

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

3rd SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
(Word of God Sunday)

NEWSLETTER

Winning souls for Christ



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

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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

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Headteacher: Mr C Maher

In today's Gospel (Mark 1:14-20) Our Lord began to call the Apostles, and He said to Simon and Andrew, ***Follow Me and I will make you into fishers of men.*** This call dramatically changed their lives, but it was not made only to the Apostles. Our Lord is also calling us, and He is telling us that if we follow Him, we too will be fishers of men and bring other people to Him.

This coming Thursday, we will celebrate the Feast of the **Conversion of St Paul**. His conversion is one of the most dramatic events in the New Testament (Acts 9:1-9). Paul who hated Christians, was imprisoning them and even putting some to death. But then JESUS appeared to him on the road to **Damascus**, spoke a word to him and he was converted. He was baptised and his life changed for ever. A little earlier on in the Acts of the Apostles, we hear the story of the **stoning of St Stephen** (Acts 7:55-60). Saul or Paul as a younger man was standing there guarding their cloaks as the others stoned Stephen to death. In that moment Stephen prayed for him.

So when people persecute the Church today, do we pray for them? Do we pray for their conversion? Do we pray for their good, or do we pray for bad things for them? St Paul probably converted more people to the Christian Faith than any other person in history. But it was God's plan to use him, a man who hated JESUS, who was convinced JESUS wasn't the Messiah, and who was killing Christians, to convert the Gentiles and pagans to the Faith. So just after his encounter with JESUS, he went to the Damascus synagogue and preached to the Jews there that JESUS is the Messiah. And then he went to the pagans whom he had also hated and preached the Gospel to them. God works in mysterious ways!

Christians, and especially Catholics are hated by many in the world. Christians are the most persecuted group in the world today. We need to pray for our persecutors and for their conversion. It could be that God is going to use them to convert many people in our day. **St Augustine (354-430) said that without the prayer of St Stephen there would have been no St Paul. In other words, without St Stephen's prayer, Paul wouldn't have received the grace of**

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Ss Timothy & Titus

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Teresa Hurley
Salvatore Brida

May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Wanda Souraty

Rita George

Mary Oliver

Eddie Bak

Bob Harlow

Dennis Thurland

Esther Garrett

Jude Jones

Mary Embleton

Christina O'Sullivan

Matthew Galvin

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 20th Vigil Mass
6.00pm For the Parish

Sun 21st Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Deceased members of the Brown & De Rijk families
11.15am Paul Lallo (RIP)
4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 22nd St Vincent (Memoria)
9.15am Anna Biddles (RIP)

Tues 23rd Feria
9.15am Bishop Patrick McKinney (GE)

Weds 24th St Timothy, Bishop & Martyr
6.30pm Alice Cahill (RIP) (Latin)

Thurs 25th The Conversion of St Paul (Feast)
9.15am Intention for the living

Fri 26th Ss Timothy & Titus (Memoria)
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Deceased of the Giorgio & Mancini families

Sat 27th Saturday Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary
10.00am Reginald & Ambro Faulks (RIP) **NO PUBLIC MASS**
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
with *Confessions* 10.30-11.30am & *Benediction* 12.20pm
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** Marie Styvén (RIP, Anniversary)

Sun 28th Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Matthew Galvin & Dennis Thurland (RIP, Anniversary)
11.15am For the Parish
2.30pm *Baptism*
4.00pm 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

Tues 23rd Bible Study - 7.00pm in the library

Weds 24th UCM - 2.00pm in the hall

Thurs 25th RCIA - 7.00pm in the library

We welcome Mr James Neville, the new Headmaster at Amherst School, who will talk briefly about the school at the end of this Sunday's Masses.

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conversion. So are we willing to suffer for others, to accept the trials God deals to us and offer them to God for the conversion of our enemies? St Stephen had no idea that his death would bring about the conversion of the man who was responsible for it. And now they are great saints together in Heaven.

