

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

THIRD SUNDAY
OF EASTER

NEWSLETTER

From Fear to Apostolic Fire

It is a truly extraordinary thing that the **Apostles**, who during Our Lord's Passion, fled and hid behind locked doors for fear of the Jews, **following the Resurrection, were transformed into fearless preachers of the Gospel**, with a courage that no threat or persecution could silence.

St Luke tells us in the Acts of the Apostles that Our Lord, *“presented Himself alive after His Passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God”* (1:3). During this time He instructed them and strengthened them for the immense task that lay ahead of them – **the proclamation of the Gospel to the whole world**. And Our Lord gave them their mission: *“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth”* (1:8). They were to be witnesses and even martyrs to the truth of the Resurrection of Christ. It was the Resurrection that was the foundation of everything, and St Peter would later declare of Christ, *“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved”* (4:12). This is a teaching not popular with the modern world. We are often told all religions are basically the same and lead to God, and that truth is subjective. But that's not what Our Lord or the Apostles taught. The Apostles all died for the truth that **salvation is found in Christ alone**. And Our Lord Himself said, *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by Me”* (John 14:6). **St John Chrysostom** (347-407), reflecting on this, marvelled that these once weak men became fearless, precisely because they knew what was at stake – **the salvation of souls**. That's why after the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, they didn't remain in Jerusalem. **They went and preached the Gospel fearlessly to the farthest ends of the earth**. This is why **missionaries**, men and women, for centuries risked their lives, crossing oceans and going to far off places from which they knew they would probably never return, where they were often mocked, tortured and martyred – all to preach **JESUS Christ as the**



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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Road to Emmaus, Luke 24: 13-25

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died:

Angelo Calabrese
Jerzy Trzcinski
Margaret Cunningham
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

anniversaries occur at this time:

Mary Walsh
Joan MacMillan
Edward Connell
Peter Cawley
Joan Brain
Barry Clarkson

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 18th Vigil Mass
6.00pm For the Parish

Sun 19th Third Sunday of Easter
9.00am Golden Wedding Anniversary
11.15am Ann Checketts (RIP, Anniversary)
2.30pm *Baptism*
4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 20th Easter Feria
9.15am Angelo Calabrese (RIP)

Tues 21st St Anselm, Bishop & Doctor
9.15am Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life

Weds 22nd Ss Soter & Caius, Martyrs
6.30pm Irena Prusaczyk (RIP) (Latin)

Thurs 23rd St George, Patron of England (Solemnity)
9.15am For the Conversion of England
12.30pm *Requiem Mass: Margaret Cunningham RIP*

Fri 24th St Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Martyr
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Eugene Connolly (RIP)

Sat 25th St Mark, Evangelist (Feast)
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am & Benediction 12.20pm*
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** For the Parish

Sun 26th Fourth Sunday of Easter
9.00am Giuseppina Giorgio (RIP, Anniversary)
11.15am Henryka Abucewicz (RIP, 10th anniversary)

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 20th First Holy Communion Class - 4.15pm in the parish hall
Tues 21st Bible Study - 7.00pm in the parish library

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one and only Saviour and Redeemer of the world. And they succeeded in converting the pagan world with its countless false gods by **truth, charity and God's grace.** People can, of course, be saved outside the Catholic Church, but they are saved by Christ and the Church He founded – not their own religion, but that is a separate issue (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, #846-847*).

Then we come to our own times. **The false gods have returned** – this time **materialism, moral relativism and narcissism.** Our once Christian country and Christian Europe is fast fading away into oblivion. It is not uncommon nowadays for Christian men and women to be arrested for peaceably preaching the Gospel in public places or even for praying silently outside an abortion clinic. It's **"Keep your faith to yourself, and don't you dare try and witness!"** The Apostles were told the same thing, and they responded, **"We must obey God rather than men"** (Acts 5:29).

So we need to urgently **recover apostolic zeal before it's too late.** It's up to us. **We are the new "apostles."** The government are not going to save us, and as Venerable Fulton Sheen once famously said, **the clergy aren't going to save us either!** Many people we know, our families and friends may be far from the truth, but do we believe enough to speak? Do we love enough to act? Think about it: **everything we value most in our civilisation comes from Christ** – human dignity, charity, mercy, justice, the dignity of women. Cut off from Him, these things simply won't endure. Our task, therefore, is clear. **We have to reconvert our neighbours,** and there are already many good signs of this in our parish. **We must bring Christ back into our homes, our places of work and study, and into our culture.** We must truly work for the **victory of Christianity over the false gods of our age** – not with arrogance, but with truth and courage. This would not be a victory of domination, but of **salvation.**

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

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

This Sunday there is a short Pastoral Letter from the Bishop announcing a special campaign for Vocations to the Priesthood in our Diocese.

Friday 1st May will be the first anniversary of the Consecration of St Mary's and we observe it as a Solemnity. To mark the occasion there will be a Solemn Mass at 6.30pm. It would be lovely to have a full church.

Please keep Fr Charles Sormany in your prayers; he is in Coventry Hospital again and has been unwell for a while.

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

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.

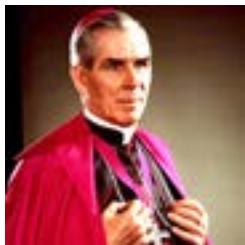
Prayer to Saint Michael

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.

Between Saturday 16th and Saturday 23rd May the Jesuit Institute is holding a 6-day online Retreat in the lead up to Pentecost, offering an opportunity to spend more time with God and listen to how God is at work in the everyday lives of those taking part. For details, and to book, visit:

www.jesuitinstitute.org/events/online-individually-guided-retreat---pentecost

The next Food Bank/Your Store collection will be on Saturday 25th April, 10.30 - 11.00am, in the car park. Please see the notice on the porch doors for suggested donations. A huge thank you for the bumper response to the Easter chocolate appeal. Once again the generosity of St. Mary's parishioners was amazing and made a difference to a lot of families over the Easter break. *Jane & Bernard*



From the Saints

"Who is going to save our Church? Not our bishops, not our priests and religious. It's up to you the people."

Venerable Fulton Sheen (1895-1979)

The second collection next weekend will be for the Rosminian Clergy Formation Fund.

Gift Aid: New boxed sets of numbered envelopes for UK tax payers will be available at weekend Masses on 2nd/3rd May and 9th/10th May. Please remember to take home the box bearing your name. Thank you. *Geoff Mercer*

Finance

Easter

Collection: Not available at time of printing

Attendance: 699

11th/12th April

Collection: Not available at time of printing

Attendance: 1053

Standing orders: Not available at time of printing

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

