

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

PENTECOST

NEWSLETTER



When the Church Began to Breathe

Today's great Feast of **Pentecost** is also known as the **birthday of the Church**. This is not because the Church came into existence on that day – the Apostles had already been chosen and Our Lord had already founded her on Peter the rock and had given Peter “*the keys of the kingdom of Heaven*” (Matthew 16:19). The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass had been instituted at the Last Supper (Matthew 26:26-29), and the hierarchical structure of the Church was in place, **but it still lacked a soul**. The Church at this stage was a lifeless body, rather like Adam before God breathed life into him (Genesis 2:7). And that is what the Church was waiting for in the Upper Room. **For nine days, Our Lady and the Apostles prayed in silence for the coming of the Holy Spirit**, (Acts 1:12-14), Who would become the life-giving principle – the very breath and soul of the Church, vivifying her, unifying her, and sending her out to sanctify the world.

Then “*suddenly there came from Heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit*” (Acts 2:2-4). The Church was finally ablaze and full of life. The Apostles were transformed. These frightened men became **instantaneously courageous**, and the Holy Spirit **opened their minds** to understand the fullness of the truth that Christ had come to reveal. They were **infused with knowledge of divine things**, and then went out to the ends of the earth and **converted empires and nations**. This is why the Church has always taught the Holy Spirit is the life of the Church.

On Friday evening, **Bishop Patrick confirmed 16 members of our RCIA group**, and this Sunday morning at the 11.15am Mass, the Bishop has given me the faculty to confirm those who were unable to be present on Friday. Please keep them in your prayers. **Confirmation is, in a sense, the Pentecost of each Catholic**. At Baptism, the soul receives supernatural life, but in Confirmation, the Holy Spirit **strengthens the soul for spiritual battle**. The Bishop

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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



St Philip Neri

Please pray for those who are sick:

for those who have recently died:

Gerard Devlin,
Angelitas Ganivet
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Eamon Johnston,
Margaret Murray,
Scott Walker,
Teresa Stapleton

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 23rd Vigil Mass
6.00pm Gordon Henry Mee (RIP, Anniversary)

Sun 24th Pentecost Sunday (Solemnity)
9.00am Phyllis & Aislabie Harrison (RIP)
11.15am St Mary's Choir & Students taking exams
4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 25th Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
10.30am In Thanksgiving for Blessings received

Tues 26th St Philip Neri, Priest
9.15am Michael Abbott (RIP)
6.30pm Angelitas Ganivet (RIP) (Latin - Octave of Pentecost)

Weds 27th St Augustine of Canterbury (Feast)
6.30pm Vera Hurry (RIP) (Ordinariate)

Thurs 28th Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest (Feast)
9.15am For the Parish

Fri 29th Feria
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Angelo Calabrese (RIP)

Sat 30th Saturday Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
-12.30pm *with Confessions 10.30-11.30am & Benediction 12.20pm*
2.00pm *Wedding*
4.00pm *Baptism*
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** Keith Newton (RIP, Anniversary)

Sun 31st Trinity Sunday (Solemnity)
9.00am Stephen Bowmer and Margot & Stan Trojan (RIP)
11.15am For the Parish
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

Weds 27th UCM - 2.00-4.00pm in the parish hall

Please note that Mass this Monday will be at 10.30am

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marks the forehead of the person being confirmed with the **sacred oil of Chrism**, consecrating them as a **soldier of JESUS Christ**. This is not so well understood today. Very often, Confirmation has been reduced to a rite of passage – and in many instances, a rite of quiet exit from the life of the Church. But Confirmation should produce **saints and defenders of the Faith**. The Apostles left the Upper Room prepared to **suffer and die for the truth**, and so must we.

Our times desperately need **courageous Christians**, and yet we have become so timid. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are just as powerful today as they were at that first Pentecost. Can you remember what they are? **Wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord**. These are no mere theological terms: they are **supernatural weapons**. The tragedy of our times is that God continues to give grace, but souls have ceased to cooperate with it, and the gifts given lie dormant in the soul.

If the Church and the world are to emerge from the confusion of our times, it will happen for the same reason it happened two thousand years ago – **souls being filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit**. So on this great Feast, let us pray with urgency and confidence:

“Come Holy Spirit and breathe life into our weary souls. Purify Your Church. Restore zeal to Your priests, fidelity to families, innocence to children and courage to Your bishops. Make saints of us all! Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.”

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

First Holy Communions: Next weekend, **30th/31st May**, First Holy Communions will be celebrated at all Masses. The following Sunday **7th June** is the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, and in addition to the usual Masses, there will be a **Corpus Christi Procession** at 4pm concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. All parishioners are invited to attend. Certificates for the First Holy Communion children will be presented after Benediction. *Fr Paul*

SPUC: The next meeting will be on **Monday 1st June** at 7pm in the hall. All welcome. If you would like to join us but are not able to make it this time please email spucloughborough@gmail.com. This will be the last meeting before September.

Safeguarding: Bishop Patrick has written to all parishes in the Catholic Diocese of Nottingham with reference to Safeguarding in the Catholic church. Copies of this letter are available at the back of church for you to take and are also on display on the Safeguarding Notice Board. Thank you

Jane Monaghan PSR

79th Annual UCM Walsingham Pilgrimage

– 7th July 2026: Many thanks to everyone who has already paid in full. For those who have not yet paid the remaining balance of £25 per person, please do this by **31st May** at the latest. We have managed to secure a few extra passes, so if you would still like to come but have not put your name down, we may still be able to accommodate you. Spaces are limited, so please don't delay. The sign-up sheet is at the repository and the full cost of £35 must be paid by 31st May.

For more information, please speak to Samantha Edwards after Mass or contact her on: 07936 928 370

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.

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).

Gift Aid: Would parishioners who were unable to collect their 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

From the Saints

"The Holy Spirit does not force Himself upon a soul; He enters where He is welcomed."

St Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)



Please note that the **Latin Mass will be at 6.30pm on Tuesday this week and the 6.30pm Mass on Wednesday will be in the Ordinariate rite.**

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

Last Week's Finance

1st Collection: £802 (of which £153 G/A)

Catholic Communications: £229

Standing orders: £929 @ 30/04 (of which £741 was G/A)

Attendance: 669

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

