

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

16th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

No Priests

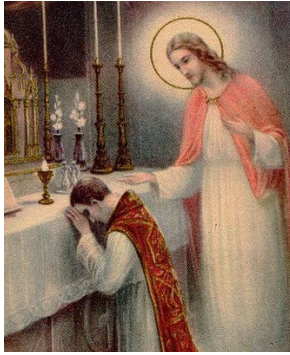
Next Sunday **28th July**, I'm sorry to say, due to unavoidable circumstances, **there will be no 9am or 11.15am Mass** due to no priest being available, and not for want of trying! However, **the Saturday 6pm Mass will be celebrated as usual, and there will be a one-off special 6pm Mass on Sunday evening.** There is also the option of the Italian Mass at 4pm with Fr Belsito. Apologies for any inconvenience. The normal Sunday Mass schedule will resume the following weekend.

Fewer Masses due to a lack of priests has become a reality.

Parishes formerly run by three or four priests now have only one. When I arrived here in 2015 we were four priests, although two were retired. And had God not sent us Fr David, I would today probably be the only priest at St Mary's. So we are very fortunate to have just one church but with two priests.

We are also very fortunate in that we have a **daily** Mass. Many priests today find themselves responsible for two, three or even four churches, which means there is no longer the possibility of a daily Mass in each building. Most churches today are doing very well if they have one or two Masses during the week with a Sunday Mass, and if they're really lucky they might have a Saturday evening Mass too. In some parts of the country people have for a while now had to travel further afield to find a Mass. But even this is not sustainable in the long run, as more and more pressure is being put on the remaining priests, many of whom are well past retirement age, while others suffer from burnout and breakdowns. In fact the present system would collapse entirely were it not for priests coming from abroad and retired priests helping out. And priests trying to come from abroad often face massive difficulties obtaining visas.

Three priests in our Loughborough Deanery retired in 2022 and no one has replaced them, thus the various recent amalgamations of parishes in the area. Sometimes a bishop has to make the hard decision to close a church which can be very upsetting for the people, but often there is no alternative. Nottingham Diocese right now has just two seminarians, and their



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

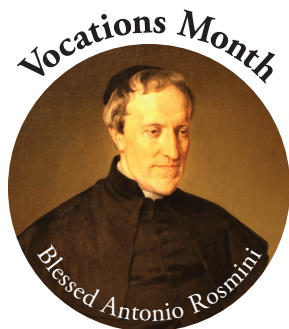
Loughborough LE11 4SQ

01509 268739

enquiries@delisle.leics.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr C Maher

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Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died

Dennis Webb

Sarah Gallagher

Guy Nash

May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Lily Rigley

Domenica Coviello

Margaret Armstead

Amelia Michalski

Norman Denton

Helen Mitchell

Carmelo Lopez-Lopez

Carmen Langley

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 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Margaret Evans (RIP)
11.15am Joan MacMillan (RIP)
4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 22nd St Mary Magdalene (Feast)
9.15am Intention for the living

Tues 23rd St Bridget, Patron of Europe (Feast)
9.15am Vittorio Giorgio (RIP)

Weds 24th St Charbul Makhluif (Memoria)
6.30pm Intention for the living (Ordinariate)

Thurs 25th St James, Apostle (Feast)
9.15am Pat Stevens (RIP)

Fri 26th Ss Joachim & Anne, parents of the BVM (Memoria)
6.00-6.25pm Confessions
6.30pm Natalie Gillham (RIP, Anniversary)

Sat 27th Saturday Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary
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: Sylvia James (RIP)

Sun 28th Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
4.00pm Italian Mass
6.00pm Deceased of the Galvin & Thurland families

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

CAFOD have written to thank you for the £324 raised through Marie Brookes cake sale for the starving children in Sudan.

Fr Paul

Continued from front page

ordinations, assuming they stay, will not be soon. It takes seven years to form a priest. And the Rosminians have no seminarians from this country. So you see that there are going to be occasions when it won't always be possible to stick to the regular schedule of Masses, **as we are now at the stage where there is no slack in the system.** In the not too distant future it could come to the point when you won't have **regular access** to a priest.

