

# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

6th SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME

# NEWSLETTER

## Our Lady of Lourdes



Today is the **World Day of Prayer for the Sick** and, were it not a Sunday, we would be celebrating the feast of **Our Lady of Lourdes**. Lourdes must be the most famous apparition and pilgrimage site of Our Lady in the world and many of you have visited there. Countless healings and miracles in both body and soul take place there all the time.

**St Bernadette Soubirous** (1844-1879) was born into a very poor family, and on the morning of 11th February 1858, as she went out with her sister to collect some firewood, Our Lady appeared to her in a grotto. There were 18 apparitions in all and Our Lady asked for two simple things: **prayer and penance for sinners, and for a chapel to be built there**.

In one of the apparitions Our Lady instructed Bernadette to drink from the spring and wash herself there. Bernadette didn't have a clue what Our Lady was talking about since there was no spring, but Our Lady pointed to the exact spot. Bernadette began to dig in the ground and wipe herself with the mud, and everyone thought she had gone completely mad. They were astonished when shortly after, water began to flow from the very spot where she had been digging. And within just a few days people were claiming cures as a result of using this water. Cures continue there to this day.

Bernadette's Parish Priest, **Fr Peyramale**, was at first, very sceptical about the apparitions, and told her to ask this Lady to identify herself and give her name. So on 25th March 1858, the Feast of the Annunciation, Bernadette asked the Lady who she was, and she gave the wonderful answer, "*I am the Immaculate Conception.*" Bernadette didn't understand what this meant. She wasn't a theologian. In fact, she was very ignorant, and neither was the dogma of the **Immaculate Conception** something well known at the time. It is a dogma of the Church that Our Lady, through no merits of her own, but because of the Divine Son she was to bring into this world, was **preserved from the stain of Original Sin, and from all personal sin from the moment of her conception**. So as Bernadette made her way from the grotto to the presbytery to tell her Parish Priest, she

*Continued on page 3*

### 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

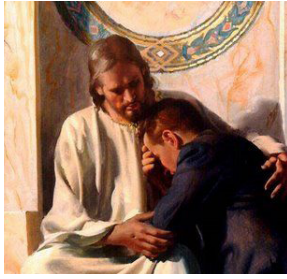
Fr Paul Gillham, IC  
**On attachment**  
Fr David Jones, OLW  
**Safeguarding Rep**  
Jane Monaghan  
01509 262123

### 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



**Please pray for those who are sick**

**for those who have recently died**

Czeslaw Szychowski  
Kathleen Pagett  
Michele Calabrese  
*May they rest in peace*

**and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time**

Biasina Sepede  
Olive Chapman  
Pat Newby  
Teresa Frankow  
Emily Heath  
Maria Richardson  
Ellen Spurr

### **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 10th Vigil Mass**  
6.00pm Deceased of the Giorgio & Mancini Families

---

**Sun 11th Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
9.00am For the Parish  
11.15am Stephen Bowmer (RIP)  
4.00pm Italian Mass

---

**Mon 12th Feria**  
9.15am Ellen Monaghan (RIP)  
4.30pm *Reception of Michele Calabrese RIP*

---

**Tues 13th Feria**  
9.15am Sheila McFerran (RIP)  
11.00am *Requiem Mass: Michele Calabrese RIP*

---

**Weds 14th Ash Wednesday**  
9.15am Teresa Frankow (RIP, Anniversary)  
12 noon Trevor & Eunice Ling (RIP) (Sung, Latin)  
6.30pm Vera Hurry (RIP)

---

**Thurs 15th Lenten Feria**  
9.15am Terence John Foister (RIP, Anniversary)

---

**Fri 16th Lenten Feria**  
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*  
6.30pm Alice Cahill (RIP)  
7.10pm Stations of the Cross

---

**Sat 17th Lenten Feria**  
10.00am Fr Bernard Nann, IC (RIP) **NO PUBLIC MASS**  
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: Family Intention**

---

**Sun 18th First Sunday of Lent**  
9.00am For the Parish  
11.15am Cliff Brookes (RIP, Anniversary)  
4.00pm **No Italian Mass**

---

*Rosary: Mon, Tues, Thurs after 9.15am Mass; Wed, Fri at 6.00pm; First Saturday of each month after 10.00am Mass*

---

### **This week at St Mary's**

**Mon 12th** First Confession Class - 4.15pm in the hall  
**Tues 13th** Bible Study - 7.00pm in the library  
**Weds 14th** UCM - 2.00pm in the hall

---

*Continued from front page*

kept repeating these words again in case she forgot them. She rushed into the presbytery and said, “*The Lady said, ‘I am the Immaculate Conception!’*” The priest was stunned, and it was an emotional moment for him, because he knew Bernadette wasn’t educated, and for her to be able to give this title of Our Lady, was for him a proof of the genuineness of the apparition.

