

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER



The unchanged message of Our Lady of Lourdes

This Wednesday we celebrate the Feast of **Our Lady of Lourdes**. It is undoubtedly the most famous Marian apparition site, and it is also a huge challenge to the modern conviction that God no longer intervenes in history. France, known as the “**eldest daughter of the Church**”, in the mid 19th century, was marked by upheaval, secularisation and persecution of the Church. And so perhaps it's not surprising that Our Lady appeared there repeatedly, as this is what she often does in times of turmoil. In 1830, she appeared to **St Catherine Labouré** at the Rue de bac in Paris, where she gave us the **Miraculous Medal**. In 1846, she appeared to two shepherd children at **La Salette**, weeping and warning of the consequences of sin and the neglect of God. And then in 1858, she appeared eighteen times to **Bernadette Soubirous** (1844-79) a fourteen year old girl at a grotto in Lourdes.

Bernadette was a simple girl – she had poor health and was uneducated, and had nothing to gain by deceiving people. Our Lady's message was the same as it always is when she appears: it was a call for **prayer, penance and conversion**. And at Lourdes this message was accompanied by a **miraculous sign**. At the ninth apparition on 25th February 1858, Our Lady instructed Bernadette to **drink from the spring and wash** – except there was no visible spring there. But Our Lady pointed to a precise spot. Bernadette began digging in the ground and wiping herself with mud, and everyone thought she had gone mad. They were astonished, however, when shortly after, water began to flow from the very spot where she had been digging. And within just a few days people were claiming cures as a result of using this water.

The **water at Lourdes** has brought about thousands of reported healings, but the Church has officially recognised only seventy since 1858. Qualified medical experts of all religious beliefs are used, including atheists and agnostics, before any miracle is declared.

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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



St Scholastica

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died:

Edward Moson
Mark Walsh
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Biasina Sepede
Olive Chapman
Pat Newby
Teresa Frankow
Maria Richardson
Czeslaw Zurawski

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 7th **Vigil Mass**
6.00pm For the Parish

Sun 8th **Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
9.00am Deceased of the Monaghan & Kenyon families
11.15am Giovanni Palmieri (RIP)
2.30pm *Baptism:*
4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 9th **Feria**
9.15am Jimmy Graham (RIP)

Tues 10th **St Scholastica, Virgin**
9.15am Neal Sheppard (RIP)

Weds 11th **Apparition of Our Lady at Lourdes**
6.30pm Mary & Guy Nash (RIP) (Latin)

Thurs 12th **Feria**
9.15am Sheila McFerran (RIP)
5.45pm *Baptism*

Fri 13th **Feria**
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Teresa Frankow (RIP, Anniversary)

Sat 14th **Ss Cyril, Monk, & Methodius, Bishop**
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:** Czeslaw Zurawski (RIP, Anniversary)

Sun 15th **Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
9.00am Harry Harrison (RIP)
11.15am For the Parish
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*

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Mon 9th First Confession Class: 4.15pm in the hall
Tues 10th Bible study: 7.00pm in the parish library
Weds 11th UCM: 2-4pm in the hall
Thurs 12th RCIA: 7.00pm in the parish library
Sat 14th Gregorian Chant workshop: 10am-4pm in the hall

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Among these is the cure of **Marie Bailly** in 1902. She was suffering from acute tuberculous peritonitis, and was practically dying on the train to Lourdes. As the train pulled in to the station, she was taken immediately to the grotto where three pitchers of water from the spring were thrown over her abdomen. Within thirty minutes she was completely cured. After exhaustive investigation, the Church declared the cure medically inexplicable.

However, Lourdes is not only a place of physical healing. **The greater miracle is the number of conversions that have taken place there.** Countless men and women who have arrived burdened by sin, scepticism or complete indifference have left reconciled with God. The queues for Confession are long, and sufferings offered to God become a means of grace rather than despair.

Our Lady told Bernadette, **“I cannot promise you happiness in this life, but only in the next.”** She became a nun and died in 1879 at the age of 35 of tuberculosis of the bone. Bernadette always said the spring was not meant for her. She understood that sanctity doesn't consist in being spared the cross, but in **carrying it faithfully.** St Bernadette was canonised by Pope Pius XI in 1933, and her body remains incorrupt.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Safeguarding: Parents/Carers of Altar Servers and Young people attending Children's Liturgy. Young people under the age of 18 will soon be receiving Parental Consent and Code of Conduct forms. These are for families to sign and return to either Fr Paul, Fr David, or Jane Monaghan PSR. Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone and St Mary's endeavours to act with due diligence.

The Nottingham 40 Days for Life, Praying for an end to abortion, runs between Wednesday 18th February and Sunday 29th March. During these 40 days of Lent pro-lifers will be: praying for an end to abortion in our community near the main abortion clinic in Nottinghamshire; offering peaceful witness to God's love and the possibility of healing; offering practical, non-judgemental help to women who may want to consider an alternative to abortion, and offering support for post-abortive women. More information is at www.40daysforlife.com/nottingham or contact 40daysforlifennots@gmail.com

Gregorian Chant Workshop, next 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: martinsobi19@gmail.com.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Renewal Day 2026: St Joseph's Catholic Church, Leicester, 28th March 2026, 10:30am to 3:30pm. Full details from Bernard Monaghan: bernard.p.monaghan@btinternet.com

Experienced carer looking for work in a private house: Full care duties undertaken. Full driving licence. Last position held for 7.5 years. References available from previous employers. Please contact Vasilijs Medvedev: 07935 802281

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.

Each year, 8th February (when not a Sunday) is the memorial of Saint Josephine Bakhita, the patron saint of victims of human trafficking and modern slavery. There are 50 million victims of human trafficking across the world and as many as 130,000 in the UK, hidden in plain sight in your neighbourhood. Pope Francis described human trafficking as “blood money” and a “crime against humanity”. We are all called to combat this evil trade. To find out more and what you can do, go to santamartagroup.org/resources.

The ‘Walk with Me’ booklets with daily meditations for Lent are available at the back of the church. There is a suggested donation of £1 to cover costs.

As Lent approaches, a reminder that Ash Wednesday (18th February) is a day of fasting and abstinence.

From the Saints

“Love without suffering does not exist.”

St Bernadette (1844-1879)



This weekend’s second collection is for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC)’s annual White Flower Appeal. Your donations will help SPUC continue its campaign to defend the right to life from the moment of conception until natural death.

Copies of the Bishop’s Mission Plan for the Diocese, which he spoke about in his Pastoral Letter two weeks ago, are available at the back of the church.

Last Week’s Finance

Collection: £670 (of which £108 was G/A)

Standing orders: £894 @ 31/12 (of which £746 was G/A)

Attendance: 614

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