However, next weekend, in addition to the one-off 6pm Sunday Mass at St Mary's, on Sunday morning there is an 8.30am Mass at Mount St Bernard's Monastery, an 11am Mass at Sacred Heart, Loughborough, and a 10am Mass at St Winefride's in Shepshed. Please remember, vocations are born in the home and in the family. Will you please all do your bit by praying hard for vocations and promoting priestly and religious vocations within your own homes and families.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Interested in becoming Catholic? If you are and you're over 18, you can join the RCIA course (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) which will begin towards the end of September. We meet alternate Thursdays at 7pm and study the Catholic faith. If you enrol on the course there is no obligation to become a Catholic at the end of it. The course is also suitable for already Catholic adults who would like to be confirmed. Please contact Fr Paul or email the parish office.

March for Life UK will take place in London on **Saturday 7th September.** There will be a coach from St Mary's if enough people would like to go. Please sign up on the SPUC noticeboard at the back of the church. The theme for this year's march is 'Abortion isn't Healthcare'. Find out more at marchforlife.co.uk.

LACY ask you to save the date! A date for your diaries from *Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth!* After last year's success "The Big Sing" will be here again on **6th October 2024** at 4.00pm. at The Immaculate Conception Church, Oadby. We are inviting all young people, families, friends and parishes with their own music groups and choirs, to come along and be involved in the liturgy with their voices and instruments. Our posters and full information will come out to you all at the end of August but **SAVE THE DATE TO YOUR DIARIES!** Contact information: Pauline Payne 07885 187374 paulinepayne@hotmail.com or Jo Shearer – joshearer@hotmail.com.

VACANCY

The Diocesan Education Service is seeking to appoint a highly professional, motivated Governance Manager to join their small and friendly team. This is a part-time / term-time permanent appointment. The post will start on **1st September**, at a FTE salary of between £38k and £42k. Applications should be received by noon, **Monday 29th July.** More details can be found at www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers

Confirmation 2025:

Those wishing to be confirmed in 2025 should be in at least Year 7 by September 2024. This is advance notice that anyone applying should be attending weekly Mass now. Those not already attending weekly Mass for a considerable time by the time the application forms are available will be asked to postpone their application until such a time as they are.

Fr Paul

PLEASE NOTE

There will be no 9.00am or 11.15am Mass on Sunday 28th July

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.

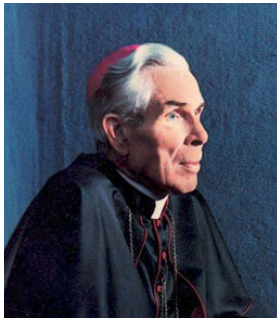
Leader: Mary, Queen of the Clergy!

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.

During the school holidays Grub Club will be open at the United Reformed Church on Frederick St. every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from **Monday 22nd July until Tuesday 13th August** from **11.00am until 2.00pm**. The children will have a range of activities and everyone will get a 3-course lunch, with the main course being a hot meal. The target audience for Grub Club is those families who may be struggling, financially, especially during this lengthy summer break. If you know of any families who you think would benefit from this provision please tell them the details. There is no need to book; just turn up.



From the Saints

“The search for vocations begins on our knees. One bishop had no candidates for the priesthood in two years. He began a campaign of prayer in the schools of his diocese, and without any other publicity, he had activated forty vocations at the end of one year.”

Venerable Fulton Sheen (1895-1979)

Our Parish now has Contactless Giving

Your donations will maintain our beautiful church building and support the work, mission, and ministry of our parish.

Contactless giving is simple:

Select your amount and hold your card against the card reader. For donations of £100 or over, Chip & Pin can be used

Last Week's Finance

1st Collection: £571 (£55 gift-aided)

Stella Maris: £312 (£60 gift-aided)

Standing orders: £832 @ 30/06 (£705 gift-aided)

Attendance: 409

Thank you

Please consider switching your weekly offering to Standing Order and adding Gift Aid if possible

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



Scan here for standing order and gift aid forms