

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

FIFTH SUNDAY
OF LENT

NEWSLETTER

Christ the New Adam and Mary the New Eve



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

On Wednesday we celebrate our Patronal Feast of the **Annunciation of Our Lady**. This year it is especially important for us, because it's the first time we're keeping this Feast **since our church was consecrated last year by Bishop Patrick during Our Lady's month on 1st May**. This was the day St Mary's was set apart as a holy place for the worship of God alone. Wednesday's Feast reminds us that God did something truly astonishing. He came to live among us, beginning as a child in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To understand this great Feast, we need to go back to the very beginning of the Bible to the book of Genesis chapter 2. **God created Adam and Eve** and placed them in the Garden of Eden. They were in friendship with Him and were endowed with various supernatural gifts, including immortality. But when Satan tempted them to eat the fruit of the forbidden tree, they made a choice. Eve listened to the serpent instead of trusting God, and Adam went along with it, and **their disobedience brought sin, suffering and death into the world**. Heaven was now closed to us, symbolised by Adam and Eve being thrown out of Eden (Genesis 3:24).

But God didn't give up on us. He had a plan to fix what had gone wrong, and that plan began to come to fruition at the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38). When the **Angel Gabriel**, God's messenger, appeared to the **Blessed Virgin Mary**, she too faced a choice. At first she was afraid and could have said no. But when Gabriel unveiled God's plan, her response was very simple, and it changed the course of human history: **"Be it done unto me according to thy word."** Where Eve said "no," Mary, the **New Eve**, said "yes." And at that very instant, without any ceremony, **the New Adam**, JESUS Christ, the God man, entered into the world, into time, as a tiny human life in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. **JESUS had come to UNDO what Adam had done.**

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The Raising of Lazarus, from this Sunday's Gospel (John 9:1-41)

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died:

Margaret Cunningham
Alberto Ceu Rodrigues
Francis Alhasson
Michael Abbott
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Stefania Mszyca
Franco Basile
Annie Elizabeth McCloskey
Arthur Clarke
Yvonne Dyson
Barry Clarkeson
Olga Maker

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 21st Vigil Mass
6.00pm For the Parish

Sun 22nd Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday)
9.00am Stephen Bowmer, Margot & Stan Trojan (RIP)
11.15am Norah Lillian Hutchings (RIP)
4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 23rd Lenten Feria
9.15am Reginald Arthur Hutchings (RIP)

Tues 24th Lenten Feria
9.15am Susan Blood (RIP)

Weds 25th The Annunciation of the BVM (Solemnity)
9.15am For the Parish (School Mass)
6.30pm Intention for the living (Sung Latin)

Thurs 26th Lenten Feria
9.15am Deceased of the Briscoombe family

Fri 27th Lenten Feria
11.00am *Requiem Mass: Michael Abbott RIP*
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Denise Kabala (RIP, Anniversary)
7.10pm *Stations of the Cross*

Sat 28th 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:** Reynold Marcos (RIP)

Sun 29th Palm Sunday
9.00am For peace in the world
11.15am For the Parish
4.00pm Italian Mass
7.00pm *Youth Enactment of the Passion*

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 23rd First Holy Communion Class - 4.15pm in the hall
Tues 24th Bible Study - 7.00pm in the parish library

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We can think of it like this: **Eve said “no” and everything fell apart. Mary said “yes” and God began to put everything back together again.** That’s why we call Mary the New Eve, and it’s why we call JESUS the New Adam. They reversed by their **obedience** what Adam and Eve had done through their **disobedience**. Adam’s choice brought **death**, whereas JESUS’ choice brought **life**.

We all face choices every day. They can be big things or small things. So, do I choose what is right or do I choose what is easy? Do I obey God, or do I go along with the crowd? Facing choices like these, we are in a similar position to Adam, Eve and Our Lady. Our decisions may not be quite as consequential as theirs, but they are our chances to say yes to God. The more you say yes to God, the easier it becomes, and gradually your life starts to change. You become stronger and more peaceful because you know you are doing God’s Will.

Finally, remember God has a plan for you, just as He had a plan for Mary, and **there is no limit to the good He can do in you and through you**, if only you learn to say, as Mary did: *“Yes Lord, be it done unto me according to thy word.”*

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

This Sunday is Passion Sunday, marking the beginning of Passiontide, when the Church turns more intently to the sufferings of Our Lord. As you come into church this weekend, you will notice that all crucifixes, statues and images, with the exception of the Stations of the Cross, are veiled in violet. This is an ancient tradition signifying the hidden glory of Christ and it invites us to deeper prayer and meditation on His Passion. The Cross will be unveiled during the Good Friday Liturgy and the statues at the Easter Vigil.

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

There will be an enactment of the events of Holy Week by young adults of the Loughborough area parishes 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) **before this Sunday evening (22nd March)**.

Holy Week Services (2nd-4th April)

Maundy Thursday (2nd)

6.30pm: Solemn Mass of the Lord’s Supper and Procession to the Altar of Repose

Watching until **11.15pm**

Good Friday (3rd)

10.00am: Children’s Stations of the Cross in the church hall

3.00pm: Sacred Liturgy

7.00pm: Stations of the Cross followed by Confessions

Holy Saturday (4th)

9.15am Polish food blessing

10.30-11.30am: Confessions

8.00pm: Easter Vigil and Solemn Mass

Our Patronal Feast of the Annunciation, falls this Wednesday 25th March.

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

The catch up cafe will not be continuing due to diminishing numbers.

Thank you to all who have supported the cafe in the past. *Dorothy Hutchings*

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.
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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.

The House of Lords voted last Wednesday evening to decriminalise abortion up to birth. We are no longer talking about what pro-abortionists speak of as “a collection of cells.” We are talking about a fully formed baby that a mother will soon be able to kill legally. This is a truly terrible indictment on the state of our country, and we need to be asking serious questions about the path we’re taking. Let us pray earnestly for those in positions of authority, and for a reawakening of conscience. As Christians we believe in the sacredness of all human life. *“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you”* (Jeremiah 1:5). May God have mercy on us!



From the Saints

“God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission – I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.”

St John Henry Newman (1801- 1890)



Volunteers needed for Easter church cleaning: Tuesday 31st March, 10.30am-12.30pm. Please speak to Emily or Elvira.

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £980 (of which £143 G/A)

Standing orders: £932 @ 31/2 (of which £715 G/A)

Attendance: 711

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

