

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

23rd SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

Mary: the New Eve

This Tuesday 8th September, we celebrate the **Birthday of Our Lady**, exactly nine months after the Feast of her Immaculate Conception on 8th December. With her **Immaculate Conception**, the first light of our redemption began to break through the darkness. With her birth, the light was brought even nearer to the world, because the woman conceived without original sin and now in the world, was to be the **Mother of the Redeemer**. From all eternity, God knew He would redeem us by His Son, and from all eternity, He had chosen the woman who would give Him His human nature. That woman was **Mary**.

There are some **extraordinary parallels between Eve and Mary**. Eve was a **virgin** and so was Mary. Eve listened to the **voice of the serpent**, a fallen angel (Genesis 3), whereas Mary listened to the **voice of the Angel Gabriel**. Eve **distrusted** God's word and **disobeyed**, whereas Mary **believed** God's word and **obeyed**. Eve's **disobedience** set in motion the **Fall**, whereby sin and death entered the world, whereas Mary's **obedience** became the means through which the **Author of Life Himself** would enter the world. As **St Jerome** (ca 342-420) famously put it, "**Death through Eve, life through Mary.**" And for these reasons, the Fathers of the Church called Mary the "**New Eve.**"

It is also notable that **St John Henry Newman** (1801-90), who visited our church here in Loughborough in 1845, calls this teaching of Mary as the New Eve a **rudimentary teaching that goes back to the earliest writings of the Church Fathers**. The New Eve, he argues, could not be inferior to the First. If the **First Eve** was without stain of sin from the beginning of her existence (the original sin had not yet been committed), then Mary, the **Second Eve**, must also have been without it from the beginning of her existence. Therefore, he concludes, she was conceived **immaculate**.

So Eve cooperated in the **fall of man**, and Mary cooperated in the **redemption of man**, when through her consenting to be the Mother of the Redeemer at the Annunciation, she uttered those words upon

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St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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office@
stmarysloughborough.org.uk
Served by the Rosminians

Parish Priest

Fr Paul Gillham, IC
On attachment
Fr David Jones, OLV
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 John Henry Newman

Please pray for those who are sick:

for those who have recently died:

Zuzanna Kowalska,
May she rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Leslie Betts,
Nina Martoccia,
Frank Hately,
Vera Cunningham

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 5th <i>6.00pm</i>	Vigil Mass David King (RIP)
Sun 6th <i>9.00am</i> <i>11.15am</i> <i>2.30pm</i> <i>4.00pm</i>	Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time For the Parish 50th Wedding Anniversary <i>Baptism</i> <i>Italian Mass</i>
Mon 7th <i>9.15am</i>	Feria Intention for the living
Tues 8th <i>9.15am</i>	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Feast) Mary Merwick (RIP)
Weds 9th <i>6.30pm</i>	Feria Andy Newbold (RIP) (Latin)
Thurs 10th <i>9.15am</i>	Feria George Houston (RIP)
Fri 11th <i>6.00-6.25pm</i> <i>6.30pm</i>	Feria <i>Confessions</i> Vittorio Giorgio (RIP)
Sat 12th <i>10.30am</i> <i>-12.30pm</i> <i>6.00pm</i>	Most Holy Name of Mary <i>Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am & Benediction 12.20pm</i> Vigil Mass: Venancio Castillo (RIP, Anniversary)
Sun 13th <i>9.00am</i> <i>11.15am</i> <i>4.00pm</i>	Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Paul Lallo (RIP, Anniversary) Emily Houston (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>

Next Sunday is Education Sunday.

De Lisle College open evening, Thursday 17th September, 6-8pm.

Next SPUC meeting, 14th September, 7pm in the parish hall.

Are you a healthcare professional in the East Midlands? An open letter raising concerns about the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is being sent to local MPs ahead of the Second Reading on Friday 11th September. If you support the concerns raised, please consider adding your name and sharing with colleagues: <https://ourdutyofcare.org.uk/east-midlands/>

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which the salvation of the entire human race hung: **“Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto me according to thy word”** (Luke 1:38). And here we see the complete opposite of Satan. He cried, **“Non serviam – I will not serve.”** Satan is full of pride: **“I will have it my way”**, whereas Mary is full of humility: **“Behold the handmaid of the Lord.”** And maybe that’s the lesson we need to learn from this Feast; **the struggle for holiness is ultimately the struggle between my will and God’s Will.**

So let us ask Our Lady the New Eve, to obtain for us something of her humility, her obedience and her complete trust in God. And may she teach us to say, especially when it is difficult, **“Be it done unto me according to thy word.”**

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

The second collection this weekend will be for Empowering Vulnerable Children (EVC) Uganda, a charity that provides a future, through education, for some of the poorest children in the world. Children are supported through primary and secondary education and vocational training or university. Further information can be found on their website: <https://www.evcuganda.org>

Brother Lawrence, who has been staying with us since the beginning of July, will be returning to Rome on Thursday to continue his studies for the priesthood at the Pontifical Beda College. I would like to thank you for the warm welcome you have given him, and for making him feel so much at home during his time with us. I know that he is leaving with many happy memories and a very good impression of our parish.

Brother Lawrence has written a few words about his time with us elsewhere in this newsletter. As he returns to Rome and continues his journey towards the priesthood, please keep him in your prayers. May Our Lord bless him abundantly and guide him faithfully towards the altar.

Fr Paul

The UCM is hosting a Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Macmillan is 98% funded by voluntary donations and together, we can help them deliver the vital support people living with cancer need. Everyone is welcome to come along on the 26th Sept in the Parish Hall from 10:30am. You are also welcome to bring cakes & biscuits as well. The more the merrier! There are also posters at the back of the church with a QR code for those who wish to donate beforehand or after. Please help us raise as much as we can for this very worthy cause. Thank you.

Food Bank Saturday 19th September, 10:30 to 11:00. Please see posters in church.

Dear Parishioners of St Mary’s

I came here as a worried and anxious seminarian because I did not know anyone, including the Parish Priest. However, your kindness and hospitality helped me to settle in very quickly.

I have come to appreciate the unique spirit of UNITY that exists in this parish. I have experienced this unity in your spiritual life, pastoral activities, volunteering, generosity, and in the way you care for one another. Please do not allow this beautiful spirit to fade. Continue to support one another, keep the faith, and remain united as a parish community.

My time at St Mary’s has been a very good and memorable experience, and I will always cherish the moments I have shared with you. St Mary’s will forever remain in my heart. It has truly become another home for me. Words may not be enough to express how grateful I am. Nevertheless, I carry with me a heart full of gratitude and many beautiful memories. I will always keep you in my prayers. Please remember me in your prayers as well.

With every kind wish,
Br Lawrence Okoth, IC

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.

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.

Bishop Patrick has received a letter from the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, thanking our Diocese for the contributions to the **2026 Peter's Pence collection**, which amounted to **£5,936.26**. The Holy Father very much appreciates the generosity of parishioners throughout the Diocese of Nottingham, whose donations will help to fund and support the charitable activities of the Holy See.

Congratulations to Jack and Elodie, who were married at St Mary's on 22nd August. Following their wedding, they went to Rome for their honeymoon, where they had the wonderful opportunity, together with many other newlyweds, to meet Pope Leo and speak with him. We wish them every happiness and God's abundant blessings as they begin their married life together.



From the Saints

"Death through Eve, life through Mary."
(St Jerome, ca 342-420)

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

Last Week's Finance Collection:

£828.06 of which £132.05 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