The Church is going through her own Passion right now, and many of you are upset and distraught about it. There is much confusion and we have people trying to change divinely revealed truth to fit with the secular agenda. But we must trust in God. He is permitting this to happen, and out of it He will bring a great good and purification of the Church. Ultimately the only thing that will matter is our **fidelity to JESUS Christ**. So whatever we have to face, just remain **faithful**. That means loving God and our neighbour. Very often our neighbour doesn't love us, but you may be the one to touch their heart and bring about their conversion. This is the **“new evangelisation”**. Perhaps God wants you to be a part of it!

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

KSC Quiz: The Knights of St Columba are holding their next quiz in Sacred Heart Parish Hall at 7.30pm on **Saturday 3rd February 2024**, with all profits from the evening going to Intercare, a charity dedicated to providing medical aid to Africa. The cost remains at £7 a head, £3 for children and students, to include a cheese supper, wine and soft drinks. Call Will Holland on 07811 353 248 to book.

Events at the Rosmini Centre, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, LE7 4SJ

Email: rosminicentre1855@gmail.com

Reconciliation and Healing service: Friday 16th February.

Mass at 7.00pm followed by Adoration during which a priest will be available to hear confessions and another to give blessings. The evening will end with Benediction at 8.30pm.

‘Stand and Stare’, a day of recollection: Saturday 9th March.

Mass at 10am followed by refreshments and a talk by Fr. Ted at 11.00am. Then free time before a buffet lunch at 12.30pm. Another talk at 2.00pm will be followed by Adoration at 3.00pm and Benediction at 4.00pm. Cost: £10.

Retreat-Pilgrimage to Italy in the footsteps of Blessed Antonio Rosmini, 13-23 May 2024, with Fr David Tobin IC. £1,645.00.

See leaflet at the back of the church for more information. For further details, contact the retreat organiser, Fr Anthony Weaver: 0207 379 7273 - retreatsdover@gmail.com.

SJOG Homes for

Ukraine: If you are interested in hosting a family from Ukraine, please see the noticeboard at the back of the Church for details of the Homes for Ukraine Gathering on **Friday 2nd February** in Leicester. The information is also available at sjog-homesforukraine.uk

Volunteer church cleaners

The Church is open for cleaning every Friday from 9.30am to 11.30am More volunteers are needed to help keep our church looking its best. Please come and help if you can; stay for as long as you like. All cleaning materials are supplied. If you are able to help please let Emily or Elvira know – elviralallo@icloud.com. Thank you.

Year of Prayer Podcast:

This month's episode of Encounter Prayer is now available. We explore a type of Lectio Divina (prayerful reading of the scriptures) with Sean Jinks and Sophie Rimac of the Seven Steps Scripture Sharing Group in Leicester. Find it by searching Diocese of Nottingham on any podcast provider (Google, Apple, Amazon, Spotify etc) or visit dioceseofnottingham.uk/yearofprayer to listen/download.

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.

A reflection from Pope Francis for the Year of Prayer, Third Sunday of the Year:

If during prayer we feel sluggish and empty, we must at that moment beg that Jesus' prayer also become our own. "I cannot pray today, I don't know what to do: I don't feel like it, I am unworthy". In this moment Jesus is before the Father, praying for us; let us trust in this! If we are trustful, we will then hear a voice from heaven, "You are God's beloved, you are a child, you are the joy of the Father in heaven".

This Sunday, the Third in Ordinary Time is now known as the 'Sunday of the Word of God' devoted to the celebration and study of Scripture. Pope Francis says, "*A day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event but rather a year-long event, for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the risen Lord, who continues to speak his word and to break bread in the community of believers.*"



From the Saints

"Sanctify yourself and you will sanctify society."

(St Francis of Assisi, ca. 1181-1226)

Sunday 28th January is World Leprosy Day.

The second collection next weekend will be for Leprosy, an international charity working in India and Bangladesh to support people affected by leprosy and refer them for treatment and care. This year will mark the charity's centenary.

18th-25th January is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Last Rites does not mean

Last Minute! As soon as a person begins to be in danger of death because of illness, injury or old age, the time for anointing has surely already come. *Fr Paul*



Scan to visit the parish website

Last Week's Finance

1st Collection: £902 of which £155 was gift-aided

Sick & retired diocesan priests: £311

Standing orders: £699 @ 31/12, of which £631 was gift-aided

Attendance: 587

Thank you
