



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

Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocese Trustees Company No. 7151646 Charity No. 1134449

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Christopher A Thomas, Presbytery, 25 Foster Avenue

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TIMES OF MASSES AND OTHER SERVICES: **Week Commencing 17th December 2017**

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) Year B

Third Week of Advent: 17th – 23rd December 2017 (Weekday Cycle Year 2 / Psalter Week 3)

Saturday 16th December: <u>Advent Feria</u>	<i>PARISH FINANCES</i>	
10:00 am: Mass; Trevor Jones RIP		
10:45 am: Confessions	<i>9th /10th December 2017</i>	
Saturday 16th December: <u>Second Sunday of Advent Year B</u>		
5:00 pm: Confessions	Envelopes:	
5:30 pm: Mass; Pro Populo; People of the Parish	Loose Plate:	
Sunday 17th December: <u>Third Sunday of Advent Year B</u>	Standing Orders:	
9:00 am: Mass; Eddie Reilly RIP (Anniversary)	TOTAL:	
Monday 18th December: <u>Third Sunday of Advent Year B</u>	Chad:	
9:00 am: Mass; Special Intention	Intercare:	
Tuesday 19th December: <u>Advent Feria</u>	SVP:	
12:30 pm: Confessions	<i>Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the Parish.</i>	
1:00 pm: Mass; In Thanksgiving (RHB)		
Wednesday 20th December: <u>Advent Feria</u>	SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND FOR THE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS.	
7:00 pm: Mass; Holy Souls		
Thursday 21st December: <u>St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor (memoria)</u>		
9:00 am: Mass; Gloria Condon RIP (Bazaar Committee)	<i>Your Prayers are requested for those who are sick:</i>	
Friday 22nd December: <u>Advent Feria</u>		
12:30 pm: Confessions	Catherine Adlington,	
1:00 pm: Mass; Barbara Dysiewicz RIP (Maria)	Isobel Alana Barnes, Meg Bailey,	
Saturday 23rd December: <u>Advent Feria</u>	Gerhard Barwitzki,	
10:00 am: Mass; Special Intention	Marica Borsos, Margaret Brown,	
10:45 am: Confessions	Pat Constable, Maureen Doherty,	
Saturday 23rd December: <u>Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B</u>	Jim & Margaret Dougan,	
5:00 pm: Confessions	Fr Joseph O' Hanlon,	
5:30 pm: Mass; Winifred Lally RIP	Ann Harrison,	
Sunday 24th December: <u>Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B</u>	Stephen Hodkinson,	
9:00 am: Mass; For the Parishioners (SVP)	Bernadette Retallick,	
Sunday 24th December: <u>The Nativity of the Lord (Solemnity)</u>	Alan Roberts, Evelyn Venning,	
4:00 pm: Carols before Mass	John Webster, Louise Whitham	
4:30 pm: Vigil Mass: Ron King RIP	and Bob Wilson.	

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

ROTAS:	5.30 pm	9.00 am
Welcomers:		K Orford – Perkins & M Neale
Next Week:		D Wilson & M Roy
Readers:	A Simmons	S Grant
Next Week:	P Hubberstey	S O'Brien
Offertory:	M Sharp & S Spowage	R & N Wilson
Next Week:	M Brown & S Mills	M Castor & Volunteer
Coffee:	M Calladine & Volunteer	Next Week: J Powell & M Calladine
Cashiers:	A Simmons	Next Week: -
Flowers:	NO FLOWERS	Next Week: ALL FLOWER ARRANGERS
Cleaning:	Team Powell	Next Week: Team Newbold
Brasses:	M Castor	Next Week: K Bennett

POOR CLARES: The Sisters were delighted with all the donations they received this week from our Parish. They want you all to know that we are in their prayers every day. The next visit will be **Monday 18th December 2017** – a little earlier than usual but this is to ensure that the Sisters have our donations before Christmas. They are shortly to be joined by 13 sisters from another house which will greatly increase their number and so our donations will be even more important to them. The Sisters are extremely grateful for all the donations they receive and as well as food, welcome donations of washing powder, toilet rolls and cleaner – the same cleaning products that you would use in your own home and, unperfumed toiletries; soap, shower gels, shampoo, etc. – *Diane Wilson*.

MISSIO: There are still a few MISSIO 2018 calendars left – please help yourself.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: If anyone can supply us with red berry holly or nice variegated ivy in long strands for our Christmas flower displays we would be very grateful. If it could be brought to Mass either on Saturday evening 23rd December or Sunday morning 24th December that would be brilliant. We could possibly collect on Saturday afternoon but not on Sunday as time will be very limited. Many thanks for your help. *Margaret Cookson* (07885 217795).

