of becoming more outward looking, while also striving to ensure that the fewer priests now available for active ministry across the Diocese are best able to serve our communities. We will be hosting some additional small gatherings at the Church to explain this initiative to members of the parish and hope you might be able to make one of the following dates: **Saturday 17th January** – 5.15pm (in the Parish Library); **Sunday 25th January** – after the 11.15am Mass (in the Church). In order to confirm your attendance, would you please email office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk or call the parish office on 01509 262123. Thank you.

Fr Paul

Gregorian Chant Workshop, Saturday 14th February, 10am-4pm:

St Mary’s choir are hosting a Gregorian Chant workshop here at St Mary’s. It will be led by Gregory Treloar, previously Diocesan Director of Music, looking at the basics of notation and learning a variety of chants for parish use. The day will finish with a Sung Vespers at 3.30pm. Singers from across the diocese are welcome to sign up and join the choir for the day, for which there is a suggested donation of £10. Please bring your own lunch. For more information, or to register for the day, please contact Martins: martinsobi@gmail.com.

The Knights of St Columba quiz, 7.30pm Saturday 31st January, Sacred Heart Parish Hall:

All profits from the evening will go to The Carpenters Arms, the Loughborough based Christian charity that helps men coping with addictions. Cost: £7 per person, £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 go please call Will Holland on **07811 353 248 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.
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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.

Hats and hoods in church: Out of reverence for the sacredness of the church, it is a long-standing tradition that men remove their hats or hoods in church. In Scripture (1 Corinthians 11:4), St Paul teaches that men should pray with uncovered heads as a sign of humility and respect before God. While it may feel cultural, it is deeply tied to our Christian understanding of honouring the sacred. It's true bishops and priests sometimes wear special liturgical head gear such as the mitre or biretta, but this is not as personal clothing, but as a sign of their office and role during the Liturgy. We kindly ask all men to please remove hats and hoods while inside the church, unless worn for medical reasons. Thank you for showing respect for God's house and for helping maintain the sacred atmosphere of our worship.

Fr Paul

From the Saints

"When the Sacrifice [Mass] is offered, when the people stand praying, when the choirs of angels surround the altar, do you still think you are among men, or not rather transported to Heaven?"

St John Chrysostom (ca 347-407)



Loughborough Food

Bank/Your Store: The next collection will be on **Saturday 24th January** 10.30 to 11.00am in the car park. Please see the list on the church door for suggested items. Thank you.

Jane and Bernard Monaghan

Please consider switching your weekly offering to Standing Order and adding Gift Aid if possible.

Last Week's Finance

1st Collection: £854 (of which £105 was G/A)

Sick & Retired priests: £449

Standing orders: £852 @ 30/11 (of which £740 was G/A)

Attendance: 665

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

