

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

PALM SUNDAY

NEWSLETTER

The King Who came to be Sacrificed



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

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Hastings Street
Loughborough LE11 5AX
01509 212621
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Headteacher: Miss P Jordan

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Thorpe Hill
Loughborough LE11 4SQ
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Headteacher: Mr C Maher

With today being Palm Sunday we enter **Holy Week** – the beginning of the great drama of our redemption. Our Lord enters Jerusalem to the cries of *“Hosanna, Son of David”*, and yet He knew that in a few days time, those same voices would be crying out, *“Crucify Him.”* So today, the Church in her wisdom, places before us **both the glory and the sorrow**, because the two cannot be separated. **It is no coincidence that your palms today are in the shape of a cross.**

Our Lord came into this world for one supreme purpose: **to offer Himself in sacrifice.** Although He preached and worked countless miracles, His mission was to **redeem.** **The Cross was there even at Bethlehem.** He was laid in a **manger** – a place of feeding – prefiguring how He would give Himself as the **Bread of Life.** He was wrapped in **swaddling clothes**, foreshadowing **His burial cloth.** **The wood of the manger** anticipated the **wood of the Cross.**

The **Letter to the Hebrews** (chapters 9 and 10) speaks of this mystery with great clarity. **Christ is both the Priest** (the one who offers sacrifice) **and the Victim** (the one being sacrificed). Christ doesn't offer the blood of animals. He offers His own Precious Blood. And so He accomplished what the sacrifices of the Old Law could only prefigure. But why was the sacrifice of the Son of God necessary? **It was necessary because we, being finite human beings, could not pay the infinite debt of our sins to the infinite God. It required a reparation of infinite value.** No mere creature could offer such satisfaction. **Only God could do it**, which is why He became man in JESUS Christ. **Therefore, every act and every drop of His Precious Blood, and every agony He underwent for our sake was of an infinite value**, and thus He paid the price of all our sins, past, present and future, until the end of time.

Continued on page 3



The Last Supper

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died:

Bridget Brooks
Eugene Connolly
Margaret Cunningham
Alberto Ceu Rodrigues
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Salvatore Chiamonte
Pauline Taylor
Stephen Bowmer
Stanislaw Gebski
Rita Preston
Edward Connell
Maria Carecci
Graham Embleton
Tony D'Amato
John Adamek
Ann Wall

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 28th Vigil Mass
6.00pm 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*

Mon 30th Monday of Holy Week
9.15am Clive Edwards (RIP)

Tues 31st Tuesday of Holy Week
9.15am Mr O'Gorman (RIP)

Weds 1st Wednesday of Holy Week
11.30am *Chrism Mass at the Cathedral*
6.30pm Venancio Castillo Sr (RIP) (Latin)

Thurs 2nd Maundy Thursday
6.30pm Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper and Procession to the Altar of Repose followed by Watching until 11.15pm
For all Priests

Fri 3rd Good Friday
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*

Sat 4th Holy Saturday
9.15am *Blessing of Easter Baskets for the Polish Community*
8.00pm Solemn Mass of the Easter Vigil
Anthony Richard Hutchings (RIP)

Sun 5th Easter Sunday
9.00am Laura & Samuel Sagrado (RIP, Anniversary)
11.15am For the Parish

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

Continued from front page

As **St Athanasius** (297- 373) put it: **“He surrendered His Body to death in place of all, and offered it to the Father.”** Therefore, the debt has been paid, man is reconciled to God, and the gates of Heaven are opened to us. All we have to do is **embrace the salvation offered us.**

So as we enter the holiest days of the Church’s year, don’t let them pass by like any other day. Make the effort to be present at the ceremonies. **Come to the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday evening**, and then keep watch with Him in His agony at the Altar of Repose. **Stand at the foot of the Cross on Good Friday** with Our Lady, St John and St Mary Magdalene, and then venerate the instrument of your salvation. **And then return in the darkness of Holy Saturday night** to witness the triumph of His Resurrection. These are no mere commemorations. In the Sacred Liturgy, the mysteries of our redemption are made present to us **sacramentally. It is as if we are actually present at those events**, and the graces won by Our Lord JESUS Christ on Calvary are opened up and applied to us here and now. **We cannot remain indifferent.** Don’t be among those who shouted **“Hosanna”** on Palm Sunday, but who had disappeared by Good Friday. Stay with Him, walk with Him, and pray with Him.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Good Friday (3rd April) is a day of **fasting and abstinence.** This means Catholics who are 18 years old and above, until their 59th birthday (when they begin their 60th year), are bound to fast (one full meal in the day, and perhaps some food at a couple of points). All Catholics who are 14 years old and above are bound to abstain from meat.

Fr Paul

Holy Week enactment: This year’s enactment of the events of Holy Week by young adults of the Loughborough parishes is at 7.00pm at St Mary’s on **Palm Sunday evening, 29th March.** Your support for them with your presence would be much appreciated.

Mobile phones: When we come to Mass, we are invited into a time of prayer, meditation and reverence. To help maintain a peaceful and respectful atmosphere for all, we kindly ask parishioners to remember to **switch mobile phones to silent before entering the church.** Thank you for your consideration and for helping to preserve the quiet dignity of our worship.

Fr Paul

Could you be our next Archives Volunteer? The Archives Department is hosting an Open Day at the McGinness Centre, Brooklyn Road, Nottingham NG6 9ES on Friday 17th April between 2.00pm and 6.00pm. Are you an organised individual with an interest in Church history, genealogy, and basic Microsoft skills? The Archives Department would love to see you there!

Relationship guidance:

From relationships that are ‘just in a Rut’, needing some refreshment or more serious issues - If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get their relationship back on track as they rediscovered hope and trust in the marriage. To find out more, visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk or telephone 07973 380443

The long-awaited beatification of Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen, the great American TV evangelist often quoted by Fr Paul, has been announced for 24th September this year. On that day, he will be officially declared Blessed.

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.

Sunday 12th April is Divine Mercy Sunday when we will have the Blessing of the Divine Mercy image. This is also a reminder that the Divine Mercy Novena begins on Good Friday.

Encountering Jesus in the Gospels: how to lead groups in reflective prayer. On Tuesday evenings between April and June, join the Jesuit Institute online for a short online formation course building the skills and confidence needed to hold and guide groups of those who wish to deepen their relationship with Jesus, in conversation with others, through reflectively praying with gospel texts. www.jesuitinstitute.org/events/encountering-jesus-in-the-gospels.

As the office will be closed on Good Friday, please send any notices for the newsletter by next Wednesday at the latest.



From the Saints

"Every other person who ever came into this world came into it to live. [Christ] came into it to die ... His had been the only life in the world that was ever lived backward."
Venerable Fulton Sheen (1895-1979)

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

The Easter Collection will be for parish funds.

If you wish to make a personal offering to the priests, please give it directly, or place it in one of the white envelopes marked IOC. Thank you.

There will be a collection for the Holy Places of Palestine on Good Friday.

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £767 (of which £107 G/A)

Standing orders: £932 @ 28/2 (of which £715 G/A)

Attendance: 667

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