We tend to focus on the miraculous healings of the body which take place at Lourdes and there are many. **But even more miraculous are the conversions and the healing of souls which take place there.** Even if you can’t go there, you can still receive the benefits of Lourdes by invoking Our Lady under the title of Our Lady of Lourdes and her Immaculate Conception.

Bernadette was persecuted from every side – by her family who forbade her from going to the grotto and also by the civil authorities by whom she was imprisoned. She was also persecuted by the religious authorities, and when she became a nun, one of the sisters was very unkind to her. Our Lady told her, “*I do not promise to make you happy in this life, but only in the next*”, which is a reminder to the modern world, that this life only has meaning and relevance as a preparation for the next - that is for eternity. Our Lady consoled Bernadette and gave her the strength to face these trials and to carry the heavy load of the cross.

As we begin Lent this Wednesday, we can ask Our Lady of Lourdes to help us carry our crosses, to make them less burdensome, and to give us the courage and strength of perseverance in adversity. And let us never forget how much Our Lady loves us, and that she wants us to be with her and JESUS in Heaven.

*Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

---

**Calling Catholic Teachers:** If you are a Catholic teacher working outside of Catholic education and would like to find out more about working in a Catholic school within the Diocese of Nottingham, a virtual information session will take place on **Monday 4th March from 7.00pm – 8.00pm**. More information can be found on the poster at the back of church, or contact Julie Sweeney at the Diocesan education Service: [julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk](mailto:julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk)

---

**Food Bank:** The next collection for the Loughborough Food Bank/Your Store will be on **Saturday 24th February** in the car park from 10.30 to 11.00am. Suggested items are canned soups, cuppa soups, tea bags, small jars of coffee, drinking chocolate, shower gels, shampoo, washing machine liquids, cleaning detergents. Thank you for your continued support.

*Jane Monaghan*

|  |
|--|
| <p><b>This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday</b> and the beginning of Lent. It is a day of <b>fasting and abstinence</b>. Everyone is bound to abstain from meat. Catholics aged between 18 and 60 are bound to fast - this means one full meal and perhaps a little food a couple of times during the day. All Fridays throughout the year are days of abstinence.</p> |
|--|

---

### **Stations of the Cross**

There will be Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent after the 6.30pm Mass, for which one may gain a Plenary Indulgence under the usual conditions: Confession, Holy Communion and Prayers for the Pope’s intention.

---

### **LACY Walk for CAFOD**

- **Sharing in the ‘Big Lent Walk’, Sunday 17th March:** All welcome to join a short walk starting from St Mary’s, Countesthorpe Road, South Wigston, LE18 4PG at 2.00pm. For details email [paulinepayne@hotmail.com](mailto:paulinepayne@hotmail.com).

---

### **Community Mass at Loughborough Amherst Chapel, Thursday 22nd February, 4.15pm.**

All welcome. Please use the main car park on Gray Street.

## 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.

---

**40 Days for Life** will have a prayerful witness outside the BPAS abortion centre in Aylestone, Leicester from **Wednesday 14th February to Sunday 24th March**, and we welcome you to join us, to be part of God's work in stopping abortion in our city. You will never be on your own and you can sign up for one hour or two, whenever you are available (even weekends and evenings). Prayer outside an abortion centre can close it down. If you feel called to this special work call Francisca Martinez in confidence on 07943 711549 for an informal chat, or email [leicester40daysforlife@gmail.com](mailto:leicester40daysforlife@gmail.com). You can also directly sign up for hours at <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/leicester>

---

**Year of Prayer Initiative for Lent - 'We Dare to Say':** A few copies of this five-week faith-sharing resource, based on the Our Father, are available for you take from the back of the church. It can be used in small groups or individually. There is also a copy for you to download from the parish website.

---

## From the Saints

*"Love without suffering does not exist."*

(St Bernadette, 1844-1879)

---



## Many happy returns

**to Bernie McEnergy** who celebrates her 80th birthday this weekend. Thank you to her for all she has contributed to the parish over many decades.

---

**SPUC:** There will be a meeting of the SPUC Group on **Monday 19th February** at 7.00pm in the church hall. If you are interested in the work of SPUC but not involved already, we urge you to come along and see how you can help with our work.

*Michael Murphy, Chair,  
SPUC Loughborough*

---

**This weekend's second collection** is for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC)'s annual White Flower Appeal. Your donations will help SPUC continue its campaign to defend the right to life from the moment of conception until natural death.

---

## Last Week's Finance

**Collection:** £877 of which £98 was gift-aided

**Standing orders:** £736 @ 31/01, of which £631 was gift-aided

**Attendance:** 546

*Thank you*

---