RCIA PROGRAMME: Our RCIA Programme will continue **THIS Wednesday 20th December 2017** in the Parish Hall after the evening Mass. The theme for that week is: **“Jesus Christ the Only Son of God,”** and **“Mary: Mother of God and Mother of the Church.”** *It is still not too late to come along and learn more about our faith.* All welcome.

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS LUNCH CLUB: **THIS Thursday 21st December 2017 at 1:00 pm.** For tickets please contact Stella on 0115 925 5140.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near”

Our relationship with Christ is like the embers of the hearth – fire in ancient times. The hearth was the very centre of ancient households, clans, and tribes – it was the place where a fire or at least a few embers were always kept burning. There were two reasons for this. First, it wasn't easy to start fires before the invention of matches, so the best policy was simply to keep the fire burning. Second, since the hearth was so intricately connected to safety and prosperity; its fire was used for everything: cooking, light, warmth, protection, and tool – making, the embers also carried a symbolic and sacred meaning. They represented the continuous presence of the family or tribal spirit, which was the source of blessings. If you wanted to damage an enemy family or clan, for example, one way to do it was to extinguish their hearth fire or steal their embers. And so, when a family or clan had to migrate or relocate, they would carefully fill a stone container with embers from their hearth, and bring it with them to their new place of residence. In this way, the new hearth would be connected to the old hearth, thus creating continuity with the past and hope for future blessings. But as much as they tried to keep the embers burning, sometimes they simply couldn't – rain or snow, a capsized boat or a sudden storm, could easily douse the flame. Not so for us. Our friendship with Christ is like a burning ember of light, warmth, and blessing that we carry deep within our hearts. No one can take it away and no storm can extinguish it. As long as we ourselves don't throw it away, it will always burn deep within us, filling us and those around us with hope, wisdom and grace even in the coldest, darkest and most tumultuous times of our lives.

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY: This year has been another busy one. We had a lovely afternoon tea after the Service for the Sick and a very interesting outing to the National Arboretum and War Memorial. The Parish was most generous when we appealed for toiletries for the Women's Refuge and we have also been able to help the Canaan Trust (for the homeless). SVP members continue to visit people in their own homes, nursing homes and hospitals and Stella and her helpers produce a wonderful lunch each month. We are now in the process of organising the Christmas gifts. We thank you for all your support over the last year and wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas. Mass will be offered for your intentions on **Sunday 24th December 2017 at 9:00 am.**

ASSUMPTION DOES ALPHA: In January 2018, we will be starting Alpha on a Saturday morning. Alpha is a great tool that helps us in a few ways: 1) If you have friends or family who have questions about the faith it gives a simple introduction that can help them explore it with you; 2) If you feel you've hit a bit of a wall in your faith and you want to get back to where you used to be in your relationship with God and; 3) If you want to grow in confidence so that you can share your faith with others it prepares you for that to. We could still do with a few more helpers especially as part of the time is a shared meal. We will start on **Saturday 13th January 2018 at 11:00 am** in the Parish Hall. For more information please email alpha.assumption@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday 13th January 2017 at 7:00 pm. Combat those "January Blues" by joining your Parish Family at a Snowman Beetle Drive – Fun for all the Family – Tickets available soon.

PILGRIMAGE TO LISIEUX: 9th – 12th April 2018. Full Board £300 (sharing) or £320 (single room) with En Suite facilities. Travel by Silverdale Coach and P&O Ferry to Lisieux in Normandy, France. Follow in the footsteps of St Therese of Lisieux; see the place where she was brought up, the Cathedral where she attended Mass with her family, celebrate a private group Mass in the Basilica and a private group Mass in the Carmel where she lived and died. Guided tour of the museum also included. Full guided pilgrimage by a Guide from the Pilgrim Centre in Lisieux. For more information & a booking form please contact Fr. John McCay at jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk or on 07853 068189

SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF OUR PARISH DURING 2017

13 BAPTISMS



Amara Mae Douglas Green (January), Benedict Emmanuel James Hodkinson Henry Joseph Weston (February), Sienna Pipsy Emmalise Mc Laughlin, Logan James Mc Laughlin (April), Lucas John Hinton, Joshua Robert Hinton, Ella Shea Wadsley (May), Abigail Maria Nancy Longshaw (August), Mathilde Agnes Julia Frances Lubbock (September), Harriet Olivia Bethel, Joseph Nathaniel Couldridge (November) and Oliver William Freyne – Wilkey (December).

14 FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS on 10th June 2017



Grace Agius, Oliver Backhouse, Aidan Betts, Sophie Collins, Thomas Fox, Ieuan Harris, Niamh Lee, Caitlin McCarthy, Dylan Scott, Matthew Simms, Isabella Syson, Lilia Tasker, Gabriella Vesga – Mantilla and Leo Whitham.

