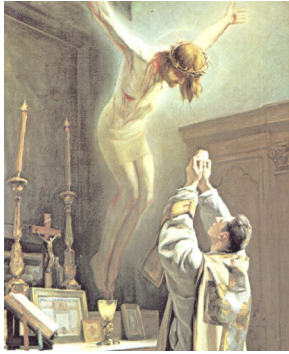


St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

FIFTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

NEWSLETTER

Do I really have to come to Mass every Sunday?



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

Many Catholics today are under the impression that they need only attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation as and when they feel like it. This is a big error which from time to time needs correcting, hence the title of this newsletter. **ALL Sundays are Holydays of Obligation**, and in England and Wales, the other days Catholics are obliged to attend Mass are: Christmas Day (25th December), Epiphany of Our Lord (6th January), Ascension of the Lord (Thursday after 6th Sunday of Easter), St Peter and Paul (29th June), The Assumption of Our Lady (15th August) and All Saints (1st November). There is also Corpus Christi which is traditionally celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday, but the current practice in England and Wales is to transfer it to the following Sunday. And if you think that's a lot, before Pope St Pius X reduced the number of Holydays of Obligation to eight in 1911 with his *motu proprio* *Supremi disciplinae*, there were thirty-six Holydays of Obligation! Regarding Sundays and Holydays, here is what the Code of Canon Law says:

Can. 1246 §1. *"Sunday, on which by Apostolic tradition the paschal mystery is celebrated, must be observed in the universal Church as the primordial holyday of obligation."* And then, Can. 1247 says: *"On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass"*.

The Sunday obligation may also be fulfilled by attending the Vigil Mass on a Saturday evening. If you are housebound or sick, or you have to look after a sick person or a child, or you are travelling, or you are a long way from the nearest Mass, or you arrive at Mass and find it is cancelled because the priest is sick, you are dispensed from the obligation. But to not come to Mass because you have arranged other things such as sports, or you've decided you want to sleep late, or you simply don't feel like coming, is a mortal sin, and you should not receive Holy Communion again until you have been to Confession. If you receive Holy Communion in a state of mortal sin, you commit the further mortal sin of sacrilege. Parents must teach this to their children. The Catechism of the Catholic Church makes it clear:

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St Catherine of Siena

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Joan MacMillan
Deacon Peter Astill
Mary Yandeh Njie-Wilson
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Norman Welband
Mark Hamilton
Dale Morrison
Lidia Orzeszek
Jo Ucar
Fr Stuart Allan
Pasqua Genco
Greg O'Connor
Antonietta Perone
Giuseppina Giorgio
Rosemary Meredith

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 27th Vigil Mass
6.00pm Henryka Abucewicz (RIP, Anniversary)

Sun 28th Fifth Sunday of Easter
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Betty Lane (RIP)
4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 29th St Catherine of Siena, Patron of Europe (Feast)
9.15am Intention for the living

Tues 30th St Pius V (Memoria)
9.15am Teresa Hurley (RIP)
6.30pm *Holy Hour for Vocations*

Weds 1st St Joseph the Worker
5.00pm *Baptism*
6.30pm Intention for the living (Latin)

Thurs 2nd St Athanasius (Memoria)
9.15am Greg O'Connor (RIP, Anniversary)
6.00pm *Baptism*

Fri 3rd Ss Philip & James (First Friday)
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Our Deceased Relatives and Friends

Sat 4th The English Martyrs (Feast) (Five First Saturdays D'ion)
10.00am Greg O'Connor (RIP) **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: Ines & Felixberto Cogal (RIP, Anniversary)**

Sun 5th Sixth Sunday of Easter
9.00am For the Parish
11.15am Michael Boakes (RIP, Anniversary)
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

Month of Our Lady: Next weekend will be the first in the month of May, Our Lady's month. We will have the crowning of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima at all Masses and a short procession at the 11.15am Mass

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#2181 “... the faithful are **obliged** to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. **Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin.**”

