

# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

GOOD SHEPHERD  
SUNDAY

# NEWSLETTER

## First Anniversary of the Consecration of St Mary's



### St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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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

One year ago this **Friday 1st May**, during an impressive ceremony, our beloved parish church of St Mary's was **set apart forever for the worship of God** when it was **consecrated** by Bishop Patrick McKinney of Nottingham. Those privileged to be present witnessed something very rare in our times. It wasn't just a simple ceremony of blessing – it was **God Himself taking full possession of a house built for His glory**. I remember one of the Rosminian sisters commenting after that she felt she had been in Heaven. Bishop Patrick said in his sermon that evening, **“the Consecration of a church is one of the most ancient and beautiful ceremonies of the Catholic Church – one that few Catholics ever witness.”** When a church is consecrated, it is as if Heaven steps down to earth and marks every stone and piece of cement indelibly for sacred use.

The Bishop preached a wonderful sermon that evening, and said things that we would do well to ponder over and over again. He likened the Consecration of a church to the **initiation of a Christian soul through the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist**. The church itself was, in a sense, **“baptised”** by sprinkling the walls with specially blessed Holy Water. It was **“confirmed”** when the Bishop marked the walls in twelve places with the Sacred Oil of Chrism. And it was finally made ready for the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass by the Consecration of the High Altar, again by being anointed with the Sacred Oil of Chrism, after which relics of St Peter and St Paul, St Dominic Savio and St Thérèse of Lisieux were placed inside and sealed with cement, recalling that from the earliest days of Christianity, the Church **celebrated Mass on the tombs of the saints, especially martyrs**. The church and the altar were incensed, and in the Bishop's words, **“representing our prayers rising up to God.”**

The Bishop also reminded us of the most urgent message for us today: **“As you witness today's Consecration, I ask you to let yourselves be re-consecrated also.”** In other words, a church may

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St Louis de Montfort

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died:

Lee Ellis  
Melicina James Perera  
Angelo Calabrese  
*May they rest in peace*

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Giovanni Di Cosmo  
Barbara Carpenter  
Jan Orzeszek  
Danuta Ereminowicz  
Addolorata Palmiero  
Norman Welband  
Sylvia James  
Fr Stuart Allan  
Pasqua Genco  
Bernard Lane  
Greg O'Connor

**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**

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**Sat 25th Vigil Mass**  
6.00pm For the Parish

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**Sun 26th Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)**  
9.00am Giuseppina Giorgio (RIP, Anniversary)  
11.15am Henryka Abucewicz (RIP, 10th Anniversary)  
4.00pm Italian Mass

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**Mon 27th Easter Feria**  
9.15am Vittorio Giorgio (RIP)

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**Tues 28th St Louis de Montfort, Priest**  
9.15am Intention for the living

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**Weds 29th NO MASS**

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**Thurs 30th NO MASS**

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**Fri 1st Dedication of St Mary's Church (Solemnity)**  
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*  
6.30pm For our Deceased Relatives & Friends *(First Friday)*

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**Sat 2nd St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor** *First Saturday*  
10.00am Greg O'Connor (RIP)  
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am & Benediction 12.20pm*  
-12.30pm  
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** Jan & Lidia Orzeszek (RIP)

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**Sun 3rd Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
9.00am For the Parish  
11.15am Greg O'Connor (RIP)  
2.30pm *Baptism*  
4.00pm Italian Mass

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

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**THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S**

**Mon 27th** First Holy Communion Class - 4.15pm in the parish hall  
**Tues 28th** Bible Study - 7.00pm in the parish library  
**Weds 29th** UCM - 2.00-4.00pm in the parish hall  
**Thurs 30th** RCIA - 7.00pm in the parish library

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be consecrated, but without fervent souls, it is like a lamp without oil. What happens inside these walls? **The ordinary becomes extraordinary.** Bread and wine are changed into the very substance of Christ's Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. Similarly, sinners are transformed into saints, through the Sacraments, especially Confession and the worthy reception of Holy Communion. These things are not merely symbolic. It is the divine breaking into our fallen world, where Calvary is made present and eternity touches time.

