



*THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF
OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION,
FOSTER AVENUE, BEESTON,
NOTTINGHAM, NG9 1AE
and
ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH,
TAMWORTH ROAD,
LONG EATON, NG10 1DH*



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

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**TIMES OF MASSES AND OTHER SERVICES: EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME: A
Eighteenth Week of Ordinary Time: 2nd – 8th August 2020 (Weekday Cycle Year II / Psalter Week II)**

<u>Saturday 1st August:</u> <i>St Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop & Doctor (memoria)</i>	<i>Your Prayers are requested for those who are sick:</i> Isobel Alana Barnes, Marica Borsos, Jessie Breame, Margaret Brown, Fr John Cairns, Pat Constable, Francesca Lina Craparotta, Jim & Margaret Dougan, Fr Theodore Gomes, Ann Harrison, Fr Peter Harvey, Andrea Hoffman, Breeda Keane, Elizabeth Reilly, Alan Roberts, Maria Sawicki, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning and John Wilcox.
Mass; Stacia & Harry Willis RIP	
<u>Sunday 2nd August:</u> <i>Eighteenth Sunday of the Year</i>	HOSPITALS A number of priests are still trying to maintain an ‘on – call’ rota for City and QMC. This is strictly calls for Anointing of the Sick when someone is nearing the end of their life. The hospital will not call us out for a request for prayers or when someone has already died – these will be dealt with by a member of the Chaplaincy Team who may or may not be a Catholic minister. Holy Communion is not being taken into hospital by Eucharistic Ministers. Families should not contact a priest directly to visit their loved one in hospital – all requests need to go through the Ward and Chaplaincy Department. QMC 0115 924 9924 ext. 63799 or City 0115 969 1169.
Mass; Pro Populo; People of the Parish	
<u>Monday 3rd August:</u> <i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass; Intentions of John Wilcox	
<u>Tuesday 4th August:</u> <i>St John Vianney, Priest (memoria)</i>	
Mass; Private Intention	
<u>Wednesday 5th August:</u> <i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am: Mass; Bella Lyons RIP & Claire Sheridan RIP (Lyons)	
<u>Thursday 6th August:</u> <i>Transfiguration of the Lord (Feast)</i>	
Mass; Colette & Harry Willis RIP	
<u>Friday 7th August:</u> <i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass; Holy Souls	
<u>Saturday 8th August:</u> <i>St Dominic, Priest (memoria)</i>	
Mass; Special Intention	
Wedding Service: Timothy Edwards & Julia Rynkiewicz	
<u>Sunday 9th August:</u> <i>Nineteenth Sunday of the Year</i>	
10:00 am: Mass; Pro Populo; People of the Parish	
UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY!	
<i>The Parish Hall of Our Lady of the Assumption and the Church of St Francis of Assisi and the Parish Hall are closed to members of the public, until further notice. If you urgently wish to contact Fr Christopher please telephone 0115 922 8145 (at any reasonable time).</i>	
<i>For enquiries or to book a Mass Intention, please continue to do this via the telephone. Stipends can be posted or given at a later date.</i>	

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.

LIVE STREAMING AND YOUTUBE VIDEOS WITH LINKS TO ACCESS LITURGIES BEING OFFERED DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC CAN BE FOUND ON PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS (AVAILABLE ON THE PARISH WEBSITE).

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS: to *Timothy Edwards and Julia Rynkiewicz* who will be married next *Saturday, 8th August 2020* at the Assumption Church. They had planned to be married on the Saturday after Easter (*18th April*) so it has been a long and frustrating wait and finally they can be married by Tim's brother Fr Philip – Thomas Edwards. We pray for them as they begin their married lives together.

POOR CLARES: The Sisters send their grateful thanks to everyone for the generous donations they received from Parishioners. They are all safe and well and have managed to avoid the Covid – 19 Virus so far. They are praying for the safety of everyone during this difficult time. Our donations are always so important to them but especially now during the pandemic. My next visit is planned *Monday, 31st August 2020* and donations can either be given to Father Christopher or myself. Thank you so much for your continued support – *Diane Wilson*.

RE – OPENING OF CHURCHES: Thank You to all who have who have kindly volunteered to help with the stewarding and cleaning now that we can finally begin to open the Church for Public Mass once again. We have now completed and had the Risk Assessment approved at Diocesan level and we will slowly begin to have public Mass again, albeit with limitations and restrictions for the time being.

We have about 27 volunteers who have contacted me in various ways (There is still room for others if they would like to contact me by telephone or e – mail).

