

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

CORPUS CHRISTI

NEWSLETTER

Our Greatest Treasure



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

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01509 212621

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Headteacher: Miss P Jordan

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Loughborough LE11 4SQ

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Headteacher: Mr C Maher

Today is the Solemnity of **Corpus Christi**, the great Feast of the **Body and Blood of Our Lord** truly present in the Holy Eucharist. In our times, perhaps no doctrine has suffered from more confusion and neglect than the Church's teaching on the Holy Eucharist, and yet it remains unchanged. Indeed **it cannot change!**

The Catholic Church has always believed and taught that JESUS Christ is **truly and substantially present in the Blessed Sacrament**. It is not a symbol or a reminder or representation of Our Lord. It really is Him. When the priest pronounces the words of **Consecration** at Mass, *"This is My Body"* and *"This is the chalice of My Blood"*, the bread and wine cease to be bread and wine. Their appearances remain, but their substance is changed into the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of JESUS Christ. The Church calls it **"transubstantiation."** This belief comes directly from Our Lord Himself Who said in chapter 6 of St John's Gospel, *"The bread that I will give for the life of the world is My Flesh ... Unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink His Blood, you have no life in you ... My Flesh is true food and My Blood is true drink ... Whoever feeds on this bread will live for ever."* The crowds understood these words literally and many walked away. If they had misunderstood, Our Lord would have corrected them, but instead He repeated the teaching even more emphatically.

Then at the **Last Supper**, He took bread in His hands and said, *"This is My Body."* He didn't say "This represents My Body" or "This is a symbol of My Body." He said **"THIS IS."** The **Apostles** believed Him and the **early Christians and Fathers of the Church** believed Him. **St Ignatius of Antioch**, writing around the year 107, condemned those who denied the Real Presence by describing the Holy Eucharist as, **"The Flesh of our Saviour JESUS Christ."** **St Cyril of Jerusalem** in the fourth century instructed the newly baptised: **"Since He Himself has declared and said of the Bread, 'This is My Body', who shall dare to doubt any longer?"**

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Month of the Sacred Heart

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died:

Mathai Mathai Choonattu

Bill York

Gerard Devlin

May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Rae Hagan

Teresa Guida

Mary Buttarazzi

Maria Santoro

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 6th **Vigil Mass**
6.00pm Antonietta Acierno (RIP)

Sun 7th **Corpus Christi (Solemnity)**
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Michael Abbott (RIP)
4.00pm **Corpus Christi Procession**

Mon 8th **Feria**
9.15am Holy Souls

Tues 9th **St Ephrem, Deacon & Doctor**
9.15am Intention for the living

Weds 10th **St Margaret of Scotland, Widow**
6.30pm Reginald Arthur Hutchings (RIP) (Latin)

Thurs 11th **St Barnabas, Apostle**
9.15am Michele Giorgio (RIP)
2.30pm *Funeral Service: Gerard Devlin RIP*

Fri 12th **The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (Solemnity)**
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm For the Sanctification of Priests
Followed by Benediction with Act of Reparation to the Sacred Heart

Sat 13th **The Immaculate Heart of the BVM**
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:** 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*

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 9th Bible Study - 7.00pm in the parish library

Weds 10th UCM - 2.00pm in the parish hall

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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Do we realise what this means? It means that the same JESUS Who was born in Bethlehem, Who walked on water, Who fed the five thousand, Who raised Lazarus from the dead, Who died on Calvary and rose from the tomb on Easter Sunday, is present in every Catholic tabernacle throughout the world. This truth should transform the way we come into church and the way we participate at Mass. This is why throughout history, the **Catholic Church has spared no effort in offering to God the very best possible.** Beautiful churches, noble vestments, Gregorian chant, incense rising, well executed ceremonial, genuflecting, kneeling and silence, all make a profession of faith without saying a single word. It says: **God is here.** We don't do it out of nostalgia or extravagance, but out of **love.** When the woman in the Gospel anointed Our Lord with costly ointment (Mark 14:3-9), some objected at the expense, and yet Our Lord praised her generosity. The opposite is true of casualness. People will eventually begin to think our worship is nothing special.

This afternoon (Sunday) we have our **Corpus Christi Procession.** This is a beautiful witness to our faith. As Our Lord passes under the canopy, remember it is not just a religious custom, but an **act of adoration offered to the King of kings.** I invite you all to join us and the First Holy Communion children this afternoon at 4pm in honouring our Eucharistic Lord, and give **public testimony to our faith in His Real Presence.**

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

There will be a Corpus Christi Procession this afternoon (Sunday) at 4.00 pm. Please make every effort to attend. It would be a big let-down if only 50 people were to turn up, so please do come along if you can and help make this year's procession a joyful and visible witness to our faith. Afterwards, refreshments will be served in the school hall, followed by the presentation of certificates to the 32 children who made their First Holy Communion last weekend.

Fr Paul

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. Accommodation, meals and a weekly stipend will be covered. For more information, see the poster at the back of the church or contact Erin Doughty, Director of NDCYS at director@ndcys.com

Friday 12th June is the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart. The 6.30pm Mass will be followed by Benediction, during which we will make the traditional Act of Reparation to the Sacred Heart of JESUS, as prescribed for this Feast.

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*

Food Bank/Your Store:

The next food bank collections will be on **Saturday 13th June** and **Saturday 11th July** both from 10.30 to 11.00am in the car park. Please see list on church doors for donation requests. Thank you for your continued support. *Bernard and Jane*

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.

Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage 2026, 12th-19th July: Are you 16 or over? Join the Nottingham Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes this summer. Travelling overland by coach with four nights in Lourdes and a stop in Paris on the way home, you'll serve assisted pilgrims, share in the life of the Sanctuary, and follow a programme of prayer, talks and time together. £1,050 all-in; bursaries available in confidence for any young person who needs one. To find out more or to register interest, email director@ndcys.com

Gift Aid: If you are a UK tax-payer and are making regular church donations by standing order, please complete a Gift Aid declaration form so that we will receive a further 25% in addition to this. The Gift Aid declaration forms are available from the repository at the back of the church. Please return your completed form to the office or email it to office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk. *Geoff Mercer*



From the Saints

"When you look at the crucifix, you understand how much JESUS loved you then. When you look at the Sacred Host, you understand how much He loves you now."

St Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997)

Photograph by Evert Odekerken

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: £786 (of which £128 was G/A)

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

Attendance: 803

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

