

# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

SEVENTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER

# NEWSLETTER

## Awaiting the Coming of the Holy Spirit



### 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

We are now in that extraordinary interval between Our Lord's glorious **Ascension into Heaven**, which we celebrated last Thursday, and the **coming of the Holy Spirit on Our Lady and the Apostles at Pentecost**, which we celebrate next Sunday. We heard in the reading from Acts on Thursday (1:1-11), how the Apostles watched Our Lord ascend into Heaven from Mount Olivet, after which they returned to the Upper Room in Jerusalem to pray and wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit – just as He had commanded them.

But the Ascension of Our Lord is far more than His just leaving this earth - it is His **triumph and victory!** **Forty days after the Resurrection**, Our Lord ascended **bodily** into Heaven **to take possession of His eternal Kingdom**, and to **open the gates of Heaven to all whom He had redeemed by the His Passion and Death on the Cross**. It is an incredible thought that JESUS Christ, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, now sits on the right hand of the Father not only as God, **but also as Man**, and He bears forever those **five glorious wounds on His hands, feet and side**, as eternal signs of His love for us, and a reminder of what it cost Him to redeem us.

But for us, it means something even more tremendous: **where the Head has gone, the members must follow**. Before Our Lord's Passion, Heaven was closed to the whole of mankind because of sin. But Our Lord having now entered the heavenly Sanctuary, reminds us that **this world is not our final destination**. We are only pilgrims on this earth, and **Heaven is our true homeland**, and so we want to follow where our Head (Christ) has gone before us. Society today likes to tell us to cling to the things this world – its pleasures and passing joys, whereas the Ascension tells us to **look up!** That's why the saints always meditated on Heaven. They understood that every Mass devoutly heard, every good Confession, every Rosary, every act of kindness and sacrifice, every temptation resisted, was bringing

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*St Rita of Cascia*

**Please pray for those who are sick**

**for those who have recently died:**

John Eastgate

*May he rest in peace*

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

Vito Caruso

Anna Pelosi

Anna Krauze

Ellen Ramsbottom

Harry Oakley

Katie Mercer

Barbara Finch

**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 16th Vigil Mass**  
6.00pm 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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**Mon 18th St John I, Pope & Martyr**  
9.15am Intention for the living

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**Tues 19th St Dunstan, Bishop**  
9.15am Intention for the living

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**Weds 20th St Bernardine of Siena, Confessor**  
6.30pm Ashok Solanki (RIP) (Latin)

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**Thurs 21st Easter Feria**  
9.15am Ines & Felixberto Cogal (RIP)

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**Fri 22nd St Rita of Cascia, Religious**  
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*  
7.00pm Confirmation Mass for the RCIA group

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**Sat 23rd Easter 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:** Gordon Henry Mee (RIP, Anniversary)

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**Sun 24th Pentecost Sunday (Solemnity)**  
9.00am Phyllis & Aislabie Harrison (RIP)  
11.15am St Mary's Choir & students taking exams  
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 18th** First Holy Communion Class - 4.15pm in the parish hall  
**Tues 19th** Bible Study - 7.00pm in the parish library

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them closer to their longed for homeland. That's what we need to recover today – a **supernatural** vision of where we are heading, because ultimately, that is the only thing that really matters.

Following the Ascension, the Apostles didn't run off in confusion or despair. **Together with Our Lady**, they gathered together in the Upper Room to pray. This is the origin of the **Pentecost Novena** – the very first novena in the Church, where the Apostles and Our Lady prayed for nine days for the coming of the Holy Spirit. So what is the lesson for us here? The lesson is that when the Church passes through darkness, confusion and persecution – all of which are happening on a grand scale today – **Catholics must return to the spirituality of the Upper Room**. We must pray with Our Lady for a **new outpouring of the Holy Spirit** in the Church and in the world. We don't need any more programmes or political movements. We need saints on fire with God's love. This is why the Pentecost Novena is so important. **Pray for His seven gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord**. Let's pray for light in confusion, courage in our trials, purity in temptation, and perseverance in the Faith. Please pray also for all our **RCIA group members** who will receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** from Bishop Patrick next Friday evening.

And it's always important to remember Our Lady's presence in the Upper Room with the Apostles. She is the **Spouse of the Holy Spirit and Mother of the Church**. They prayed with her and so should we. May these holy days prepare our hearts for a renewed Pentecost in our own souls.

*Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

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**Pentecost Novena:** You will find copies of a suggested Pentecost Novena - there are many - for you to pray, ideally, between Friday after the Ascension and the Vigil of Pentecost, which is next Saturday. If you missed the start on Friday, just begin as soon as you can.

*Fr Paul*

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**Enabling Our Mission:** Bishop Patrick has written to convey his 'deep and heartfelt thanks' to all those parishioners at St Mary's who have contributed to this campaign. St Mary's was one of seven parishes that took part in Group 3, which had a collective target of £805,000. To date, this cohort has raised £565,344 from nearly 225 families, with an average pledge of over £2,500. And to date, over £5 million has been pledged from nearly 1800 households across the Diocese.

*Fr Paul*

**Confirmations:** Due to the large number of Confirmations in this year's RCIA group, the Bishop will be coming himself to administer the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation next **Friday 22nd May at 7.00pm**. Please note the change of start time.

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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 18th May** from 4.00pm to 5.30pm.

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### **Food Bank/Your Store:**

Thank you for your contributions to the JSH food bank. Receipts for cash donations are in the parish office. The next collection will be on **Saturday 23rd May** in the car park 10.30-11.00am. Please see notice on church doors for suggested items. Thank you.

*Jane and Bernard Monaghan*

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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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**The Loughborough Catenian Association** is a Roman Catholic lay society of men and their families that exists to foster friendship, support and community among its members and their families. The Loughborough Circle meets monthly for a lunch and sponsors visits, social occasions, charitable causes and the development of faith. There is also a particular interest in promoting catholicity among younger members of the Catholic community. If you might be interested in finding out more, you would be very welcome to do so and should contact Kieron Shaw (k.d.shaw@btinternet.com) or Chris Drane (crdrane@yahoo.com).

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**Gift Aid:** Would parishioners who were unable to collect their new boxed envelope sets last week please collect them from the office as soon as possible as they will be needed from **Saturday 6th June**. For security reasons we cannot leave them unattended in the church. We thank those of you who have taken this opportunity to increase their standing orders. It is greatly appreciated.

*Geoff Mercer*

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## From the Saints

*“The Ascension is not only about Our Lord’s Divinity ascending into Heaven, but also about our humanity being admitted to seat itself at the Right Hand of the Father in Heaven.”*

St Leo the Great (died 461)



Next Sunday there will be **Confirmations at the 11.15am Mass** for two members of the RCIA group unable to be present when the Bishop comes on Friday.

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## The SPUC cake sale last weekend raised £92.80.

Thank you to all who supported this event in any way.

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

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## Last Week’s Finance

**1st Collection:** £522 (of which £123 G/A)

**Missionaries of Africa:** £1070

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

**Attendance:** 718

*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

