

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

26th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME



St Bartolo Longo

**St Mary of the Annunciation
Catholic Church**

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office@

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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

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Headteacher: Mr C Maher

NEWSLETTER

It's never too late to return to God

One of the most consoling truths of our Catholic Faith is that **conversion is always possible**. So long as they are breathing, it is never too late for a soul to return to God. This is beautifully illustrated in this Sunday's Gospel in the **Parable of the Two Sons** (Matthew 21:28-32). A father has two sons and asks them to go and work in his vineyard. The first refuses saying, "I will not," but then changes his mind and goes. The second son says, "I go, sir," but then does not go. Our Lord then asks the chief priests and the elders which of the sons had done his father's will, and they correctly answer, "The first."

So the lesson here is clear. **Ultimately, what really matters is not what we say, but what we do**. Someone may say "no" to God for most of their life, and then, by His grace, end up saying "yes." And this is why we can always be full of hope.

There is a wonderful example of this in the life of **St Bartolo Longo**, canonised by Pope Leo XIV on 19th October last year. Bartolo was born in Italy in 1841. Although he was brought up in a staunch Catholic family, he turned away from the Faith, began attending séances and ended up becoming a satanic priest. He pulled other people away from the Church and also became involved in drugs. Being so heavily involved in Satanism and being exposed to the horrible satanic rituals caused him to suffer from serious depression and paranoia, and eventually a total breakdown. However, his family never gave up on him. They stormed Heaven with prayers for his return to God, and their prayers were later answered. He returned to the Catholic Faith and left behind his involvement with the occult. He became a Third Order Dominican and dedicated his life to bringing people into the Faith, particularly through **Our Lady and the Holy Rosary**, and many converted because of him. He even built the huge **Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii**, raising the funds himself and overseeing its construction. **So Bartolo had said a firm "no" to God, but that ended up not being his final word.**

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St Michael, Archangel

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:
Donald Folkes,
Maria Sparano,
Joan Slevin,
Patrick Lynch,
June Upton

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 26th <i>6.00pm</i>	Vigil Mass For the Parish	
Sun 27th <i>9.00am</i> <i>11.15am</i> <i>4.00pm</i>	Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Connie Moulton (RIP) Intention for the living <i>Italian Mass</i>	
Mon 28th <i>9.15am</i> <i>6.30pm</i>	St Wenceslaus, Martyr Paul Lallo (RIP) Ken Gillham (RIP) (Latin)	
Tues 29th <i>9.15am</i>	Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels Edward Orton (RIP)	
Weds 30th <i>6.30pm</i>	St Jerome, Priest & Doctor Intention for the living	
Thurs 1st <i>9.15am</i>	St Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin & Doctor Tony Wilkinson (RIP)	
Fri 2nd <i>6.00-6.25pm</i> <i>6.30pm</i>	The Holy Guardian Angels <i>Confessions</i> For our Deceased Relatives & Friends	<i>First Friday</i>
Sat 3rd <i>10.00am</i> <i>10.30am</i> <i>-12.30pm</i> <i>6.00pm</i>	Saturday Mass of the BVM Amanda Giorgio (RIP) <i>Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am & Benediction 12.20pm</i> Vigil Mass: For the Parish	<i>Five First Saturdays</i>
Sun 4th <i>9.00am</i> <i>11.15am</i> <i>4.00pm</i>	Twenty-Seventh Sunday in OT (Rosary Sunday) Francis Edward Bate (RIP) Mary Merwick (RIP) <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>	

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Tues 29th Bible Study - 7.00pm in the parish library
Wed 30th UCM meeting - 2.00pm in the parish hall

Please note the Latin Mass this week will be on Monday 28th September at 6.30pm. Fr David will celebrate an Ordinariate rite Mass on Wednesday.

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This is particularly important for parents and grandparents.

