

# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

LAETARE SUNDAY  
(FOURTH OF LENT)

# NEWSLETTER

## Laetare Sunday: Keep going



**W**e are now over halfway through Lent, and the Church this Sunday bids us “rejoice.” We call it “**Laetare Sunday**” because “laetare” is Latin for rejoice. And it’s the first word of today’s Mass: “**Rejoice Jerusalem ... be joyful all who are in mourning**” (Isaiah 66:10-11). The sombre violet vestments are replaced by rose-coloured ones, the organ plays more freely, and we are even allowed a modest display of flowers. This is all to remind us that **Easter is now drawing close**. But if we’re honest with ourselves, we may at this point be a little discouraged because we haven’t kept all our resolutions.

Many of us started Lent with good intentions: we were going to pray more, try and get to Mass in the week, do some spiritual reading, avoid certain sins, fast from food, alcohol or the internet, and make better use of the Sacrament of Confession, to find at this midway point we haven’t made that much progress at all. And so there is a temptation to think, “I’ve failed and my Lent is ruined.” **Wrong!** Thoughts like this don’t come from God. **It is important to understand we don’t measure the spiritual life by our failures.**

It is about how quickly we get up again. Think of a child learning to walk. He will stumble and fall over and over again, but his father would never say, “You’ve fallen too many times, so you may as well give up!” On the contrary, a loving father would encourage him to **get up again and persevere**. Well, the good news is that God, our Heavenly Father is **infinitely more patient!** And that’s another reason why we have Laetare Sunday. It reminds us Lent is a **process of conversion**. We are still on the journey.

So if you have failed in your resolutions, the best thing you can do is **begin again NOW**. Don’t wait until tomorrow or next week. If your resolutions of deeper prayer have failed, start with a simple prayer **tonight**. If you have fallen back into a sin, confess it **as soon as you can**. If you have neglected spiritual reading, open the Bible or the life of a saint **today**. How the devil loves to discourage us, whereas the saints always teach us that **perseverance is victory**.

### 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

*Continued on page 3*



St Patrick

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died:

Francis Alhasson  
Michael Abbott

*May they rest in peace*

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Polikarp Ereminowicz  
Ray Wainwright  
Paddy Mills  
Kath Spencer

**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 14th Vigil Mass**  
6.00pm John Saunders (RIP, Anniversary)

---

**Sun 15th Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)**  
9.00am For the Parish  
11.15am Betty & Bernard Lane (RIP)  
4.00pm Italian Mass

---

**Mon 16th Lenten Feria**  
9.15am Intention for the living

---

**Tues 17th St Patrick, Patron of Ireland (Feast)**  
9.15am John McEnergy (RIP)

---

**Weds 18th Lenten Feria (commem St Cyril of Jerusalem)**  
6.30pm Deceased of the Faulks & Hallam Families (Latin)

---

**Thurs 19th St Joseph, Spouse of the BVM (Solemnity)**  
9.15am Eunice Gee (RIP)  
7.00pm **Deanery Station Mass, St Wilfrid's Coalville**

---

**Fri 20th Lenten Feria (Commem St Almund, Martyr)**  
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*  
6.30pm Valentino Castillo (RIP, Anniversary)  
7.10pm *Stations of the Cross*

---

**Sat 21st Lenten Feria**  
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:** For the Parish

---

**Sun 22nd Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
9.00am Stephen Bowmer, Margot & Stan Trojan (RIP)  
11.15am Norah Lillian Hutchings (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*

---

**THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S**

**Tues 17th** Bible Study - 7.00pm in the parish library

---

*Continued from front page*

**St Mary of Egypt** (ca. 344-421) is a fascinating saint. In her youth she led a very sinful life and was far from God. One day, she tried to enter the Church of the **Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem**, but a mysterious force prevented her from crossing the threshold. In that moment she realised the weight of her sins and opened her heart to God's mercy. She retreated to the desert where she spent years in prayer, penance and in **struggling against temptation**. Memories of her past sins often tormented her, but she **persevered**. And it was through that perseverance that grace triumphed in her soul and transformed her. The monk, **St Zosimas of Palestine** saw her later in life, and he saw a soul radiant with the grace of God. So it is never too late to begin again.

