

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

24th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

Relics of the Saints

We Catholics honour and respect the **relics of the saints**.

The word 'relic' comes from the Latin 'reliquiae' meaning 'remains'. Relics remind us that the saints were not mere spiritual beings or figures from past history. They were real men and women like us. A **first class relic** is part of the body of a saint. A **second class relic** is something which belonged to a saint or which they used during life, such as clothing, a book or a crucifix. A **third class relic** is a piece of cloth or something that has merely touched the body of a saint. To have a piece or a part of a holy person or place has been part of the Church's practice from the very beginning. The Christians honoured the bodies of the martyrs and celebrated Mass over their tombs. We see this reverence for the remains and possessions of holy people in Scripture: *"And God did extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul; so that handkerchiefs or aprons were carried away from his body to the sick, and diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them"* (Acts 19:12). These objects had merely touched the body of St Paul, and yet God worked miracles through them.

Instruments of torture or martyrdom are also relics, for example the **Crown of Thorns** and the **chains of St Peter**, both of which you will find in Rome. Many churches have a relic of the **True Cross** on which Christ was crucified. And this shouldn't surprise us because Christianity is an **incarnational religion**, where the Son of God didn't merely appear to be human. **He truly became man and took on human flesh**. He saved us through **His Precious Blood** which was real human blood. The **Seven Sacraments** themselves are where physical things such as bread, wine, water and oil become a means of grace. So we respect and reverence material things.

It is a natural human instinct to want something of those we love or admire. A son or daughter will treasure a lock of hair, a ring or a watch of his late mother or father. Many people like to have things that belonged to their favourite footballer or singer or to have the autograph of someone famous. Similarly the Church allows us to have belongings of the saints, so that through them we can be in

Continued on page 3

www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk



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 Januarius

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Edward Orton
Pat Goodwin
Zuzanna Kowalska
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Dreda Clarke
Brian Dzudzewicz
Paul Lallo
Olga Keane
Janet Edwards
Salvatore Fele
Mary Scrivens
David Hammond
Brian Tallon

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 12th <i>6.00pm</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>
Mon 14th <i>9.15am</i> <i>11.15am</i>	Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Feast) For the Parish <i>Requiem Mass: Zuzanna Kowalska RIP</i>
Tues 15th <i>9.15am</i>	Our Lady of Sorrows Mary Merwick (RIP) (School Mass)
Weds 16th <i>6.30pm</i>	Ss Cornelius & Cyprian, Martyrs Zuzanna Kowalska (RIP) (Latin)
Thurs 17th <i>9.15am</i>	St Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor Constance Mavis Stanford (RIP)
Fri 18th <i>6.00-6.25pm</i> <i>6.30pm</i>	Feria <i>Confessions</i> Mary Rogers (RIP)
Sat 19th <i>10.30am</i> <i>-12.30pm</i> <i>6.00pm</i>	St Januarius, Bishop and Martyr <i>Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am & Benediction 12.20pm</i> Vigil Mass: For the Parish
Sun 20th <i>9.00am</i> <i>11.15am</i> <i>4.00pm</i>	Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time John Nedumakal (RIP, Anniversary) Umberto Fabricatore (RIP, Anniversary) <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	
Mon 14th	SPUC meeting - 7.00pm in the parish hall
Tues 15th	Bible Study - 7.00pm in the parish library
Wed 16th	UCM meeting - 2.00-4.00pm in the parish hall

Continued from front page

closer contact with Our Lord and the court of Heaven, so that we may desire to imitate them and long to be with them one day. The bodies of the saints in this life were **Temples of the Holy Spirit**, and it was **in their bodies that they worked out their salvation**. Their bodies **shared in their holiness** and in many cases in their **martyrdom**, and one day will share in their glory at the end of time. For hundreds of years people have made pilgrimages to the tombs of the saints because they desired to venerate their relics and also to ask for blessings, healings and even miracles.

It has to be mentioned that there were occasions in history where certain people used **fake relics** as a source of raising money. To guard against this historical abuse, the Church instituted certification of the relics to guarantee their authenticity.

It's important to understand **we do not worship the relics of the saints. We worship God alone**. We give a relative veneration or honour to the relics of the saints. Neither do we pray to the relics, because they can neither see nor hear us. But we can pray *before* a relic, asking the saint whose relic it is to intercede for us or to obtain some favour for us from God, or ask their help to practice a virtue that he or she practised.

We are fortunate to have relics of the saints in our church. **The altars in St Mary's contain the relics of saints, including martyrs**, and there is something very fitting about this. Upon the altar, Christ makes present His one Sacrifice, and inside the altar are the relics of those who gave their lives in imitation of that one Sacrifice. And we believe in the **resurrection of the body**. Though their bodies now lie in tombs or are preserved as relics, one day they will be raised and glorified. Their relics, therefore, point us to Christ, and the hope of our resurrection to bodily glory at the end of time.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

The UCM is hosting a Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support on Saturday 26th September from 10.30am in the parish hall. 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 and 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 afterwards. Please help us raise as much as we can for this very worthy cause. Thank you.

New Podcast: The Diocesan Education Service is piloting a new podcast to support staff, parents and families across the Diocese. 'Nun the Wiser' focuses on the Diocesan 'Word of the Week', unpacking what it means within a practical, living faith context; a new episode will be released each Friday. Sr Liz Dodd CSJP brings a fresh perspective and pastoral voice to the discussions. You can listen to it on Spotify, YouTube or wherever you listen to your podcasts.

The Marriage Resource Centre is conducting a global study into the experience of married Catholics. If you married in the last 10 years and one or both spouses are Catholic, please consider completing this short survey. All answers are anonymous and confidential, and the survey is open until the end of September, at: <https://thepmrc.org/survey>

This Sunday is Education Sunday and the children of St Mary's will be participating in the 9.15am Mass on Tuesday.

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

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.

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

Next Food Bank collection: Saturday 19th September, 10.30 to 11.00am in the car park. Please see the posters on the church doors for suggested items.



From the Saints

"For only the harder portions of his body remains were left, which were conveyed to Antioch and wrapped in linen, as an inestimable treasure left to the holy Church by the grace which was in the martyr."

Martyrdom of St Ignatius of Antioch, Chapter 6

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.

Last Week's Finance

1st Collection: £513.52 of which £93 was G/A

Empowering Vulnerable Children in Uganda:
£1,629.15

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

Attendance: 518

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