Many of you will have children or grandchildren who were baptised, made their First Holy Communion, were confirmed, and maybe even attended Catholic schools, and yet have now given up the practice of the Faith. Some may have been hurt by scandals in the Church, or encountered poor formation and false modernist teachings. Others may have simply drifted away, having been influenced by the secular culture, which says that belief in God is unnecessary and even foolish. **But never despair!** Your child's falling away from God is not necessarily the end of the story. **St Monica** prayed for years for the conversion of her son **Augustine**, who then became one of the greatest and most influential saints in the history of the Church. St Augustine, as a young man, was probably the last person you would imagine as a future Bishop and Doctor of the Church, and yet by the fervent prayers of his mother and the grace of God, that's what happened. St Bartolo Longo didn't look like a future Apostle of the Rosary either when he was lost in the occult. And yes, there have been some amazing conversion stories in this parish of St Mary's, Loughborough.

But this doesn't mean we should assume that conversion will automatically happen, and neither should we nag and lecture those who have left the Church. **Sometimes young people just need to see something in the way we live our lives.** This can speak in ways that arguments do not. But always pray for them, have Masses offered for them, offer your trials and sufferings for them, pray the Rosary for them, and place them under the protection of Our Lady. And when the opportunity arises, speak the truth to them, but always with charity. And above all, **don't give up on them.**

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

CAFOD's Harvest Family Fast Day will be on Friday 2nd

October. It is a day when we are invited to pray, eat simply and give generously. By giving to CAFOD this Harvest, we can put our faith into action and share God's love with our neighbours overseas – we can help communities support children like Tayla in Zimbabwe to stay in school with better access to water, nourishing school meals and gardens where food can be grown, even during times of drought. Please collect a CAFOD envelope as you leave, so that you can Gift Aid your donation, or give through the CAFOD website. Thank you for your generosity.

Mature Adults Group Sacred Heart Church, Loughborough: There will be no October meeting; meetings will resume in November.

Missio Red Boxes: If you have a Missio Red Box at home, please collect one of the brown collection envelopes at the back of the church, fill in your details, empty the box into it and return the envelope to the repository. Any questions please contact Samantha on 07936 928 370. Thank you.

October is the month of the Holy Rosary and next Sunday is Rosary Sunday, on which we are permitted to celebrate one Mass of Our Lady of the Rosary. This will be at the 11.15am Mass.

Year 6 Parents: Don't miss the secondary school application deadline. If your child was born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016 he or she will be starting Year 7 in September 2027. You must apply for a secondary school place through your home Local Authority by **Sunday 31st October.** Please see the notice at the back of the church or the parish website for important additional details.

Thank you for your continued support of the Your Store Food Bank. The following are dates for your diary: 10th October, 7th November, and 12th December.

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.

ADVENTure 2026, Friday 27th to Sunday 29th November: a weekend at The Briars, Crich, for young people in school years 10-13. The diocesan youth service will open the centre for prayer, honest conversation, Mass, reconciliation and an Advent party! Young people can come alone, or with a friend, and first-timers are especially welcome. The cost is £50, covering accommodation, meals and the whole weekend. Book through the form at ndcys.com by 13th November, or email events@ndcys.com with any questions. Bursaries are available.

Catechesis training: Free introductory session with the Dominican Sisters of Saint Joseph, on **Friday 9th October, 7-9pm**, in the Frassati Centre, Leicester, LE1 6HW. Discover the vocation of the catechist and how to use the Catechism as a tool in passing on the faith to others. Registration essential. For more information, visit <https://holycrossleicester.org/news/catechesis-training/>

From the Saints

"The good God knows how to make good use of everything."

St John Vianney (1786-1859)



Michaelmas, which we celebrate on Tuesday, is the **feast of St Michael the Archangel**, prince of the heavenly hosts and protector of the Church. In the traditional Roman Calendar, the three Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael each have their own feast, whereas the modern calendar celebrates all three together on 29th September. Scripture tells us that Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and Satan was cast down from Heaven (Apoc 12:7-9). Michaelmas reminds us of the reality of the battle between good and evil, and encourages us to seek the protection of St Michael and the holy angels.

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £669.81 of which £125 was G/A

Home Mission Sunday £287.28

Standing orders: £879 @ 31/08 (of which £725 was G/A)

Attendance: 585

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

