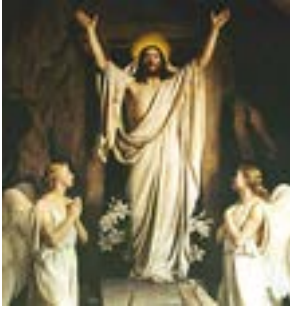


St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

EASTER SUNDAY

NEWSLETTER

The Resurrection of Christ – The Truth That Changes Everything



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

On behalf of Fr David and myself, I wish you all a very happy and blessed Easter. This is the greatest Feast of the Church:

JESUS Christ after three days in the tomb is truly risen from the dead! And let us be clear from the outset, this is not a spiritual idea or a metaphor. **It is a historical fact that JESUS Christ rose from the dead: bodily, physically, truly. The tomb was empty.** The same JESUS Who was crucified and died on the Cross, Whose Sacred Heart was pierced with a lance as He hung there, **walked out of that tomb glorified, able to be seen, heard and touched.** He even ate in front of the Apostles to prove that He was no ghost.

Why does this matter? It matters, because if Christ did not rise **bodily** from the dead, then death has not been conquered. If the Resurrection was merely symbolic or spiritual as modernists often like to assert, then sin still reigns, the grave still wins, and our faith, as St Paul says, would be in vain (1 Corinthians 15:14). But that is not the case. **His bodily Resurrection means that death has been conquered in reality** – not just in theory. It means that eternal life is real, and not some abstraction. And what happened to Our Lord is meant, by God's grace, to happen to us too. At the end of time, our souls will be **reunited with our bodies**, and if we are faithful, will be glorified like His. This is why Easter is not just important – **it's everything.**

The **early Christians** understood this completely, and they challenge us today. They encountered the risen Lord and it changed them forever. **St John Chrysostom** (347-407) wrote, **“Let no one fear death, for the death of our Saviour has set us free.”** This was symbolised most vividly in the **Easter Vigil** service. After weeks of fasting and preparation, the **catechumens** (those preparing for Baptism), would enter the font in the darkness of the night. And they understood very well they weren't just joining a community – **they were passing from death to life.** By being plunged into the Baptismal water, they were **buried with Christ**, and by rising from it, **they were sharing in His Resurrection.** They understood that

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JESUS, I trust in You

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died:

Jerzy Trzcinski
Bridget Brooks
Eugene Connolly
Margaret Cunningham
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Kevin Chapman
Joan Pears
Janice Hammond
Pete Malone
Barry Hurd
Anne Wade
Adam Hill
Tom Pelosi
Sharon Biddles
Genina Romano
Maurice Welband
Ann Checketts

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 4th Vigil Mass
8.00pm Anthony Richard Hutchings (RIP)

Sun 5th Easter Sunday
9.00am Laura & Samuel Sagrado (RIP, Anniversary)
11.15am For the Parish
4.00pm **No Italian Mass**

Mon 6th Monday within the Octave of Easter
10.30am Mary & Graham Embleton (RIP)

Tues 7th Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
9.15am Michael O'Carroll (RIP)

Weds 8th Wednesday within the Octave of Easter
6.30pm Michael Abbott (RIP) (Ordinariate)

Thurs 9th Thursday within the Octave of Easter
9.15am Geoffrey Arthur Hill (RIP)

Fri 10th Friday within the Octave of Easter
1.00pm *Baptism*
6.30pm In Thanksgiving

Sat 11th Saturday within the Octave of Easter
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:** For the Parish

Sun 12th Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)
9.00am Deceased members of the Lallo family
11.15am Fr David Jones (GE)
4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 13th Easter Feria
9.15am Intention for the living

Tues 14th Easter Feria
9.15am Felice Zollino (RIP)
11.30am *Requiem Mass: Bridget Brooks RIP*

Weds 15th Easter Feria
6.30pm Giuseppe & Genina Romano (RIP, Anniversary) (Latin)

PLEASE NOTE: Mass on Easter Monday will be at 10.30am.