2 MARRIAGES



Joseph Eamonn Mc Nally & Rachel Ann Curley (23rd September 2017) and Benjamin Martyn Noel Saunders & Laura Yasmine Saidani (13th November 2017).

14 FUNERALS



Juliana Motowylczyk, Leon Woronoski (January), Josef Granville, Mary (Molly) Teresa Gubbins (February), Josephine Audrey Mc Coy (March), Peace Poppy Smith (May), Jean Margaret Swann, Mary Staley (June), Marion Byrne Cliff, Mary Kathleen Douglas (July), Anne Gertrude Teresa Stokes (September), (Gertrude) Trudie Mc Guirk, David Michael Fox (November) and Gloria Condon (December).

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B

Advent / First Week of Christmas:

24th – 30th December 2017 (Weekday Cycle Year 2 / Psalter – Christmas Day with Proper Texts)

Sunday 24th December: <i>The Nativity of the Lord (Solemnity)</i>	
4:00 pm:	Carols before Mass
4:30 pm:	Vigil Mass; Ron King RIP
11:30 pm:	Carols before Midnight Mass
Monday 25th December: <i>The Nativity of the Lord (Solemnity)</i>	
0:00 am:	Midnight Mass; Pro Populo; People of the Parish
9:30 am:	Mass of the Day; Private Intention
Tuesday 26th December: <i>St Stephen, The First Martyr (Feast)</i>	
10:00 am:	Mass; Gloria Condon RIP (Poor Clares)
Wednesday 27th December: <i>St John, Apostle and Evangelist (Feast)</i>	
10:00 am:	Service of the Word and Holy Communion
Thursday 28th December: <i>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs (Feast)</i>	
10:00 am:	Mass; Michael Armitage 50th Birthday (Wilson & Calladine)
Friday 29th December: <i>St Thomas of Canterbury, (Thomas à Becket) Bishop and Martyr, Patron of Pastoral Clergy (Feast)</i>	
10:00 am:	Mass; Ernest Strickland RIP (Turnbull - Ross)
Saturday 30th December: <i>Sixth Day within the Octave of The Nativity of The Lord</i>	
10:00 am:	Mass; David Powell RIP
Saturday 30th December: <i>The Holy Family of Jesus Mary & Joseph (Feast)</i>	
5:30 pm:	Mass; John Green RIP (Anniversary)
Sunday 31st December: <i>The Holy Family of Jesus Mary & Joseph (Feast)</i>	
9:00 am:	Mass; Marie Calladine's Intentions

ROTAS:	5.30 pm	9.00 am
Welcomers:		D Wilson & M Roy
Next Week:		M Cookson & S Neely
Readers:	P Hubberstey	S O'Brien
Next Week:	M Cummins	N Wilson
Offertory:	M Sharp & S Spowage	R & N Wilson
Next Week:	M & G Sawicki	J Powell & M Calladine
Coffee:	J Powell & M Calladine	Next Week: M Walton & Volunteer
Cashiers:	-	Next Week: N Mason
Flowers:	ALL FLOWER ARRANGERS	Next Week: Ann & Sue
Cleaning:	Team Newbold	Next Week: Team Shalloe
Brasses:	K Bennett	Next Week: L Newbold

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: "Keeping the Balance"

It is not always easy for us to keep a balance between doing our part and letting God do His part in His plan of salvation. Some of us tend to be lazy and self – absorbed, and we just like to enjoy life. For these, the great temptation is presumption; presuming that God will just make everything work out fine and, therefore not making an effort to help build up the Church or spread the faith. Others of us tend to be control freaks. Those who are always doing a thousand things at a time and, when their plans don't work out, or God's providence throws a spanner into the schedule, they are tempted to become discouraged. How can the first group avoid laziness and presumption? How can the second group avoid getting stressed, depressed or obsessed? The answer is to be found in one word: Prayer. A healthy prayer life – which is an ongoing project – gives God an open channel of communication to our soul. And so, He can always send us whatever we need most, whether it's courage or comfort. When we prayerfully read the Bible, its inspired words speak to our hearts the way the prophet Nathan spoke to David and the angel Gabriel spoke to Mary. When we adore the Blessed Sacrament, God's grace fills us with supernatural strength and understanding. When we walk with Mary through the mysteries of the Rosary, she teaches us how to say yes to God, without forgetting that He is the senior partner. God's wonderful plan of salvation is a partnership. As we prepare to welcome Him into our hearts during Mass and, in a special way, at Christmas, let us promise Him that, through hard work and heartfelt prayer, we will always strive to do our part well.