So it is a serious thing to miss Mass. However, if you regularly have to work on a Sunday, the Parish Priest can give you a dispensation so as you may fulfil your obligation by attending Mass on a different day, which some of you already do. But why is it so serious to miss Mass on a Sunday or day of obligation? Firstly, God commands that we keep the Sabbath holy, but even more importantly **we owe Him worship.** He is the Creator. He has given us everything we have, including life, and so we owe Him **everything.** Even if you are bored and you feel you pray better elsewhere, it doesn't matter. You still owe God the worship. **We must give God what He deserves, and He deserves the best,** which is the Sacrifice of His Son on the Cross which is made present on the altar at every Mass, and then offered to the Father for His glory and for the salvation of the world. Your prayers and your presence at Mass matter, and so when you don't come, God is less glorified and the world is less sanctified, and even worse, you may find you drift away from Him altogether. And every Mass you attend with devotion will give you a higher place in Heaven.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Gift-aiding at St Mary's: Due to increased postage costs, the usual annual letter to our 77 regular Gift-aiders will not be available this May. If anyone needs a written confirmation of their annual total contribution for the tax year ended 31/3/24, could they please let me know. Numbered collection envelopes for 2024/2025 will be available in church later in May. For gift-aided donations (using the blue or white envelopes), please ensure each envelope is signed and dated to enable us to claim the gift-aided amount.

There will be a Holy Hour for Vocations this Tuesday at 6.30pm. Therefore, on this occasion, Fr David's Bible class will begin **just after 7.30pm.**

This week at St Mary's

Mon 29th First Holy Communion Class - 4.15pm in the hall
Tues 30th Bible study - 7.30pm in the library
Weds 1st UCM - 7.30pm in the hall
Thurs 2nd RCIA - 7.00pm in the library

The Diocesan Education Service is seeking to appoint a highly professional, motivated Governance, Admissions and Appeals Officer to join their small and friendly team. The post will start on **1st September**, at a salary between £38k and £42k, and applications should be received by **Tuesday 7th May**. More details can be found at www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers

The UCM Walsingham Pilgrimage will take place on **Tuesday 2nd July**.

Come and join us. Please add your name to the list at the repository and leave £10 in an envelope with your name on to cover the Pilgrims cost for the day. The coach cost will be collected later. Please see the article “Changes to the UCM National Pilgrimage 2024” on the notice board at the back of the church. Note: the whole day will be spent at the Basilica.

Fr Simon will be celebrating his Golden Jubilee of Priesthood on Sunday 5th May. If you would like to send him your good wishes, his address is St Mary's Derryswood, Wonersh, Guildford, Surrey GU5 0RA.

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.

All counters: A quick word of appreciative thanks to all those of you who regularly turn out to fulfil this weekly but crucial hidden task in support of St Mary's. You are all accurate and irreplaceable. The new rota will be issued soon. *Marion Shaw & Geoff Mercer*

Grub Club: We are looking for more volunteers (aged 18+), especially during the summer holidays. No experience is needed. For more information, see the noticeboard at the back of the church or contact Eileen Smith on 07855456375 or Catherine Brady at catherinembrady@gmail.com. *Eileen Smith*

The Repository will be open for the First Holy Communion candidates' parents and guardians **on Monday 29th April** between 4.00pm and 5.00pm.

Marie Brookes will be selling her cakes, jams, chutneys etc after this Sunday's Masses. The proceeds will be donated to SPUC.



From the Saints

"It would be easier for the world to exist without the sun than without the Mass."

St Padre Pio (1887-1968)

Bishop Patrick will be celebrating his 70th birthday on Tuesday. Let us keep him in our prayers on this significant day in his life.

UCM Evening Meetings

To accommodate women unable to attend afternoon meetings, we are planning monthly evening meetings, which will depend on need. The first meeting will be on **Wednesday 1st May** in the hall at 7.30pm. All women are welcome whether they are mothers or not.

Dorothy Hutchings

De Lisle College Open Days - 7th, 8th, 9th & 10th May 2024:

There will be two sessions each day, at 9.00am & 10.00am. To book a place, call 01509 268739 or email enquiries@delisle.leics.sch.uk

There will be an emergency Second Collection today, organised by CAFOD, to get humanitarian aid to the people of Sudan.

Last Week's Finance

1st Collection: £876 (£153 gift-aided)

Clergy Formation Fund: £239

Standing orders: £691 @ 31/03 (£632 gift-aided)

Attendance: 557

Thank you
