

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

11th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

NEWSLETTER

Statues and relics of the saints



We Catholics are often accused by other Christians of **worshipping statues of Mary and the saints**. We do not! We worship God alone – the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but we do ask Mary, the angels and the saints in Heaven to **pray to God on our behalf**. We might often do this in front of an image or a statue of the person as a visual aid to help us in our prayer. The non-Catholic objection to our using statues and sacred images is based on a **misrepresentation** of Exodus 20:4-5 in which God says: *“You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them.”*

The thing to notice here is that **God is forbidding the making of an image or statue for the purpose of idolatry**. Idolatry is worshipping anything other than the one true God which the Israelites were in the habit of doing. One thinks immediately of the **golden calf incident** (Exodus 32). But Exodus 20 is not prohibiting the making of statues or images. After all, there are many legitimate reasons for having them. Even in our own homes, we usually have pictures of our loved ones to remind us of them. Similarly in towns and cities throughout the world, you will find statues of war heroes and past Prime Ministers, such as Churchill in Parliament Square, Nelson in Trafalgar Square, and more recently, a statue of the late Queen Elizabeth II is being developed for St James’s Park. Nobody would suggest that the public worship these statues, because common sense dictates otherwise!

But then an objector might continue that God forbids it only for religious purposes. Really? **There are a number of places in Scripture where God actually commands the making of religious images**. In Exodus 25, God commanded the Israelites to make statues of cherubs and put them on the Ark of the Covenant. During the plague of fiery serpents, God told Moses to make a serpent of brass and put it on a pole, so that anyone who was bitten

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



St Richard of Chichester

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died:

Giovanni Lallo
Mathai Mathai Choonattu
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Doreen Dilkes
Sofie Battista
Vittorio Giorgio
John Corbert
Regina Wojciechowska
Stuart Lynch
Maria Talora
Weronika Kandula

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 13th Vigil Mass
6.00pm George Hollingsworth (RIP, Anniversary)

Sun 14th Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Intention for the living
4.00pm *Italian Mass*

Mon 15th Feria
9.15am Deceased members of the Faulks & Hallam families

Tues 16th St Richard of Chichester, Bishop
9.15am Intention for the living

Weds 17th Feria
6.30pm Vittorio Giorgio (RIP) (Ordinariate)

Thurs 18th Feria
9.15am Intention for the living

Fri 19th St Romauld, Abbot
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Thomas King (RIP, Anniversary)

Sat 20th St Alban, Martyr
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:** Ann O'Rourke (RIP, Anniversary)

Sun 21st Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am In Thanksgiving
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*

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Tues 16th Bible Study - 7.00pm in the parish library
Weds 17th Talk on Catholics in the Reign of Elizabeth I - 7.30pm in the parish hall

Continued from front page

by one of the venomous snakes, when they looked upon the brass serpent would live (Numbers 21:8-9).

And what about relics? **Is it legitimate to honour the bodies and relics of saints?** Yes it is, and you will find it even in the Old Testament. The Jews always respected the bodies of the dead, and Moses took the **bones of Joseph** with him from Egypt to bury them in the Promised Land (Exodus 13:19). A dead man whose body was thrown into the grave of the prophet Elisha, when he touched **Elisha's bones**, came back to life instantly (2 Kings 13:21). And in the New Testament, God worked miracles through **objects used by St Paul**. His handkerchiefs and aprons were taken to the sick and they were cured of their diseases, and evil spirits came out from them (Acts 19:11-12). And so today, we revere and respect the bodies of the saints.

Also, from the earliest days of the Church, **Mass has been offered over the tombs of martyrs** in the catacombs. This developed into the custom of placing **relics of the saints within altars**. It reminds us that the saints are united with Christ's sacrifice and continue to intercede for the Church Militant here on earth. In the High Altar of St Mary's, we have the relics of St Peter and St Paul, St Dominic Savio and St Therese of Lisieux.

We pray to Our Lady and the saints because they are already in Heaven and they can intercede with God on our behalf because of their closeness to Him. **We venerate the bodies and relics of the saints** because they have been members of the Body of Christ and temples of the Holy Spirit, and as such will be raised up in glory on the Last Day, and so naturally that veneration extends to objects closely connected with them. **Relics are not magical**, but God uses them as a **means to perform miracles**, because He wants to direct our attention to them, **both as models and as intercessors**.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

The Corpus Christi Procession last Sunday was a great success. The rain held off and attendance was good. Thank you to all who were able to be present. Thank you also to our servers, organist, choristers, canopy bearers, and to the ladies of the UCM for organising refreshments in the hall after. And thanks to Michael Murphy for organising the car park and to Mrs Hunt for writing out the certificates so beautifully. It was a truly memorable occasion for our First Holy Communion children and their families. *Fr Paul*

The picture on the front page shows the relics of St John Southworth in Westminster Cathedral.

Join the team at The Briars, Crich for 2026/2027: A great opportunity is open now for young adults aged 18-25 to live in community at The Briars Retreat Centre as part of our new team, leading retreats for the thousands of young people who come through the centre each year. For more information, contact Erin Doughty, Director of NDCYS at director@ndcys.com

Safeguarding and wellbeing: Toilet and washing conveniences are situated in the church hall and are available for use during Mass times if needed. Kindly note that children must be accompanied by an adult at all times when using these facilities. *Jane Monaghan PSR*

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*

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.

This weekend we welcome Fran Hazel who will be making an appeal on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), a Catholic charity dedicated to supporting Christians around the world, especially those who suffer persecution for their faith. Through the generosity of benefactors and the prayers of the faithful, ACN works alongside local church communities to support priests, sisters, and lay people. This includes providing pastoral care, helping to rebuild churches, supporting seminarians, offering trauma counselling, and bringing hope to those in great need through practical and spiritual aid. Above all, ACN seeks to strengthen the faith and to remind our brothers and sisters that they are not forgotten.



From the Saints

“Through these images which we kiss and before which we kneel and uncover our heads, we are adoring Christ and venerating the saints whose likeness these images bear.”

Council of Trent (16th century)

Talk: Everyone is warmly invited to an illustrated talk entitled “Priests, Plots, Pursuivants and Hiding Places: Catholics in the Reign of Elizabeth I”.

Wednesday 17th June at 7:30 in the hall. Organised by the UCM

Handyman required by elderly lady to do small jobs inside and outside of property. Please contact Fr Paul if you can help.

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £780 (of which £143 was G/A)

Standing orders: £899 @ 31/05 (of which £721 was G/A)

Attendance: 607

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

