

# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF LENT

# NEWSLETTER

## Passiontide



**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

01509 268739

enquiries@delisle.leics.sch.uk

**Headteacher:** Mr C Maher

On **Ash Wednesday** we marked our foreheads with ashes as a sign of penance, but also to recall that we are sinners and that we deserve to return to the dust from which we were made. On **Palm Sunday** we will carry palms in procession commemorating Our Lord's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem which would lead to His victory as the King of Martyrs on Good Friday. But why do we have the custom, in some churches at least, of veiling images during these last two weeks of Lent?

Certainly, this veiling of images jumps out at anyone who comes to church on this Fifth Sunday of Lent, and immediately we know something is different. Up to this point in Lent we have been focusing on Our Lord's forty days and forty nights in the desert, on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. But now we enter a period called **Passiontide**, when our focus is on the Passion, suffering and death of Our Lord. The church seems stark and empty, and soon Christ will be taken from us, sentenced to death and crucified. The Church will become a widow with the death of the Bridegroom, and so She puts on a veil of mourning.

The custom of veiling crosses and statues actually comes from the Gospel read on this Sunday in the traditional Latin Mass. *"The Jews took up stones to cast at Him, but JESUS hid Himself, and went out of the Temple"* (John 8:59). So Our Lord's enemies wanted to kill Him, but in order to escape, He **hid or veiled Himself**. So the conflict between the light of Christ and the forces of darkness were really heating up, but no one laid a finger on Our Lord until He permitted it. He would hand Himself over **freely** to His enemies at the time appointed. The exact time of His Passion and death had been fixed from all eternity.

It was after the Last Supper when Our Lord went into the **Garden of Gethsemane** to pray that He handed Himself over. Most of the apostles were asleep, and Judas the traitor betrayed Our Lord with a kiss, at which point the soldiers moved forward to take Our Lord and arrest Him. The Gospel tells us that all the soldiers at that point

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St Patrick

Please pray for those  
who are sick

for those who have  
recently died

Fr John Daley  
Mario Mancini  
Ann Folkes

*May they rest in peace*

and for those whose  
anniversaries occur at  
this time

Joan Hammond  
Ann Ludlow  
Paddy Mills  
Kath Spencer  
Claire Coburn  
Stefania Mszyca  
John Kilyon  
Franco Basile

### 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

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**Sat 16th Vigil Mass**  
6.00pm For the Parish

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**Sun 17th Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
9.00am Anna Tran Thi Luat (RIP)  
11.15am John McEnergy (RIP)  
4.00pm Italian Mass

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**Mon 18th Lenten Feria**  
9.15am Private Intention

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**Tues 19th St Joseph, Spouse of the BVM (Solemnity)**  
9.15am Valentino Castillo (RIP, Anniversary)

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**Weds 20th Lenten Feria**  
12.30pm *Requiem Mass: Ann Folkes RIP*  
6.30pm Sam Priestley (RIP) (Latin)

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**Thurs 21st Lenten Feria**  
9.15am Liz & Bernard Concannon (RIP)

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**Fri 22nd Lenten Feria**  
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*  
6.30pm Norah Lillian Hutchings (RIP)  
7.10pm *Stations of the Cross*

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**Sat 23rd Lenten Feria**  
10.00am Addolorata Miller (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:** Peter Allen (RIP)

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**Sun 24th Palm Sunday**  
9.00am For the Parish  
11.15am Mario Sepede (RIP)  
4.00pm Italian Mass

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

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### This week at St Mary's

**Mon 18th** First Confession Class - 4.15pm in the hall  
**Thurs 21st** RCIA - 7.00pm in the library

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**All lost property items** (kept at the repository) will be cleared away after Easter; please claim anything that is yours no later than **30th March**.

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were literally physically thrown back onto the ground (John 18:6), emphasising that the soldiers were powerless to arrest Christ until He allowed it. He would no longer hide or avoid His enemies because His hour had now come. The time had come for the confrontation with sin and death. And in this fight, He would use the most powerful weapon – the wood of the Cross in which Satan would be totally conquered.

*Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

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**There will be an enactment of the events of Holy Week** by young adults of the Loughborough area parishes again this year at 7.00pm here in St Mary's on **Palm Sunday evening, 24th March**. Undergraduates and students in Years 5 to 13 willing to participate, please contact Richard Mitchell (tel: 07812-997847 or Rmitchell@constructivebusiness.com) **before Sunday evening 17th March**.

