

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

16th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME



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

NEWSLETTER

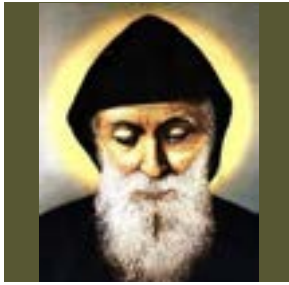
Have we forgotten eternity?

Last week I celebrated a Funeral Mass in the Traditional Roman Rite, often called the old Latin Mass. And the thing that struck me about it was that every prayer, every gesture, every chant was directed to one thing – **the eternal destiny of the soul of the departed.** The Church was doing what she has always done – imploring God's mercy for the soul, offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for them, and praying that they might be brought safely to Heaven. And it made me ask the question: haven't we lost this sense of eternity?

In today's Gospel (Matthew 13:24-30), Our Lord tells the **"Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds."** The servants are very eager to pull up the weeds as soon as possible, but the master said, ***"Let both grow together till the harvest."*** Later on, Our Lord explained that the harvest is the end of the age, when every person will stand before God and have to give an account of their life. And this is a truth that our modern world likes to ignore; that one day you and I will die, and we will have to stand before the judgement seat of Our Lord JESUS Christ, and give an account of **every thought, word, deed and omission.**

For centuries, Catholics knew these realities as the **Four Last Things:** Death, Judgment, Hell and Heaven. They remind us that life is short, eternity is forever, and that every choice we make has eternal consequences. But one rarely hears them preached about today, and this has become particularly evident at funerals. **Modern funerals**, even in the Catholic Church, have become *"a celebration of the life of ..."* One often sees this printed on the cover of the Order of Service for a Requiem Mass. Of course, we want to thank God for the blessings of the deceased's life and for everything they meant to us, and to comfort the mourners. **But if that becomes the focus, the whole purpose of the Requiem Mass becomes obscured**, because the primary purpose is not to celebrate the deceased. It is to worship God and to pray for the soul of the one who has died, because **nothing defiled can enter Heaven**

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St Charbel Makhluf

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Doralice da Silva Araujo
May he rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Domenica Coviello
Margaret Armstead
Veronica McWilliam
Roy Rowbottom

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 18th <i>6.00pm</i>	Vigil Mass For the Parish
Sun 19th <i>9.00am</i> <i>11.15am</i> <i>4.00pm</i>	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Victims of the earthquake in Venezuela Giovanni Lallo (RIP) <i>Italian Mass</i>
Mon 20th <i>9.15am</i>	St Apollinarius, Bishop & Martyr Vittorio Giorgio (RIP)
Tues 21st <i>9.15am</i>	St Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest & Doctor Constance Mavis Stanford (RIP)
Weds 22nd <i>6.30pm</i>	St Mary Magdalene, Penitent Douglas Richard Taylor (RIP, Anniversary) (Latin)
Thurs 23rd <i>9.15am</i>	St Bridget of Sweden, Religious (Feast) Aubrey Marthaler (RIP)
Fri 24th <i>6.00-6.25pm</i> <i>6.30pm</i>	St Charbel Makhluf, Priest <i>Confessions</i> For Venezuela one month after the earthquake
Sat 25th <i>10.30am</i> <i>-12.30pm</i> <i>6.00pm</i>	St James, Apostle (Feast) <i>Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am & Benediction 12.20pm</i> Vigil Mass: Marina de Silva (RIP)
Sun 26th <i>9.00am</i> <i>11.15am</i> <i>2.30pm</i> <i>4.00pm</i>	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time For the Parish Natalie Gillham (RIP, Anniversary) <i>Baptism</i> <i>Italian Mass</i>
Rosary	<i>Mon, Tues, Thurs after 9.15am Mass; Wed, Fri at 6.00pm; First Saturday of each month after 10.00am Mass</i>

We Believe: Festival of Catholic Life, 24 - 27 July: Join thousands of Catholics from around the UK for the annual We Believe festival. Discover the traditions, charisms, ministries and movements of the Catholic Church in the UK in the beautiful and historic setting of St Mary's College, Oscott. <https://webeliefefestival.com>

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(Apocalypse 21:27). But unfortunately today, we have drifted into thinking that everyone automatically goes straight to Heaven.

