



*THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF
OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION
FOSTER AVENUE,
BEESTON,
NOTTINGHAM, NG9 1AE*

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TIMES OF MASSES AND OTHER SERVICES: Week Commencing 2nd April 2017

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A.

FIFTH WEEK OF LENT: 2nd – 8th April 2017 (Weekday Cycle Year 1 / Psalter Week 1)

<u>Saturday 1st April: Lenten Feria (First Saturday)</u>	<i><u>PARISH FINANCES</u></i>	
10:00 am: Mass; Intentions of Sister Marguerite Wong (Ruby Anniversary) 10:45 am: Confessions	25 th / 26 th March 2017	
<u>Saturday 1st April: Fifth Sunday of Lent</u>	Envelopes:	<div style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><u>TOTAL:</u></div> Chad: Intercare: SVP:
5:00 pm: Confessions 5:30 pm: Mass; John Burn & Monica Bamford RIP (King)	Loose Plate:	
<u>Sunday 2nd April: Fifth Sunday of Lent</u>	Standing Orders:	
9:00 am: Mass; In Thanksgiving (Hopkins) 4:00 pm: Stations of the Cross and Benediction		
<u>Monday 3rd April: Lenten Feria</u>		
9:00 am: Mass; Special Intention	<i>Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the Parish.</i>	
<u>Tuesday 4th April: Lenten Feria</u>	<u>SECOND COLLECTION</u>	
12:30 pm: Confessions 1:00 pm: Mass Holy Souls	THIS WEEKEND'S Second Collection will be for the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund.	
<u>Wednesday 5th April: Lenten Feria</u>	<u>Stations of the Cross</u>	
7:00 pm: Mass; Private Intention (Calladine)	On <i>Friday</i> evening (7:00pm) and <i>Sunday</i> afternoon (4:00pm) with Benediction. As a way of doing something extra for Lent come and reflect on the suffering and death of Our Lord in this traditional Catholic devotion and meditation prayer.	
<u>Thursday 6th April: Lenten Feria</u>	<div style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><i>Your Prayers are requested for those who are sick:</i></div> Isobel Alana Barnes, Meg Bailey, Marica Borsos, Pat Constable, David Fox, Alec Groom, Audrey Mc Coy, Fr Joseph O' Hanlon, Ann Harrison, Bernadette Retallick, Mary Staley and John Webster.	
9:00 am: Mass; Special Intention		
<u>Friday 7th April: Lenten Feria</u>		
12:30 pm: Confessions 1:00 pm: Mass; Celebrant's Intention 7:00 pm: Stations of the Cross		
<u>Saturday 8th April: Lenten Feria</u>		
10:00 am: Mass; Sick of the Parish 10:45 am: Confessions		
<u>Saturday 8th April: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</u>		
5:00 pm: Confessions 5:30 pm: Mass; Tom Mernagh RIP		
<u>Sunday 9th April: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</u>		
9:00 am: Mass; Pro Populo; People of the Parish 4:00 pm: Stations of the Cross and Benediction		

ROTAS:	5.30 pm	9.00 am
Welcomers:		M Simpson & L Newbold
Next Week:		K Orford – Perkins & M Neale
Readers:	M Sully	A Horgan
Next Week:	A Simmons	R Marlow
Offertory:	J Fox & N Brennan	D & D Wilson
Next Week:	K Twomey & J Lyons	M Ferrara & N Iacovitti
Coffee:	N Burrows & M Walton	Next Week: M Caladine & L Wittam
Cashiers:	N Mason	Next Week: J Walton
Flowers:	NO FLOWERS (LENT)	Next Week: NO FLOWERS (LENT)
Cleaning:	Team Begley	Next Week: Team Powell
Brasses:	K Bennett	Next Week: L Newbold

FIRST CONFESSION / FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Thank you to all those parents who have returned the enrolment forms for First Confession and First Holy Communion. There will be an initial meeting for all parents after Mass and Coffee **NEXT SUNDAY, 9th April 2017** in the Parish Hall at 11:00 am. If for any reason at least one parent is not able to attend could you please let me know as soon as possible.

LENTEN HUNGER LUNCH: We are planning to serve Home Made Soup and a bread roll as part of our Lenten Fast, for the second time on **Friday 7th April 2017**. This will take place after the 1:00 pm Mass. The cost, payable on the door, will be £ 1.50 and all proceeds will be divided equally between CAFOD and Mary's Meals.

BIG CUTTING FUN: Please come with your *scissors* and *pencil* and especially do not forget your *children* as a Big Cutting Fun is organised in the Parish Hall after Mass **THIS Sunday 2nd April 2017**. All are invited! We are going to create 800 "Forget – Me – Not" flowers which will be used to accentuate the visit of the Miraculous Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the Cathedral in Nottingham in April. The best team will be rewarded!!! – *Beata Wasilewska*.

