

# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

SIXTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER

# NEWSLETTER

## Catholic and Apostolic

In the Creed each week we say, “I believe in one, holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church”. What does it mean to say the Church is Catholic and Apostolic?

The word ‘**catholic**’ means universal. **The Church is universal in time**, in place and in doctrine. It is **universal in time** because from the day Our Lord commissioned the Apostles to preach to the whole world (Matthew 28:19), it has existed and taught in every age. But what about other Christian denominations now in existence? The fact is that none of them go back to Christ. There was a gap of at least one thousand years between the founding of them and the founding of the Catholic Church by Christ. For one thousand years the Catholic Church was the only Christian denomination. There were a few heretical sects which lasted some years but then disappeared. The other major Christian denominations came centuries later. Protestants base everything upon their individual private interpretation of the Bible, but we only have the Bible because of the Catholic Church, who preserved and determined which books make up the Bible. So the Bible is a Catholic book which only she has the authority given by Christ to interpret.

The Catholic Church is **universal in place** in the sense that it is not confined to any one part of the world, but teaches everywhere. It is **universal in doctrine** since it teaches the same doctrines and administers the same Sacraments everywhere. The Church may have different Rites, but these Rites confer the same Sacraments.

The Church is also ‘**Apostolic**’. This means that any Church claiming to be Christ’s must go back to the Apostles for its origin and authenticity in an unbroken line, and its teachings must be identical with that of the Apostles. Therefore it must teach unequivocally that JESUS Christ is fully God and fully man, that Christ founded a hierarchical Church, that JESUS is truly present in the Holy Eucharist, that the Church has the power to forgive sins, that the Pope is the successor of St Peter and is the visible head of the Church on earth, the necessity of both faith and good works, that divorce is forbidden, that marriage is between one man and one



Photograph by Jakub Hladun

### St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

97 Ashby Road  
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

*Continued on page 3*



*Our Lady of Fatima*

**Please pray for those who are sick**

**for those who have recently died:**

John Eastgate  
Lee Ellis

Melicina James Perera  
*May they rest in peace*

**and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

Arlinda Pinto  
Len Almond  
Tony Jackson  
Betty Stewart  
Katie Wardle  
Bogumil Stabik

**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 9th Vigil Mass**  
6.00pm Rita & Rocco Acierno (RIP, Anniversary)

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**Sun 10th Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
9.00am For the Parish  
11.15am Greg O'Connor (RIP)  
4.00pm Italian Mass

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**Mon 11th Ss John Houghton, Robert Lawrence & Companions**  
9.15am Constance Mavis Stanford (RIP)  
11.00am *Funeral Service: Lee Ellis RIP*

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**Tues 12th St Pancras, Martyr**  
9.15am Robert Townend (RIP)

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**Weds 13th Our Lady of Fatima**  
6.30pm Michael Abbott (RIP) (Latin)

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**Thurs 14th The Ascension of the Lord (Solemnity)**  
9.15am Intention for the living  
6.30pm Fr John Harrington (RIP)

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**Fri 15th Easter Feria**  
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*  
6.30pm Catherine & John Smith (RIP)

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**Sat 16th 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

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**Sun 17th Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
9.00am Intention for the living  
11.15am Vito Caruso (RIP)  
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

**Sun 10th** SPUC cake sale - after both Masses in the parish hall  
**Mon 11th** First Holy Communion Class - 4.15pm in the parish hall  
**Weds 13th** UCM - 2.00-4.00pm in the parish hall  
**Thurs 14th** RCIA - 7.30pm in the parish library

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*Continued from front page*

woman, and the necessity of praying for the dead, to name a few. That Church is the Catholic Church. It also means that each and every ordained minister of the Church, every true priest and every true bishop, can trace his ordination back to one of the twelve Apostles. Since the time of St Peter there have been 266 popes. You can trace the line back from Pope Leo to St Peter the Apostle who was the first pope and Bishop of Rome. So the Apostles appointed successors, who in turn appointed further successors. These successors continue all the way to the present day within the Catholic Church. It is what we call the **Apostolic Succession**.

It is often claimed that the churches formed at the Reformation aren't new at all, but are simply the Church Christ founded purified from errors that had built up in the Catholic Church over the centuries. This fails the test of history. We know from the writings of the Apostles and the early Fathers of the Church what was taught from the beginning. When we compare the teachings of Protestant denominations with the teachings of the Apostles, we find that they are not the same. **Only the Catholic Church teaches the same doctrines as Christ and the Apostles.**

However, this is not to denigrate non-Catholic communities in any way. There are many fine people among them who may be far holier than some of us! But we must hold fast to the faith that has been handed down to us, all of it, because it comes from God. And we pray that by God's grace, there may once again be *"one flock and one shepherd"* (John 10:16), united under the visible Head of the Church on earth, the Pope, who is the Successor of St Peter, the rock, on whom Christ built His Church (Matthew 16:18).

*Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

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**Gift Aid:** New boxed sets of numbered envelopes for UK tax payers are available at this weekend's Masses. **Please remember to take home the box bearing your name.** Thank you. *Geoff Mercer*

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**The Diocesan Walsingham Pilgrimage is taking place on Saturday 20th June led by Bishop Patrick.** Arrivals are from 11.30am, with Mass at the Catholic Shrine at 3.45pm. For more details see the poster at the back of the church.

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**Thursday 14th May is the Solemnity of the Ascension of Our Lord and is a Holyday of Obligation. Masses will be at 9.15am and 6.30pm**

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**SPUC will be holding a cake and tomato plant sale after Sunday Masses this weekend.**

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**Last Rites does not mean Last Minute!** As soon as a person begins to be in danger of death because of illness, injury or old age, the time for anointing has surely already come. *Fr Paul*

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

**The Repository** is open after all weekday and Sunday Masses and from 10.30am to 12.30pm on Saturdays. Additionally, it will be open on **Monday 11th May** and **Monday 18th May** from 4.00pm to 5.30pm.

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## 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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**Christian Leadership Formation 2026:** a programme of two one-week residential courses at Stonyhurst (Lancashire) for Year 12 and Year 13 students combining theology, philosophy, media skills, and leadership development with daily liturgies and a strong social element. **Year 13 (Human Ecology): 5th-10th July. Year 12 (The Common Good): 10th-15th August. Applications accepted until 17th May.** For more information, see the poster at the back of the church or visit [www.christianleadershipformation.com](http://www.christianleadershipformation.com)

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**World Youth Day 2027:** All Young Adults are warmly invited to join the Diocese of Nottingham and Pope Leo in Seoul, South Korea, for World Youth Day 2027: a week of Encounter and Discipleship with 100,000s of other Young Catholics ready to hear the Lord speak into their lives. Please contact [charles.archer@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:charles.archer@dioceseofnottingham.uk) for more information! As numbers are limited please do this by **31st July 2026**.

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## From the Saints

*"Ubi Petrus, ibi Ecclesia." "Where Peter is, there is the Church."*

(St Ambrose, died 397)

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**This weekend we welcome Fr Charles Obanya Ouma to St Mary's.** He will be making an appeal on behalf of The Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) for help to fund their work, which includes training future missionaries, supporting elderly/retired priests, and funding specific community projects in Africa.

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**The second collection next weekend will be for Catholic Communications.**

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## Last Week's Finance

**Collection:** Not available at time of printing

**Standing orders:** £962 @ 31/03 (of which £738 was G/A)

**Attendance:** 601

*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