So let us all take courage on this Laetare Sunday. Easter is coming, and just as the Cross leads to the Resurrection, **the struggles we endure during Lent lead to the great joy of victory**. At this midway point in Lent, if you have failed in some way or perhaps in many, all it means is that you are human! What matters now is that you **don't give up**.

*Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

---

**There will be an enactment of the events of Holy Week** by young adults of the Loughborough area parishes again this year at 7.00pm here in St Mary's on **Palm Sunday evening, 29th March**. Undergraduates and students in Years 5 to 13 willing to participate, please contact Richard Mitchell (07812 997847 or [Rmitchell@constructivebusiness.com](mailto:Rmitchell@constructivebusiness.com)) **before Sunday evening 22nd March**.

---

**The Deanery Station Mass for Lent** will be celebrated by Bishop Patrick at St Wilfrid's, Coalville on **Thursday 19th March at 7pm**, which is the Solemnity of St Joseph. There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and opportunities for confessions from 6pm.

---

**In June 2025 MPs voted for an extreme amendment to the Crime and Policing Bill**, which would allow women to abort an unborn baby for any reason (including gender), up to birth. This policy was passed with less than two hours' debate. As Catholics, we must oppose this horrendous assault on vulnerable unborn life. The bill is due to be debated in the House of Lords on **Wednesday 18th March**. As a matter of urgency, please write to members of the Lords, asking them to reject this barbaric proposal. If you aren't sure what to say or whom to write to visit [spuc.org.uk/abortion-decriminalisation](http://spuc.org.uk/abortion-decriminalisation) or contact [pro-life@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:pro-life@dioceseofnottingham.uk)

---

### **Our Patronal Feast of the Annunciation, falls next Wednesday 25th March.**

There will be two Masses: 9.15am and a sung Latin Mass at 6.30pm.

---

### **Happy Mother's Day:**

On this special day we give thanks to God for all mothers. May the Lord bless you abundantly today and always, and may this Mother's Day be filled with joy, appreciation and the recognition you so deserve. As is our tradition, flowers for mothers will be handed out from the altar at the Sunday Masses. Could we ask that **only one child from each family** come forward to collect them.

---

### **The Knights of St Columba quiz, 7.30pm Saturday 21st March, Sacred Heart Parish Hall:**

All profits from the evening will go to Intercare, a charity which supplies medical aid to Sub Saharan Africa. Cost: £7 per person, £3 for children and students, to include a cheese supper, wine and soft drinks. If you would like to go please call Will Holland on **07811 353 248** to help plan the catering.

---

**RCIA:** Due to the Easter holidays, please note the next class will be on **Thursday 16th April**.

*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.

---

## 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.

---

**All enhanced DBS holders:** A number of rechecks are now due. Please could you check your emails and respond by clicking on to the link provided; you have two weeks to reply. There are a number of DBS holders who have missed the deadline and you will be required to complete another DBS3C and provide identification in order to continue in your role.

*Jane Monaghan PSR*

---

**Food Bank/Your Store:** Thank you for your continued support which was highlighted by the staff at JSH. The Easter collection will be on **Saturday 21st March** in the car park from 10.30 to 11.00am. Top of the list are Easter treats and all things chocolate!

*Jane & Bernard Monaghan*

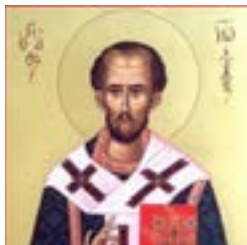
---

## From the Saints

*"God is more pleased with the humility of repentance than with the pride of never falling."*

(St John Chrysostom, ca.347-407)

---



**SPUC:** Thank you so much to all who supported the SPUC cake sale last week. You raised £160 which will be sent to SPUC to help oppose the Assisted Dying Bill and the Abortion up to Birth Clause.

---

**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*

---

## Last Week's Finance

**1st Collection:** £789 (of which £140 G/A)

**CAFOD Family Fast Day:** £488 (of which £235 G/A)

**Standing orders:** £894 @ 31/1 (of which £710 G/A)

**Attendance:** 687

*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

