



*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 24th December 2017**

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)

<p><u>Sunday 24th December:</u> <i><u>The Nativity of the Lord</u></i> <i>(Solemnity)</i></p> <p>4:00 pm: Carols before Mass 4:30 pm: Vigil Mass: Ron King RIP 11:30 pm: Carols before Midnight Mass</p>	<p><i>PARISH FINANCES</i></p>
<p><u>Monday 25th December:</u> <i><u>The Nativity of the Lord</u></i> <i>(Solemnity)</i></p> <p>0:00 am: Midnight Mass; Pro Populo; People of the Parish 9:30 am: Mass; Private Intention</p>	<p>16th /17th December 2017</p>
<p><u>Tuesday 26th December:</u> <i><u>St Stephen, The First Martyr</u></i> <i>(Feast)</i></p> <p>10:00 am: Mass; Gloria Condon RIP (Poor Clares)</p>	<p>Envelopes: Loose Plate: Standing Orders:</p>
<p><u>Wednesday 27th December:</u> <i><u>St John, Apostle and Evangelist</u></i> <i>(Feast)</i></p> <p>10:00 am: Service of the Word and Holy Communion</p>	<p><u>TOTAL:</u></p>
<p><u>Thursday 28th December:</u> <i><u>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</u></i> <i>(Feast)</i></p> <p>10:00 am: Mass; Michael Armitage 50th Birthday (Wilson & Calladine)</p>	<p>Chad: Intercare: SVP: Christmas Flowers:</p>
<p><u>Friday 29th December:</u> <i><u>St Thomas of Canterbury, (Thomas à Becket) Bishop and Martyr, Patron of Pastoral Clergy (Feast)</u></i></p> <p>10:00 am: Mass; Ernest Strickland RIP (Turnbull – Ross)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the Parish.</i></p>
<p><u>Saturday 30th December:</u> <i><u>Sixth Day within the Octave of The Nativity of The Lord</u></i></p> <p>10:00 am: Mass; David Powell RIP</p>	<p><i>Your Prayers are requested for those who are sick:</i></p>
<p><u>Saturday 30th December:</u> <i><u>The Holy Family of Jesus Mary & Joseph (Feast)</u></i></p> <p>5:30 pm: Mass; John Green RIP (Anniversary)</p>	<p>Catherine Adlington, Isobel Alana Barnes, Meg Bailey, Gerhard Barwitzki, Marica Borsos, Margaret Brown, Pat Constable, Maureen Doherty, Jim & Margaret Dougan, Fr Joseph O’ Hanlon, Ann Harrison, Stephen Hodkinson, Bernadette Retallick, Alan Roberts, Evelyn Venning, John Webster, Louise Whitham and Bob Wilson.</p>
<p><u>Sunday 31st December:</u> <i><u>The Holy Family of Jesus Mary & Joseph (Feast)</u></i></p> <p>9:00 am: Mass; Marie Calladine's Intentions</p>	

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:		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



ENGLISH MARTYRS' CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY RECEPTION

2018/19 INTAKE: The deadline for Reception places 2018 / 19 is fast approaching (15th January 2018). If you have, or know of any families, who have children born between 1st September 2013 – 31st August 2014 and would be interested in a place at our school please contact the school office or speak with your local authority. The school are holding an **Open Morning** on the 10th January 2018 from 9.30 to 11.30 am, all welcome! – *Mrs Kate Mann* (Headteacher)

RCIA PROGRAMME: Our RCIA Programme will resume on *Wednesday 17th January 2017* in the Parish Hall after the evening Mass. The theme for that week is: *“The Reign of God,”* and *“The Passion of Christ.”* All welcome. *It is still not too late to come along and learn more about our faith.*



THANK YOU to all who have helped to prepare the Church for the Christmas celebrations and to all those who have contributed to and supported the Parish during 2017. Special thanks to the Cleaners, Flower Arrangers, Sacristans, Altar Servers, Readers, Ministers, Children's Liturgy Group, Musicians and Choir, Catechists, Welcomers, Collection Counters and all those whose hard work and endeavours often goes unnoticed. Many thanks to you all.

I would also like to express my thanks for all your cards, gifts and messages of support, not only at this time but throughout the year; it has been very much appreciated. I am also very grateful to all who helped to prepare and celebrate my Silver Jubilee of Ordination in May. It has really been a most enjoyable and memorable year, I wish you all Best Wishes and Prayers for Happy, Holy and Peaceful Christmas and every good wish for a prosperous New Year. – Fr Christopher Thomas

CHRISTMAS: The Farmer and the Geese

All religions involve mankind's effort to get back into a stable and healthy relationship with God – that is why they can appear to be so similar. But Christianity is the only religion in which mankind's effort to find God is met by the unimaginable event of God Himself deciding to come down into human nature so that He can be more easily found. It is like the farmer who stayed home on Christmas Eve because he didn't believe in Jesus. A terrible snow storm started and outside the living room window he saw a gaggle of wild geese huddling together in confusion, trying to keep warm. He rushed out into the storm and opened his barn door. Then he went over to the geese – barely able to see them through the blizzard. He tried to coax them into the barn. Then he tried to scare them in. But they just kept jumping away from him, squawking and flapping their wings in self – defence. After twenty minutes and no progress, he gave up and went back inside. He stood in the warm living room staring out at the geese. And he thought: “If only I could become a goose myself, then I could lead them into the barn and save them.” And with that thought, he fell on his knees, right there in the living room, and started to cry. He realised that that is exactly what God had done on the first Christmas night – and that he had been spending his life squawking and flapping in all the wrong directions.