And so one year on, we must ask ourselves, have we lived up to the graces given us on that special night? **Have we allowed ourselves to be re-consecrated?** Have we deepened our reverence for the Mass? Have we received the Sacraments with greater devotion? Have we filled this sacred place not only with our bodies, but with our holiness? So the Consecration of St Mary's wasn't an end. **It was a beginning - of renewal, mission and greater sanctity.**

**We will mark this important anniversary on Friday with a Solemn Mass at 6.30pm.** To remind us what happened one year ago, all the Consecration candles will once again be lit around the church, recalling the moment when these walls were claimed for Christ and filled with His light. And for us, this anniversary is observed as a Solemnity – the highest grade of Feast the Church has. Our Solemnity happily coincides with the **Feast of St Joseph the Worker**, because if ever there was a saint totally consecrated to God, he was it.

So I strongly encourage as many of you as possible to come to the Mass next Friday evening. The doors will be open, the candles lit, and the altar gloriously prepared for the offering of the Holy Sacrifice. Be there and experience it.

*Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

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**May is Our Lady's month,** so next weekend **2nd and 3rd May**, we will crown the statue of Our Lady of Fatima at the Vigil Mass on Saturday evening and both Masses on Sunday morning.

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**Mass cancellations:** There are some weekday Masses over the next two weeks that have had to be cancelled, as Fr Paul will be away on a Rosminian retreat and then in Lourdes and Fr David will be undergoing cataract operations. The intentions of the cancelled Masses have been rescheduled. Please check the newsletter for any changes to the usual timetable. Apologies for the inconvenience.

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**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*

## **Today is Good Shepherd Sunday/Called by Name Sunday**

Bishop Patrick is asking us to identify in our parish/chaplaincy, faithful young men (18 years and older, who have a love for Christ and His Church, who exhibit qualities of leadership and service, and who may be open to learning more about the priesthood.

To submit names, please fill in one of the pew cards and return it in the collection basket, or to a basket at the end of Mass, or by email to [vocations@dioceseof-nottingham.uk](mailto:vocations@dioceseof-nottingham.uk). To be able to fill out the details of the card, you will need to speak with the man you are nominating and to check they are happy for their name to be put forward.

Those whose names you submit will receive a letter of encouragement from Bishop Patrick and be invited to meet with him. Fr Neil Peoples, our Vocations Director will also offer them support and guidance as they discern their vocation. Thank you for your participation in this important campaign.

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**Confirmation and First Holy Communion gifts and cards** are now available at the Repository (the church shop).

## 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.

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**Grub Club:** St Mary's parishioners and school believed in us when we started St Mary's Grub Club eight years ago. Many families have benefitted from activities and hot lunches during school holidays, free warm winter coats, regular distribution of reading materials, an end-of-year trip and the skill, care and compassion of 100+ volunteers. Unfortunately, because of ongoing difficulties in recruiting volunteers, we have decided to close down the operation. When we started there was little holiday provision for children whereas now there are government-backed schemes available across the town. Thanks to St Mary's for giving us a great start. *Catherine Brady and the Grub Club team*

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**Quiz Night:** The Knights of St Columba are holding a quiz in Sacred Heart Parish Hall at 7.30pm on **Saturday 9th May**, with all profits from the evening going to help fund students on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Cost: £7, £3 for children and students, to include a cheese supper, wine and soft drinks. To book, please call Will Holland on 07811 353 248.

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## From the Saints

*"We must not only build churches of stone,  
but living temples in our hearts."*

St Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)

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**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.

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

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## Recent Finance

**4th/5th April (Easter)**

**Collection:** £1545 (of which £125 G/A)

**Attendance:** 1053

**11th/12th April**

**Collection:** £846 (of which £92 G/A)

**Attendance:** 699

**18th/19th April**

**Collection:** £1187 (£ of which £117 G/A)

**Attendance:** 681

*Thank you*

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## 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