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**Side Altars:** You may have noticed that there is some cast iron cresting on top of the canopies on the Sacred Heart and Lady Altars. This is a restoration. It was taken down many years ago and we thought it had been lost forever. However, we discovered it dismantled and in inches of dust on top of the Lady Altar. Two parishioners, Shawn and Elvira, have cleaned it up and Shawn put it back in place on Wednesday evening. I hope you'll agree it is a beautiful addition to the church.

*Fr Paul*

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**St Mary's Primary School are taking part in the Big Lent Walk for CAFOD.** The children and staff will be walking at lunchtimes and on walks to Queen's park over the next couple of weeks. They will be asking for sponsorship in the form of a donation from friends and family. If anyone would like to support the children and CAFOD, donations can be made using this link: <https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-marys-big-lent-walk1553>. Thank you.

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**Family Lenten Liturgy, Tuesday 19th March, 7pm at De Lisle College, Thorpe Hill, Loughborough.** A warm welcome is extended to St Mary's parishioners who would like to attend. During the liturgy Barry and Margaret Mizen will speak about the need for peace and forgiveness. Barry and Margaret tragically lost their son Jimmy who was murdered the day after his 16th birthday. Although they will talk about this, they are very good at adapting their talks to suit the nature and age of their audience. If you would like to attend, please email chaplains@delisle.leics.sch.uk by **Monday 18th March** stating the number of people attending with you.

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**We wish all our Irish parishioners a very Happy St Patrick's Day.**

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**This weekend** we welcome students from Ratcliffe College to the Saturday Vigil Mass and pupils from St Mary's School to the 11.15am Sunday Mass. They will be doing the readings at these Masses.

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**UCM Novena:** Please join us in saying our Novena between **Friday 22nd of March - Holy Saturday 30th March**. We will be saying our UCM prayer daily. Copies are at the repository; please take one.

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**The Catch Up Café** will be running monthly starting **Tuesday 9th April** from 1pm - 3pm in the Parish Hall. Meet up with old friends and make new friends. **All are welcome.** Any offers of help would also be gratefully appreciated.

*Dorothy Hutchings*

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**SPUC:** There will be an EGM of SPUC Loughborough on **Monday 8th April** at 7.30pm in the Church Hall. Members and non-members welcome

*Michael Murphy  
Chair, SPUC Loughborough*

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## 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.

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## Grant for Reception-Year 2 at Loughborough Amherst School

As part of our commitment to connect more closely with the local community, Loughborough Amherst School has introduced the 'Rosminian Grant', a package of financial support available to families looking for a place for their child at our School in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 from September 2024. If you would like to find out more, please contact our Registrar Ms Wyatt on 01509 638280.

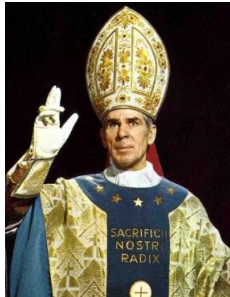
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**Stock on sale at the repository** includes gifts and cards for Easter. There are also statues, and devotional items for St Joseph, whose feast day is on **19th March**. Card payments are now accepted, as well as cash. Thank you for your support.

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## From the Saints

*"At least three times a day, deny yourself some legitimate pleasure...for the love of God. These little 'deaths' are so many rehearsals for the final death. Dying is a masterpiece, and to do it well, we must die daily: 'If any man would come after Me, let him...take up his cross daily' (Luke 9:23)"*  
Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen (1895-1979)



## Holy Week Services

### **Maundy Thursday**

**6.30pm:** Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper and Procession to the Altar of Repose

Watching until **11.15pm**

### **Good Friday**

**10.00am:** Children's Stations of the Cross in the hall

**3.00pm:** Sacred Liturgy

**7.00pm:** Stations of the Cross followed by Confessions

### **Holy Saturday**

**9.00am** Polish food blessing

**10.30-11.30am:** Confessions

**8.00pm:** Easter Vigil and Solemn Mass

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**Please could any parishioners holding Kwediboma collection boxes return them to the repository by Saturday 30th March. Thank you.**

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## Last Week's Finance

**1st Collection:** £967 of which £156 was gift-aided

**Poor & Needy Parishes:** £369

**Standing orders:** £701 @ 29/02, of which £634 was gift-aided

**Attendance:** 585

*Thank you*

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