



*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

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TIMES OF MASSES AND OTHER SERVICES: **Week Commencing 31st December 2017**

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph: Year B

Second Week of Christmas: **31st December 2017 – 6th January 2018**

(Weekday Cycle Year 2 / Psalter – Christmas Day with Proper Texts)

<p><u>Saturday 30th December:</u> <i>Sixth Day within the Octave of The Nativity of The Lord</i></p> <p>10:00 am: Mass; David Powell RIP</p>	<u>PARISH FINANCES</u>
<p><u>Saturday 30th December:</u> <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (Feast)</i></p> <p>5:30 pm: Mass; John Green RIP (Anniversary)</p>	
<p><u>Sunday 31st December:</u> <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (Feast)</i></p> <p>9:00 am: Mass; Marie Calladine's Intentions</p>	23 rd /24 th December 2017
<p><u>Monday 1st January 2018:</u> <i>Mary, The Mother of God (Solemnity)</i></p> <p>10:00 am: Mass; Special Intention</p>	<p>Envelopes:</p> <p>Loose Plate:</p> <p>Standing Orders:</p> <p><u>TOTAL:</u></p> <p>Chad:</p> <p>Intercare:</p> <p>SVP:</p>
<p><u>Tuesday 2nd January:</u> <i>SS Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church (memoria)</i></p> <p>12:30 pm: Confessions</p> <p>1:00 pm: Mass; Holy Souls</p>	Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the Parish.
<p><u>Wednesday 3rd January:</u> <i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i></p> <p>9:00 am: Service of the Word and Holy Communion</p>	<p><i>Your Prayers are requested for those who are sick:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">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>Thursday 4th January:</u> <i>Thursday before the Epiphany</i></p> <p>9:00 am: Mass; Welfare of Catherine Broomfield</p>	
<p><u>Friday 5th January:</u> <i>Friday before the Epiphany</i></p> <p>12:30 pm: Confessions</p> <p>12:30 pm: Mass; David Fox RIP (Dorothy)</p>	
<p><u>Saturday 6th January:</u> <i>Saturday before the Epiphany</i></p> <p>10:00 am: Mass; Private Intention</p> <p>10:45 am: Confessions</p>	
<p><u>Saturday 6th January:</u> <i>The Epiphany of the Lord (Solemnity)</i></p> <p>5:00 pm: Confessions</p> <p>5:30 pm: Mass; Gloria Condon RIP (King)</p>	
<p><u>Sunday 7th January:</u> <i>The Epiphany of the Lord (Solemnity)</i></p> <p>9:00 am: Mass; Pro Populo; People of the Parish</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:		M Cookson & S Neely
Next Week:		M Simpson & L Newbold
Readers:	M Cummins	N Wilson
Next Week:	M Sully	S Yarwood
Offertory:	M & G Sawicki	J Powell & M Calladine
Next Week:	M & A Simmons	D & D Wilson
Coffee:	M Walton & Volunteer	Next Week: M Calladine & Volunteer
Cashiers:	N Mason	Next Week: A Simmons
Flowers:	Ann & Sue	Next Week: Suzanne & Margaret J
Cleaning:	Team Shalloe	Next Week: Team Freyne
Brasses:	L Newbold	Next Week: E Rodrigues

POOR CLARES: The Sisters were delighted with all the Christmas donations they received from our Parish and they wish to express their grateful thanks for all your support throughout the year. They want you all to know that we are in their prayers every day. 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*.

FAIR TRADE SALE: Many thanks to everyone who supported the Fair Trade Sales throughout 2017. This year's totals of sales and proceeds sent to Mary's Meals are on the Fair Trade notice board at the back of the Church. Information about Mary's Meals can also be found there. In 2017 £ 178. 64 has been raised for Mary's Meals in our Parish and this amount is to be matched by the government. WELL DONE EVERYONE.

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 too. We could still do with a few more helpers especially as part of the time is a shared meal. We will start on **Tuesday 16th January 2018 from 7:00 – 9:00pm** for dinner, a film and discussion in the Parish Hall. Each week will focus on a different theme or aspect of our faith. For more information please email alpha.assumption@gmail.com

SNOWMAN BEETLE DRIVE: **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. This is a shared table event so please bring along your own food and drinks.

RCIA PROGRAMME: Our RCIA Programme will resume on **Wednesday 24th 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.*

The Holy Family: Abraham; Model of Faith.

Faith is our most precious possession, because it enables us to have a relationship with God, and that is what we were created for. It is through a deep, ongoing, personal relationship with God that our lives become full of meaning for ourselves and those around us. That is what happened with Abraham. God asked him to do two things that were difficult for him, as we read about in the First and Second Readings for today. First, He asked him to take his wife and belongings, leave his homeland and become a nomad, to “go to a land I will show you.” God didn't give him a detailed plan, no GPS system or Google maps. Instead, God gave him a chance to exercise and therefore grow in faith, to enter into a personal relationship with Him, a relationship built on trust. Then, after miraculously giving Abraham and Sarah a child in their old age, He again asked Abraham to do something that he didn't completely understand. He asked him to offer that child as a sacrifice. And Abraham was willing to do so, because he believed in God; he knew that God never asks things that are unwise or evil. And of course, we know from the Book of Genesis that God did not require Abraham to sacrifice his son – human sacrifice was a practice promoted by false religions, not by the one, true God. Abraham put his faith in God, and as a result he became wise, good and fulfilled and, God was able to do wonderful things in and through his life. The source of Abraham's greatness, his true wealth, was his faith, that relationship of trust and confidence with God. “*Suppose you saw a starving man inhaling great deep breaths, filling his cheeks with wind to relieve his hunger; would you not call him mad? And it is just as mad to think that blowing yourself up with earthly goods can satisfy your hunger for meaning and happiness.*” (St Bernard of Clairvaux).