STRENGTH TO STRENGTH: Our series of talks on Prayer continue on **Wednesday** evenings after 7:00 pm Mass. This week's fifth session will be in the Parish Hall entitled, "*Lord Teach Us to Pray*." Everyone welcome.

POOR CLARES: The Sisters send their grateful thanks for the donations received from our Parish this week and they pray for our Parish every day. The next visit will be **24th April 2017**. – *Diane Wilson*.

FAIR TRADE SALE: Thanks to everyone who supported the Fair Trade sale last weekend, any profits made from the sale of fairly traded goods goes to Mary's Meals which is a charity supporting Third World schoolchildren. Further details are on the Fair Trade notice board at the back of Church. The next sale will be **29th/30th April 2017**. Fair Trade easter eggs ordered last weekend will be available during Holy Week. (Mary's Meals website: www.marysmeals.org.uk) – *Diane Wilson*.

CHOCOLATE HAMPER: Raffle Tickets will be on sale from next weekend for two magnificent Chocolate Hampers. Tickets will be available for the next two weekends and cost £1 per strip. The winning tickets will be drawn after Mass on Easter Sunday. All proceeds go to Parish funds. Many thanks – *The Bazaar Committee*.

MISSIO: Many thanks to everyone who supported MISSIO last year, either by having a Red Box or donating via direct donation. Our parish raised a wonderful total of **£ 1, 444. 70** well done everyone. If you would like a Red Box or you already have one and would like it emptied then please let me know. *Diane Wilson* (Parish MISSIO Secretary).

POCKET GOSPELS: Bishop Patrick has asked me to inform you that a Pocket Gospels (£4.99) and Gift Edition (£12.99) are being published by the Bible Society. The Society recognised that there was no edition of the Four Gospels available alone and set about changing this and making available to the Catholic Community these two volumes which are available for you to buy. In 2014 Pope Francis said: "Everyone should carry a small Bible or pocket edition of the Gospels and should find at least a few minutes every day to read the Word of God." These editions of the Gospels are a great size to carry around. It includes an extra colour section on the background and meaning of the Gospels to help readers into the Scriptures. If you would like a copy please let me know, as we may get a discount for larger orders.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT: GOD NEVER GIVES UP ON US.

Jesus is drawing to the end of his earthly mission. His disciples have been accompanying Him for almost three years. And here once again they see Jesus showing divine knowledge. And yet, even at this late point in His ministry, after three years of continually witnessing Christ's miracles, and experiencing His divine wisdom, His disciples still don't understand Him; they still don't know their Lord. They still misconstrue His words – they think He's talking about sleep when He is really talking about death. They still doubt His good sense and power – they try to dissuade Him from returning to Jerusalem, where His enemies lurk. After all this time and experience, they just don't get it. Any lesser Lord would have given up long ago on these slow and witless followers, but not Jesus. He is a Lord who serves His subjects, teaching them and guiding them to the fullness of life with tireless patience. The needier they are, the more attentive He is, the more eager to give them whatever it takes to help them believe in, trust and, follow Him. Aren't we just like the Apostles? We have been Christians for so long, heard so many sermons, received Holy Communion so often. And yet, in the middle of life's ups and downs we still find it hard to figure out what God is asking of us. In the middle of life's temptations, we still find it hard to trust Him enough to follow His will instead of our own. But He hasn't given up on us, and He never will. Our Lord is truly Lord, but He is a Lord who rules by love. Everything in the Church reminds us that God never gives up on us. The altar is solid and immovable – like God's love. The Crucifix is front and centre, the emblem of God's unlimited forgiveness. The Tabernacle and the Sanctuary Lamp quietly keep vigil over the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist – perhaps the greatest proof of all that God will never give up on us. But one item expresses God's untiring love with particular eloquence: The Confessional. The mere existence of Confessionals proves that God doesn't just make empty promises – He puts His love and power into action. He entrusted the forgiveness of sins to His Church, because He knew that His followers would need it. He knew that we would keep being tempted, keep falling into sin, keep experiencing weakness. He knew that the devil would try to use those experiences to discourage us and distance us from God. But the Confessional is the guaranteed shield against that temptation. Its mere presence is an undeniable witness to the fact that Christ will never give up on us. No matter what happens, no matter what we do or fail to do, we can always go into that Confessional, receive God's forgiveness, with no room for doubt, get some solid spiritual advice, if we want it and, Sacramental grace, and start over again. God never gives up on us; the Confessional proves it. But we often give up on God, settling for being an inoffensive Christian instead of striving to become a saint.

Items for the newsletter can be given to Fr Christopher or e – mailed to frathomas@live.com by Thursday of each week for inclusion in the next issue.