

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

FIFTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

NEWSLETTER

Community's love for Mary draws young woman to religious life



As we thought and prayed last week for young men being called to the priesthood, and the encouragement they need, let us, in this month of May, **Mary's Month**, pray and encourage young women in their call to serve Jesus and His Church in the Religious life too.

I recently read that on a recent feast of Our Lady a young woman became a novice with a traditional religious order after she saw their devotion to Mary and counter-cultural witness to Jesus. Taking the name Sister Marie-Celine, Erin Kelly joined the **Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary**, an order in Massachusetts in the USA that focuses on Marian devotion according to Saint Louis de Montfort. (1673-1716)

"The sisters and brothers were the ones, by their teaching and example, with the help of God's grace, who inspired me to try the religious life," Sr Marie-Celine said. **"Seeing religious in full habits, living a life so contrary to today's world – a life of dedication to God and His work, of selfless love – is such a beautiful and refreshing thing unknown to most. I wanted to be a part of that."**

The Slaves of the Immaculate Heart are a community of religious brothers and sisters for whom the writings of St. Louis de Montfort, especially **"True Devotion to Mary,"** make up the essence of life. "We renew the consecration daily, and the 33 days of readings for Total Consecration yearly," she explained. "Everything about ourselves and our work is given to Jesus through Mary – **in all we do, our life is a prayer."**

Sr Marie-Celine reflected on God's call in her life, saying that while she had considered the possibility of dedicating my life to God throughout secondary school and college, she quickly became

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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The English Martyrs

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 2nd **Vigil Mass**
6.00pm Jan & Lidia Orzeszek (RIP)

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

Mon 4th **The English Martyrs (Feast)**
10.30am For the Conversion of England

Tues 5th **NO MASS**

Weds 6th **NO MASS**

Thurs 7th **NO MASS**

Fri 8th **NO MASS**

Sat 9th **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:** Rita & Rocco Acierno (RIP)

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

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

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

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died:

Lee Ellis
Melicina James Perera
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Giuseppina Giorgio
Ernest Newton
Kath Ward
Rita Acierno

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.

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involved in the world after graduating and slowly started to **“drown out the idea of religious life.”** Could that be a call those around us in St Mary’s are also hearing?

She greatly enjoyed work and travel, the power of independence, and the fun she was having. “Yet in the midst of my worldly experience, a solitary thought constantly pricked my mind which I could not evade – ‘what am I doing with my life?’ Aside from learning life lessons, I was wasting time. I wasn’t satisfied with the superficial happiness and unrest the world gave me, and the idea of a vocation started to resurface.”

After searching she found a community living a life of total consecration to Jesus through Mary. “They were doing things for God alone. That is what I lacked in the world, a supernatural motive, a striving for eternal life with God.” Let’s encourage those hearing Christ’s call, the Christ who said, “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”

Fr David Jones, OLV

May is Our Lady’s month, so this 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.

Mass cancellations: Some weekday Masses have had to be cancelled this week, as Fr Paul will be in Lourdes and Fr David is having his second cataract operation. The intentions of the cancelled Masses have been rescheduled. Apologies for the inconvenience.

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

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.

Westminster assisted suicide Bill has fallen

The assisted suicide Bill has failed to pass all stages in the House of Lords. This means that Kim Leadbeater’s assisted suicide Bill has fallen and will not become law!

This is a major milestone, but the battle is not over. Assisted suicide campaigners have said they are going to try to bring the Bill back in the next parliamentary session and use the Parliament Acts to bypass the Lords.

To find out more about this significant milestone and what comes next, visit: <https://righttolife.org.uk/LeadbeaterBillFalls>

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.

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.

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 for more information! As numbers are limited please do this by **31st July 2026**.

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.



From the Saints

"It is through the most Blessed Virgin Mary that Jesus Christ came into the world, and it is also through her that he will reign in the world."

St Louis de Montfort (1673-1716)

SPUC will be holding a cake and tomato plant sale on 10th May after Sunday Masses

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*

Last Week's Finance

1st Collection: £756 (of which £170 was G/A)

Rosminian Clergy

Formation Fund: £329

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

Attendance: 624

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

