

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

19th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER



When faith is put to the test

This Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 14:22-33) continues from where we left off last week. Our Lord had just fed the crowd of five thousand with five loaves and two fish, and now it is evening. The disciples, at Our Lord's command were passing to the other side of the lake while He remained to pray. Then in the fourth watch of the night, **JESUS came to them walking on water**. They were terrified and thought it was a ghost! So Peter, at Our Lord's command, stepped out of the boat and started to walk on the water towards Him. But the miracle came to a sudden halt when Peter began to notice the wind and the waves. Fear set in and he began to sink. Then Our Lord asked that searching question: *"O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"* This prompts the question: **"What is faith?"**

People often think that faith is a warm fuzzy feeling, an emotion, or some vague hope that everything will turn out fine. But no! Faith is something much deeper than that. The Catechism teaches us that **faith is a supernatural gift by which we believe all that God has revealed, because God can neither deceive nor be deceived**. So faith is not blind. It is a reasonable and loving trust in God Who is Truth itself. And this means **allowing God** – not popular opinion or even my personal opinion to shape the way I think and live. This is more important today than ever.

This weekend, we have a **Pastoral Letter from Bishop Patrick on the Assisted Suicide Bill** which is returning to the House of Commons for debate on 11th September. As I write this on Monday, I don't know yet what he is going to say, but as Catholics, we believe passionately in the sanctity of all human life from conception until natural death. The **Fifth Commandment** is: *"Thou shalt not kill."* We don't judge a civilised society by how it treats the wealthy and the strong, but on how it treats the most vulnerable and weak. The sick,

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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 Jane Frances de Chantal

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Mary Merwick

May she rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Terry Fitzpatrick

John Colardo

John Marples

Anna Madge

Maria Camara

Billie Cadwallader

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 8th

Vigil Mass

6.00pm

For the Parish

Sun 9th

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.00am

John & Andrew Marples (RIP)

11.15am

Private Intention

Mon 10th

St Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr (Feast)

9.15am

Intention for the living

Tues 11th

St Clare, Virgin

9.15am

John Marples (RIP, Anniversary)

Weds 12th

St Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious

6.30pm

Thomas James Slowey (RIP) (Ordinariate)

Thurs 13th

Ss Pontian, Pope, & Hippolytus, Priest - Martyrs

9.15am

Vu Van Thuong (RIP, Anniversary)

Fri 14th

St Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest & Martyr

6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*

6.30pm

Deceased Family & Friends

Sat 15th

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

6.00pm

Vigil Mass: Keith Newton (RIP)

Sun 16th

The Assumption of the BVM (Solemnity)

9.00am

For the Parish

11.15am

Holy Souls

Rosary

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

First Saturday of each month after 10.00am Mass

This weekend there is a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Patrick on the Assisted Suicide Bill. Copies will be available for you to take after Mass.

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the elderly, and those approaching death should never be made to feel they are a burden and need to be got rid of.

As I have often written here, our faith sometimes requires us to **stand against the general public opinion**. Peter had to trust Our Lord when He called him out of the boat. Similarly, we have to be prepared to stand firm when God's Law is challenged, even if there is pressure to remain silent or to conform. **Christians cannot base their morals on public opinion. We receive this from Christ and His Church.** Of course, we naturally want to relieve the pain and suffering of those close to death, but the Church has always supported the **best palliative care**, while also recognising that **it can be right to withhold treatments that are overly burdensome or out of proportion**. But she has always distinguished these from **intentionally** causing death. There is a huge difference morally, between allowing a death to occur naturally and deliberately causing it. And let us never forget that suffering, although never good in itself, when united with the sufferings of Christ, can become a **great means of grace**.

As Parliament prepares to debate this once again, let us pray for our politicians, that they will have the **wisdom and courage to uphold the sanctity and dignity of all human life**. Let us pray also for our doctors, nurses and carers, that they may remain faithful to their vocation of healing and caring for the sick and the terminally ill. Although we live in turbulent and stormy times, JESUS Christ is still with His Church. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Him, and never be ashamed to defend the **Gospel of Life**.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Next weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption when Our Lady, at the end of her earthly life, was assumed (taken up) body and soul into Heaven and crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth. And if you come to Mass on Saturday evening, you will be celebrating on the exact proper traditional date of 15th August.

Fr Paul

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

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/>

Golden Jubilee of

SPANNED: Our diocesan agency supporting people with additional needs (SPANNED) 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 are very welcome to share this wonderful milestone. If you are contemplating coming please contact Father Frank Daly, on 01455 634443, or hinckleypriory@gmail.com **by 31st August**, to help with catering arrangements.

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

"Respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life!"

Pope St John Paul II (1920-2005)



**Free organ recital by
Dominic Remedios: 6pm
Sunday 16th August** in
All Saints Parish Church,
Loughborough, with works
by Duruflé, Mendelssohn
and Howells. The recital
will last about 40 minutes
and will be followed by
compline at 7.00pm.

**Brother Lawrence is
away this week visiting
Rosminian houses in
London and Cardiff**

Last Week's Finance

Collection:

£667.57
(of which £100 was G/A)

Standing orders:

£942 @ 30/06
(of which £736 was G/A)

Attendance: 519

Thank you

St Mary's bank account details for online donations

Bank: Lloyds

A/c name: St Mary of
Annon Lough RCP

Sort code: 30-95-21

A/c no: 00481028

Alternatively,
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