This is why the Church's teaching on **Purgatory** is so important. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, "*All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation, but after death they undergo the purification*" (CCC#1030). If we die in a state of grace or friendship with God, the place of purification is Purgatory. And this is not bad news. It's actually **fantastic news**, because it demonstrates God's great mercy and His desire that we all reach Heaven. If Purgatory is real, and it is an **infallible teaching** of the Church that it is, our Masses for the dead matter, our Rosaries for them matter and our sacrifices matter. It would be the most tragic thing if we were to speak endlessly about someone's life, but then neglect the one thing that matters most – **praying for their soul**. This is one of the reasons the traditional Requiem Mass is so powerful. It keeps our eyes firmly fixed on eternity. Over and over again the words, "*Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine*" are repeated. "*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.*" Whether a funeral Mass is celebrated in the modern rite or the traditional rite, this must always remain our focus. **The greatest act of love we can show to our departed family and friends is not merely our remembrance, but our prayers.**

But today's Gospel is not only about those who have died. It's also about us, the living. **Today we are the wheat growing among the weeds. God is still giving us time.** His mercy is always calling us to repentance. But the harvest will come. Christ will return, either at our death or at the Second Coming, but will He find us ready? Let us not waste the time God has given us. And let us never forget the faithful departed. Pray for them and have Masses offered for them. They can no longer merit for themselves, but we can help them by our prayers. One day, others may stand by our grave. May they not merely speak nicely about us: **may they pray for us!** *Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

Diocesan Enabling our Mission Campaign: I am delighted to tell you we have now secured £156,055 in pledges, surpassing our target of £155,000. Thank you very much to all who were able to contribute. The parish is guaranteed to receive up to 40% of the initial target. We will receive 50% of everything raised over it, so if anybody else out there still wishes to contribute, you may still do so. Just ask me for a pledge form. Thank you all again. *Fr Paul*

Calling Parish Musicians or those who would like to be: The Diocese of Nottingham is partnering with One Hope Project to offer both spiritual and musical formation for parish musicians (or those who would like to be). The course will begin in September but there is an information meeting on **Monday 20th July at 7.00pm on Zoom** to explore what the programme is and how it can help you. To access the link email team@onehopeproject.co.uk or visit: <https://bit.ly/OHPNotts26>

Plainchant Workshop, Glossop, Saturday 12th September, 2.00pm to 3.45pm: Free event, donations welcome. Plainchant, or plainsong, is an ancient and beautiful form of singing. In this workshop, we will explore how it differs from modern singing styles and discover the basic rubrics for singing chant. We will also look at some of the ways in which we use plainchant in the churches in Glossop. Please bring a pen or pencil, and water to drink: there will be plenty of opportunities to sing! Find details and book a place at tinyurl.com/plainchant-glossop

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.

RCIA: The new RCIA programme will begin in September for adults (over 18) who are interested in becoming Catholic. It is also suitable for adult Catholics who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, as well as for those who would simply like to know more about the Catholic faith. Classes will take place in the parish library at 7pm on alternate Thursdays, beginning on **Thursday 24th September**. For further information or to request an application form, please contact the parish office, or speak to one of the priests.

Fr Paul

Confirmation 2027: Those wishing to be confirmed next year should be in at least Year 7 by September 2026. This is advance notice that anyone intending to apply for the course should be attending weekly Mass now. Those who have not already been attending weekly Mass by the time the application forms become available will be asked to postpone their application until such a time as they are.

Fr Paul



From the Saints

"The business of our salvation is the most important business in the world. If we lose our soul, we lose all."

St Alphonsus Liguori (1686-1787)

Congratulations to the 14 parishioners who were enrolled in the Brown Scapular last Thursday, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Aid to the Church in Need has written to thank our parish for the very generous collection of £1,481. Your generosity will help provide vital support to persecuted and suffering Christians throughout the world. Thank you to everyone and for your continued prayers.

Last Week's Finance

1st Collection: £682.15
(of which £135 was G/A)

Stella Maris: £248.46 (of which £81.05 was G/A)

Standing orders: £942 @ 30/06 (of which £736 was G/A)

Attendance: 455

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

