

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

21st SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

The Gift of the Papacy



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

This Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 16:13-20) gives us the famous account of Our Lord conferring the **Keys of the Kingdom** on Peter and changing his name from Simon to Peter, **the rock upon which He would build His Church**. There is a stained-glass window depicting this very moment on the right-hand side of the church above Fr David's confessional. It reminds us that the Church we belong to is not something invented by men. It is something founded by JESUS Christ, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Simon had just made his great profession of faith: *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."* And Our Lord responded by giving him a new name: **Peter** – which means "rock." *"You are Peter and on this rock I will build My Church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven"* Christ will always be the Head of the Church, but after the Ascension Peter was to be the visible Head of the Church on earth. Keys mean authority, and so Our Lord is giving Peter real authority to teach and govern His Church. And that authority is passed on to all his successors, the popes.

The **First Vatican Council** in 1870 infallibly defined that:

- St Peter was appointed by Christ to be the visible Head of the Church;
- He received from Christ supreme authority to teach and govern the whole Church;
- Peter has a perpetual line of successors in the Primacy;
- His successors are the Roman Pontiffs or the popes.

So the pope has this God-given authority to rule the Church, and we believe that **under very strict conditions he is infallible** (cannot make a mistake), when he defines a doctrine concerning **faith or morals to be held by the whole Church**. It does not mean the pope can do no wrong or that he can never be mistaken, even in a religious matter. It is important we all understand that the pope is a

Continued on page 3



St Bartholomew

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Zuzanna Kowalska
Mary Merwick
Mary Rogers
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Kyle Rooney
Jerzy Kowalski
Mary Durning
Richard Newton
Giovanni D'Amato
Des Scrivens

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 22nd

6.00pm

Vigil Mass

Thabani Ncube (RIP, Anniversary)

Sun 23rd

9.00am

11.15am

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Intention for the living

For the Parish

Mon 24th

9.15am

4.30pm

St Bartholomew, Apostle

Mark Balmбра (RIP)

Reception of Mary Rogers RIP

Tues 25th

9.15am

11.00am

4.00pm

St Louis, King

Intention for the living

Requiem Mass: Mary Rogers RIP

Reception of Mary Merwick RIP

Weds 26th

10.30am

6.30pm

Feria

Requiem Mass: Mary Merwick RIP

Mary Merwick (RIP) (Latin)

Thurs 27th

9.15am

St Monica, Widow

Rupert de Lisle (RIP, Anniversary)

Fri 28th

6.00-6.25pm

6.30pm

St Augustine, Bishop & Doctor

Confessions

Intention for the living

Sat 29th

10.30am

-12.30pm

6.00pm

The Beheading of St John the Baptist

Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

with Confessions 10.30-11.30am & Benediction 12.20pm

Vigil Mass: Declan Macdaid (RIP, Anniversary)

Sun 30th

9.00am

11.15am

4.00pm

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cresilda Castillo (RIP)

For the Parish

Italian Mass

Rosary

Mon, Tues, Thurs after 9.15am Mass; Wed, Fri at 6.00pm;

First Saturday of each month after 10.00am Mass

Continued from front page

human being and is always subject to human frailty and the possibility of error as are the rest of us. Hence St Paul's rebuke to St Peter at Antioch, when Peter insisted the Gentiles follow the Jewish dietary laws, thus threatening the entire mission of the Church to the Gentiles (Galatians 2:11-14). The last time a Pope infallibly defined a dogma was in 1950, when **Pope Pius XII** defined the **dogma of the Assumption**. And even when the Pope does infallibly define a dogma, he can do no more than confirm and make clearer **what has always been believed and handed down**. Hence the First Vatican Council taught: *"For the Holy Spirit was not promised to the successors of Peter that they might disclose a new doctrine by His revelation, but rather that, with His assistance, they might reverently guard and faithfully explain that revelation or deposit of faith that was handed down through the Apostles."* In other words, the pope cannot change the Faith simply because times change. He cannot say there are four Persons in the Godhead, or that marriage can be between two men or two women, because God has revealed Himself as a Trinity of Persons, and that marriage is between one man and one woman ordered to procreation and education of children. The novelties we often hear being proposed by some churchmen today concerning faith and morals can be found nowhere in the **Deposit of Faith** handed down through the Apostles, and therefore are not of the Faith and must be rejected. **Development of doctrine is different to changing it.**

So the Papacy is a great gift to the Church. As Catholics we know that when the Church has given a solemn and definitive answer to a question, that teaching can never change, and the goal posts cannot be moved in the future, even if there are voices everywhere saying "The Church must move with the times." **The Church does not belong to the times. She belongs to JESUS Christ**, and therefore nobody, whether pope, bishop, priest or synod, has any authority to reinvent her according to the fashions of the world. This is what Our Lord intended and why He founded His Church on Peter the rock. The pope is the test of the true Church. As St Ambrose said centuries ago, *"Where Peter is, there is the Church."*

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

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

First Saturday children's catechism class, Saturday 5th September at 9.00am:

The children will learn the Salve Regine then meet with Brother Lawrence to learn about the objects used during the Mass before joining the parish for Mass at 10.00am. You are welcome to stay with your children and join us for Mass or collect them at 10.30am.

Join March for Life UK on Saturday 5th September in London for the annual March for Life.

The theme for this year's march is 'Abortion hurts the family'. Unite with thousands of others at this family-friendly event, where we recognise the value of life from conception and help all people understand why abortion is a tragedy and harms the family to its very core. To find out more go to <https://marchforlife.co.uk>. There will be a coach going to the march from Nottingham. Tickets are £30 for adults, £10 for under 16s, and £15 for students / unwaged. To reserve places contact Marie: 07948 151264 or marielangford@live.co.uk

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.

Golden Jubilee of SPANDED: Our diocesan agency supporting people with additional needs (SPANDED) is 50 years old this year and will be marked by a Golden Jubilee Mass celebrated by Bishop Patrick at Saint Peter's Church, Hinckley, on **Saturday 26th September** at 2.00pm. All welcome. If you would like to attend, please contact Fr Frank Daly, on 01455 634443, or hinckleypriory@gmail.com by **31st August**, to help with catering arrangements.

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

From the Saints

"If a man does not hold fast to this unity of Peter, does he imagine that he still holds the Faith? If he deserts the Chair of Peter upon which the Church was built, does he still have confidence that he is in the Church?"

St Cyprian of Carthage (200-258)



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/>

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £733 of which £143 was G/A

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

Attendance: 564

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

