

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

THIRD SUNDAY
OF LENT

NEWSLETTER

St Joseph, the Man for March



Just as Mary teaches us how to live Advent, Joseph is a **symbol** and a **companion** for Lent. In Church tradition, March is dedicated to **St Joseph** — and in the Church’s calendar, Lent falls mostly in March. That makes **Joseph our Lenten leader** each year. That makes a lot of sense. He is a Lenten leader in the way the Blessed Mother is the “Advent Woman.”

St Joseph shows us how to *keep* Jesus in our Lent.

While Advent is the season of *receiving Christ*, Lent is the season of *caring for Christ* — where we **care for, guard and protect** the great gift of Christ in our life. We are waiting for Christ in Advent, but we are waiting *with* Christ in Lent. Christ has come, and He has asked us to stay with him to the end. We journey with Him through His Passion to the joy of the Resurrection. There is no better model for that than **St Joseph**. St Joseph’s 19th March feast day is the Husband of Mary, when we celebrate the **builder** from Nazareth who first had to change his life because Jesus had come into the world. When the Gospel says, *“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us”* the Greek actually says He *“tabernacled among us.”* In other words, the Word entered Joseph’s **family**, lived in Joseph’s **house**, and entrusted Himself to Joseph’s **care**. In the Old Testament, David offered to build a house for God, but God refused. But Joseph, of the House of David, built a home for Jesus, and his own household became a **Holy of Holies** housing God himself. **That is what our Lenten task is:** To be better **custodians, carers**, of the gift of Christ by shaping our **‘house’ and life** to His needs and His ways by our **prayer, fasting and almsgiving**.

The other major focus of Lent is the **Passion of Christ**. As we take up our cross and follow Jesus, St Joseph is our model once again. His whole life was dedicated to **sacrifice, prayer, and self-giving** as he lived a celibate marriage literally centred on Christ and responded

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

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JESUS and the Samaritan woman at the well, from this Sunday's Gospel (John 4: 5-42)

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died:

Michael Abbot
Edward Moson
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Laura Pietryzk
Serena Basile
Suzanne Burdett
Eva Guarasci

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 Third Sunday of Lent
9.00am Fr David Jones (GE)
11.15am Muriel Lewin (RIP, Anniversary)
4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 9th Lenten Feria (Commem St Frances of Rome)
9.15am Intention for the living
11.00am *Requiem Mass: Edward Moson RIP*

Tues 10th Lenten Feria
9.15am Constance Mavis Stanford (RIP)

Weds 11th Lenten Feria
6.30pm Yvonne Gibbs (RIP) (Latin)

Thurs 12th Lenten Feria
9.15am Intention for the living

Fri 13th Lenten Feria
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Intention for the living
7.10pm *Stations of the Cross*

Sat 14th Lenten Feria
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
-12.30pm *with Confessions 10.30-11.30am & Benediction 12.20pm*
2.30pm *Baptism*
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** 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

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 parish hall
Tues 10th Bible Study - 7.00pm in the parish library
Weds 11th UCM - 2.00-4.00pm in the parish hall

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obediently to the Lord who called him **again and again**. But he was a model of the Passion in another way, too, according to St. Mother Teresa. *“Saint Joseph is the most wonderful example!”* she said. *“When he realized that Mary was with child, he only had to do one thing: To go to the head, to the priest and say, ‘My wife has a child, not mine.’ ... They would have stoned her; that was the rule.”* Instead, according to Mother Teresa, *“He decided, ‘I’ll run away.’ And the rule was that ... if he had run away and left his wife pregnant, they would stone him.”* If that is what Joseph had in mind — and it does make sense — then each March, we commemorate the man in Jesus’ life who was a model for taking the **‘sins’ of his loved ones on to himself**.

Last, St Joseph is the model of the virtuous man or woman Lent exists to help us become. The Gospel of Matthew identifies Joseph as a **“just”** or **“righteous”** man. Pope Benedict XVI pointed out that Matthew’s Jewish audience would have known how a **“just man”** is defined — by Psalm 1. It says, *“Blessed is the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked ... whose delight is the law of the Lord, and who ponders his Law day and night.”* Think of that as a description for St Joseph, a man who was **strong** and **silent** and **steady**, who didn’t detract from Mary and Jesus but complemented them, *“like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season.”*

Pope Francis once said, *“St Joseph celebrates all those who, like Joseph, are ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, or on the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history.”* Lent is the time to shape our hearts in Joseph’s **virtues**, shaping the future **without fanfare**, for Jesus. Something we all can do in our own quiet way for Him this Lent.

Fr David Jones, OLV

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) **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.

The Diocesan “Enabling Our Mission” Appeal in our parish is now drawing to a close. At the end of Masses this weekend, each household will be given a card to complete. Please tick the appropriate box to indicate whether you have already donated, would like to donate, are thinking of donating, or are unable to donate at this time. So far, we have received £90,000 in pledges towards our parish target of £155,000. Thank you for your generosity and cooperation. *Fr Paul*

Message from Your

Store: We have received a heartfelt thank you for the 30 bags of donations that were collected on 28th February, described by the coordinator as a ‘game changer’ at a time of year when stocks are low. The items like clothes washing detergent in particular were much appreciated.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion gathering at **Sacred Heart of Jesus, Park Road, Saturday 14th March:** Holy Hour on the theme of ‘The Redeemer’, **11.00am-12.00 midday***, followed by an opportunity for Confession.

**Please note the time, which was incorrectly given last week*

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.

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.

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

From the Saints

"Hope everything from the mercy of God; it is as boundless as His power."

St Frances of Rome (1384-1440)



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.

There will be a sale of cakes in aid of SPUC after Sunday Masses this weekend

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £859 (of which £137 was G/A)

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

Attendance: 750

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