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through Baptism, **they became heirs of Heaven, the adopted sons and daughters of God destined to share in Christ's eternal glory.**

And that is why they faced persecution fearlessly. There are so many accounts of how they went to their horrific martyrdoms with joy, because Easter had settled the ultimate question, and **death no longer had the final word.** So the Resurrection wasn't something they merely believed in - they lived it! And this brings us to our own time, where **Christianity remains the most persecuted religion in the world today.** Many of our brothers and sisters face hostility, imprisonment and even death for simply professing the Name of JESUS. So the same faith that was tested in the catacombs is still being tested today. **But because of Easter, persecution doesn't have the last word.** Those who persevere through trials and suffering are promised a share in that same risen life.

So as we celebrate this **Feast of Feasts**, let us remember those who suffer for the faith, pray for them and take courage from their witness, because **the tomb is empty: Christ is risen**, and nothing can overcome that truth.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Mass Intentions *(continued)*

Thurs 16th Easter Feria

9.15am Margaret Cunningham (RIP)

Fri 17th Easter Feria

6.30pm Eugene Connolly (RIP)

Sat 18th Easter 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:** For the Parish

Sun 19th Third Sunday of Easter

9.00am Bernard & Jane Monaghan (Golden Wedding Anniv)

11.15am Ann Checketts (RIP, Anniversary)

2.30pm *Baptism*

4.00pm Italian Mass

UPCOMING AT ST MARY'S

Mon 13th First Holy Communion class - 4.15pm in the hall

Weds 15th UCM - 2.00-4.00pm in the hall

A big thank you to all who helped prepare the church for the Holy Week and Easter ceremonies - our flower arrangers, brass polishers, church cleaners and those who helped to veil the Calvary and statues for Passiontide. Thank you also to all who have helped with the Liturgy - our altar servers, readers and musicians. The team efforts have been tremendous and I'm sure the whole parish appreciates it. Finally, thank you to parishioners for your Easter cards and offerings to the priests. As always, we are most grateful. *Fr Paul*

Walsingham Pilgrimage:

Don't forget to sign up for our parish pilgrimage to Walsingham. We're very much looking forward to it and hope many of you will be able to join us. If you have any questions or would like more information, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Samantha 07936 928370

Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Service (NDCYS)

is looking for a new Programme Leader to be based at The Briars Retreat Centre in Crich, Derbyshire. This is an exciting opportunity for an emerging leader. For more information visit ndcys.com/job-vacancies

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.

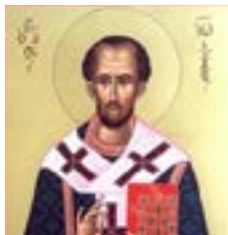
Leader: Mary, Queen of the Clergy!

All: Pray for us. Pray for our priests and religious. Obtain for us many more. Amen.

Catechism classes for children will begin on the first Saturday of the month at 9.00am in the parish hall, starting on Saturday 2nd May. Children will learn about the Mass and the life of one of the Saints, beginning with St Bernadette. At 10.00am we will join the parish to celebrate Mass to honour the Five First Saturdays as requested by Our Lady at Fatima. For further details please contact Liz (07980021916) or Yvonne.

The Feast of Divine Mercy will be celebrated on Sunday 12th April at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, Brooklyn Road, Bulwell, Nottingham NG6 9ES. The celebration begins at 2.30pm and ends with benediction at 3.45pm; talks will be given by Fr Evarist Kaniki, and Confessions will be available for an hour afterwards. All are invited to this great feast. For more information ring Madeleine: 0115 927 7893 or Teresa: 07733 224700.

Nottingham SPUC will be holding a peaceful public act of witness in memory of the 10 million lives lost to abortion since the passage of the 1967 Abortion Act on **Saturday 25th April** from 10.00am until midday. This involves standing silently holding a poster up to passing traffic. If you would like to take part, please meet at 9.55am on the north side of the Trent Bridge, next to the Brewhouse and Kitchen. Posters will be provided. For more information contact pro-life@dioceseofnottingham.uk



From the Saints

"Christ is risen, and you, O death, are annihilated! Christ is risen, and demons are fallen! Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!"

St John Chrysostom (347-407)

Sunday 12th April is Divine Mercy Sunday when we will have the Blessing of the Divine Mercy image at all Masses.

The Easter Collection is 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.

The office will be closed next week and there will be no newsletter next weekend.

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £889 (of which £102 G/A)

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

Attendance: 700

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

