

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

17th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

Don't delay your baby's baptism



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Served by the Rosminians

Parish Priest

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On attachment

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For generations, Catholic parents made sure their babies were baptised as soon as possible after birth. This was because they understood that the **Sacrament of Baptism** wasn't a mere rite of passage or an occasion for a family celebration. **Baptism was the greatest gift they could give their child.** Our Lord Himself, when He spoke to Nicodemus taught the necessity of Baptism: *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Holy Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God"* (John 3:5). And the final command He gave to His Apostles before ascending into Heaven was, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"* (Matthew 28:19). These are no mere suggestions. They are the words of the Son of God Himself.

As we know from our catechism, we are all conceived in a state of **original sin**, and although a baby has no personal sins, he or she desperately needs the life of grace that Baptism gives. Through Baptism, **the gates of Heaven are opened, original sin is washed away, sanctifying grace is poured into the soul, the Holy Trinity comes to dwell within, and the child becomes an adopted son or daughter of God and a member of Christ's Mystical Body, the Catholic Church.** Baptism also marks a change in whose kingdom we belong to. Due to original sin, the human race is under the dominion of sin and the devil. **Through Baptism, Christ rescues us, and transfers us to membership of His Kingdom.**

As St Paul writes: *"He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son"* (Colossians 1:13).

For these reasons, the **Code of Canon Law** states: **"Parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptised in the first few weeks. As soon as possible after the birth or even before it, they are to go to the pastor to request the sacrament for their child"** (Canon 867.1). So this isn't just an ancient tradition. It remains the

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St Ignatius of Loyola

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Issa Salem
Len Sepede
Andy Tchorzewski
John Wilbram

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 25th <i>6.00pm</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> No Italian Mass
Mon 27th <i>9.15am</i>	Feria Intention for the living
Tues 28th <i>9.15am</i>	Feria In Thanksgiving
Weds 29th <i>6.30pm</i>	St Martha, Virgin Estrella Marti (RIP, Anniversary) (Latin)
Thurs 30th <i>9.15am</i>	St Peter Chrysologus, Bishop & Doctor Eileen Hansberry (RIP)
Fri 31st <i>6.00-6.25pm</i> <i>6.30pm</i>	St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest <i>Confessions</i> Doralice Da Silva Araujo (RIP)
Sat 1st <i>10.00am</i> <i>10.30am</i> <i>-12.30pm</i> <i>6.00pm</i>	St Alphonsus Mary de'Liguori, Bishop & Doctor Holy Souls <i>Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am & Benediction 12.20pm</i> Vigil Mass: Heather Saunders (RIP, Anniversary)
Sun 2nd <i>9.00am</i> <i>11.15am</i> <i>4.00pm</i>	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Fr John Murphy (50th anniversary of ordination) For the Parish No Italian Mass
Rosary	<i>Mon, Tues, Thurs after 9.15am Mass; Wed, Fri at 6.00pm; First Saturday of each month after 10.00am Mass</i>
THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S	
Sat 1st	Children's Catechism Class - 9am starting in the parish hall

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law of the Church to this day. We have a beautiful example of this in the life of **Pope Benedict XVI**, who was born on Holy Saturday, 16th April 1927, and was baptised that same day. There was no delay for family convenience or to allow people time to travel, because the parents wanted their son to receive God's grace **immediately**.

It is sometimes said, **"Why not let children grow up, and then decide for themselves if they want to be baptised?"** There is a very simple answer to this. **It is the parents solemn responsibility to fulfil this obligation.** They don't wait for their child to decide if he or she wants food, medicine or other physical needs. Parents make those decisions for them, because **they want what is best for their children.** And the greatest gift that parents can give is not money, opportunity or even education – it is the **life of God's grace.** If Baptism truly washes away original sin, makes us children of God and heirs to Heaven, to delay Baptism unduly or waiting until adulthood, would mean to withhold from the child the greatest gift God wants to give, which is **eternal life.** Today, Baptism can often be postponed for months and sometimes years, while families arrange receptions, photographers and convenient dates. These are legitimate concerns, **but they should never come before the spiritual good of the child.** A child needs Baptism more than he needs Auntie Mary from Australia to be present. The greatest day of our lives is not when we graduated or got married or even became a priest or a pope. **It is the day of Baptism,** because that is when eternal life begins – **at the font.** Therefore, let us follow the wisdom and example of countless generations of Catholics and bring our children to Christ without delay, as He commanded.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

The First Saturday children's catechism class will take place next Saturday 1st August at 9am with Mass at 10am. One of our priests will explain the meaning of the vestments they wear and the objects they use to celebrate the Mass. You are welcome to stay with your children and join us for Mass at 10am or collect them at 10.30am.

Ride+Stride, 12th September 2026: Cycle, walk, jog, run, or drive your mobility scooter round some of the 225+ Leicestershire historic churches, including St Mary's, registered for this event. You will be helping raise funds for their repair and improvement. Sponsorship forms available from Elvira. For more information, see the poster at the back of the church, or visit <https://lhct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/>

Mature Adults group:

The next meeting of the Mature Adults group will be on **Monday 3rd August** at 2pm in Sacred Heart Church Hall. All Welcome. The church is next to Tesco on Park Road and the hall is next to the church. There is a £1 charge to cover tea, coffee, biscuits and cakes. This month Will Holland will give a talk on "Being a first responder" He will also demonstrate CPR (cardiac resuscitation). The group meets for about one and a half hours every month and is very welcoming. For any further information please talk to Emily after Mass.

Family Mass and Picnic, Mount Saint Bernard Abbey, Sunday 13th September. All welcome.

Bring a chair or picnic blanket, and arrive for Mass at 2.00pm, plus Marian Procession and Adoration. More details from jnoakes@englishmartyrs.com

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*

Please note there will be no Italian Mass during the holiday period. The next Italian Mass will be on Sunday 30th August at 4pm.

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.

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 day of Baptism is the most beautiful day of our life."

Pope Benedict XVI (1927-2022)

Ahead of the Second Reading and vote in the House of Commons for the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life Bill) on Friday 11th September, the Bishops' Conference has produced resources encouraging parishioners to write to their MPs. Either scan the QR code on the poster, or visit www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/ Please consider writing to your MP, showing the support of the Catholic Community in opposition to this proposed change to the law.

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £625.18 (of which £80 was G/A)

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

Attendance: 494

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

