

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

25th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME



**St Mary of the Annunciation
Catholic Church**

97 Ashby Road
Loughborough LE11 3AB
01509 262123
office@
stmarysloughborough.org.uk
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

NEWSLETTER

Blessed Fulton Sheen – A Prophet for our Times

This Thursday 24th September, the Church will have the great joy of declaring **Archbishop Fulton Sheen** (1895-1979) to be **“Blessed.”** It will be a particularly special occasion for me, because I have always admired Archbishop Sheen. I first came across him when I was about 11 years old. I remember finding in our church library in Bexhill a book entitled “This is the Mass”, which had photographs of the Archbishop celebrating the traditional Latin Mass, which I found fascinating. He died only a few months later on 9th December 1979. I didn't realise at the time he had been one of the twentieth century's greatest Catholic evangelists and apologists. He wrote over sixty books.

Fulton John Sheen was born in Illinois in 1895 and was ordained a priest in 1919. He was a great scholar and studied in America and Europe. In spite of his great learning and academic ability, he always used his talents to bring souls to JESUS Christ. He also had an interesting connection with England. As a young priest he taught at **St Edmund's College, Ware**, and served as a priest at **St Patrick's, Soho Square in London**. He also returned to England on many occasions to preach. On Good Friday 1952, a crowd of 20,000 came to hear him preach in Westminster Cathedral!

His extraordinary gift was his ability to **communicate the great truths of the Catholic Faith in an ordinary way that people could understand**, and his words really seemed to possess the power of the Holy Spirit. He did this through radio, television, and especially on his famous TV programme **“Life is Worth Living.”** The show had top ratings in the United States and reached millions of viewers, including many non-Catholics. Sheen spoke openly about the Catholic Faith, sin, judgment, Heaven, Purgatory, Hell, the Cross, marriage, the family, communism and atheism. Imagine that today! He didn't water anything down, because he believed that a priest must have the courage to proclaim the truth, because **the salvation of souls depended upon it**. This is what made him a prophet, and many of his predictions about the future of the world and the crisis in the Church have come to pass.

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St Pio of Pietrelcina

Please pray for those who
are sick

for those who have
recently died

Fr Andrew Henson OCSO
Marilyn Fisher
Edward Orton
Pat Goodwin
May they rest in peace

and for those whose
anniversaries occur at
this time:

Umberto Fabricatore
Margaret Warren
Andrew Mitchell

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 19th <i>6.00pm</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>
Mon 21st <i>9.15am</i>	St Matthew, Apostle (Feast) Deceased members of the Faulks & Hallam families
Tues 22nd <i>9.15am</i> <i>3.30pm</i>	Feria Intention for the living <i>Reception of Edward Orton RIP</i>
Weds 23rd <i>9.30am</i> <i>6.30pm</i>	St Pio of Pietrelcina, Confessor <i>Requiem Mass: Edward Orton RIP</i> Bozena Siwek (RIP, Anniversary) (Latin)
Thurs 24th <i>9.15am</i>	Our Lady of Walsingham (Feast) Intention for the living
Fri 25th <i>6.00-6.25pm</i> <i>6.30pm</i>	Feria <i>Confessions</i> Intention for the living
Sat 26th <i>10.30am</i> <i>-12.30pm</i> <i>6.00pm</i>	Saturday Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary <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 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>
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 22nd	Bible Study - 7.00pm in the parish library
Wed 24th	RCIA - 7.00pm in the parish library

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Fulton Sheen also had an extraordinary apostolic gift of **bringing people into the Catholic Faith and bringing back the lapsed**. He converted thousands from all walks of life. One of his most famous converts was **Bella Dodd**, a former Catholic who became a communist, and tried to destroy the Catholic Church by filling seminaries with communist infiltrators. She eventually came back to the Church in 1952 after coming under Sheen's influence and instruction.

He always said the secret of his success was not his great learning or the fact he was on television. It was his **relationship with JESUS Christ in the Blessed Sacrament**. For more than sixty years he made a **daily Holy Hour** before Our Lord in the tabernacle. And he positioned his office so as he could always see the tabernacle while writing his sermons and books. This was where he found his inspiration. His other great love was **Our Lady**. I would recommend his book **"The World's First Love"** in which he beautifully explains how Mary leads us to Christ.

Archbishop Sheen **speaks powerfully to us today**, nearly fifty years after his death. He did not attempt to redefine Catholicism according to the spirit of the age. He believed in **objective truth**, and that right and wrong are not matters of personal opinion. And above all, he believed that **JESUS Christ is the only Saviour of the World**. And yet he always proclaimed difficult truths with warmth and charity, loving people enough to tell them the truth. **This is genuine Catholic evangelisation**. At a moving encounter in New York in 1979, St John Paul II told him **"You have written and spoken well of the Lord JESUS. You are a loyal son of the Church."** Two months later Fulton Sheen had gone to his eternal reward.

You will find plenty of clips of the great Archbishop online, but the best way to honour him is by reading him. You won't regret it. I especially recommend **"The Life of Christ"** which is a magnificent meditation on the Life, Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord, and it is easily available today.

May Blessed Fulton Sheen obtain for us a deeper love of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, a greater devotion to Our Lady and the Rosary, and the courage to live and defend the Catholic Faith.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

CAFOD's Harvest Family Fast Day will be on Friday 2nd October. Envelopes will be handed out next weekend.



Happy Birthday to Fr Charles Sormany, who many of you will remember. He celebrated his 97th birthday on 5th September.

Appeal by Empowering Vulnerable Children (EVC) Uganda: Thank you so much for your warm and very hospitable welcome. The amount collected was £1629.15, a truly exceptional and extremely generous donation. All money collected will go directly towards our projects in Uganda and will make a real and immediate difference to the education and lives of the children. Be assured of the children's prayers. God bless. *Phil and Gordon*

Today is Home Mission Sunday. We are called to pray for the work of evangelisation and to be missionary disciples in our homes and local communities. There will be a second collection today to support the Bishops' national work of evangelisation and local outreach initiatives.

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 first meeting of the new RCIA group will take place this **Thursday 24th September** at 7.00pm in the parish library.

Coffee Morning (hosted by the UCM) in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, Saturday 26th September from 10.30am in the parish hall. Everyone is welcome to come along and to bring cakes and biscuits as well. See the posters at the back of the church which have a QR code for those who wish to donate online. Please help us raise as much as we can for this very worthy cause. Thank you.

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

"If you don't behave as you believe, you will end up believing as you behave."

Archbishop, soon to be Blessed
Fulton Sheen (1895-1979)

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

Collection: £554.74 of which £58 was G/A

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

Attendance: 519

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