Due to the need for Social distancing (which means 2 metres in the Diocese of Nottingham) we have a much reduced and limited capacity for public Mass. At the moment it looks likely that if all the people attending Church come as individuals that capacity will be set at **24 ONLY**. If a group of people living in the same house or 'bubble' wish to attend together, then the capacity may be increased up to a maximum of 48; but this will only apply when family groups of 6 come together. So at the moment we have 6 family pews (seating from 2 up to a maximum of 6) and six pews for individuals (with a maximum of 2 per pew).

Other noticeable changes will be the added signage and tape in Church and a 'One – Way' System, whereby the Entrance will be via the main double doors from the car park and the Exit will be via the Fire Exit doors onto Foster Avenue. This will maintain the requirements of social distancing and prevention of potential "pinch points."

The distribution of Holy Communion will take place at the end of Mass and not at the usual time. Once you have received Holy Communion you will be required to leave the Church immediately via the Exit doors onto Foster Avenue. The Guidance is explicit that Communion is to be given hand to hand only and that social distancing is to be maintained with people moving within the space. I would emphasise at the point of Holy Communion that this is only a *necessary temporary emergency* measure and that, as soon as is possible, we will revert to our usual Canonical practice of offering people the choice of receiving Holy Communion either on the hand or on the tongue and at the usual time during Mass.

The Guidance seeks cooperation in the 'Track and Trace' system by keeping a record of those attending Church at any one time. With that in mind and, given that there will be a limited number of places available for the celebration of Mass the Diocesan Booking System must be used if you wish to come to Mass at the Assumption. Details of how to book for Mass can be found on the Diocesan Website by following the link: <https://massbooking.uk/> where you will need to Sign Up in order to book for Mass. This is a pre – booking system and is the only way of regulating those who come to Church. The latest time to book for a Mass will be two hours before. If you do not have access to, or are unable to use a computer you may book for Mass by telephone by calling Marie Calladine (Tel: 07850 978788), but I would ask that you only use this option if you unable to book online. Next week Mass will be on Wednesday and Sunday at 10:00 am and then for the remainder of August Mass will be available on *Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays* and *Fridays*, all at **10:00 am**. I hope that this clarifies the situation we are in for the time being. If you have any concerns or queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

**PLEASE BE AWARE THAT YOU WILL NOT JUST
BE ABLE TO TURN UP AND ATTEND MASS.**

**For the time being and until further notice
SUNDAY OBLIGATION REMAINS SUSPENDED.**

Eighteenth Sunday of the Year: A

The few verses we hear today from St Paul's Letter to the Romans are some of the most beautiful and glorious that he ever wrote. "*Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ.....and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" He claims that no power in the universe is strong enough to separate us from Christ's love. In other words, God, who knows all of our sins and sinful tendencies (even the ones we unaware of ourselves!) never stops loving us. But that is not all. Paul goes on to present a shocking list of different kinds of suffering and tragedy. He includes war, starvation, injustice, death, poverty, fear and depression. And he says that God's love is even more powerful than these horrible realities that crowd around us in this fallen world. Notice too, that Paul doesn't blame God for these tragedies and sufferings. He doesn't raise his fist to God and say, "Lord, why do you let these things happen?" He is far too wise for that. St Paul understands that in this fallen world evil affects even the most innocent and holiest people. But what matters, a thousand times more than the reality of suffering in this life, is the reality of God's everlasting love. The devil wants to use evil and suffering to drag people into despair, hopelessness, self-centeredness and hard-heartedness. But the Christian thwarts the devil's plans. We know that the sufferings of this life are only temporary and that glory awaits those who stay faithful in the midst of them – Good Friday always leads us into Easter Sunday. And so, in the face of tragedy, the Christian responds not with despair, revenge and corruption, but with love, perseverance and hope, following in the footsteps of Our Lord. In so doing, we actually conquer those tragedies. As Paul writes: "These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of Him who loved us."

This is one of the reasons our relationship with Jesus Christ is so unique. Christ doesn't love us because we earned His love by our achievements; He loves us because His goodness is unconditional and overflowing, especially in the face of our weaknesses, failures and miseries. There is an old story about a king and two beggars dressed in rags. The king announced a banquet in honour of his son's wedding; anyone dressed in royal garments was welcome to attend. Both beggars longed to attend the banquet, but neither had any royal garments. The first beggar spent the day gathering lost coins and doing odd jobs. Finally, he went to the clothing merchant, presented his handful of coins and asked for some royal robes. But the merchant laughed and said, "You can't buy royal robes for pennies, old man!" The second beggar had a different idea. He made his way to the king's castle, knocked on the gate and asked to see the king. The guard brought him to the chamberlain, who took the beggar before the king's throne. The beggar, shaking with fright, bowed low and said, "If it please, your majesty, may I be so bold. May I have one of your old garments so that I, too, may come to the banquet tonight?" The beggar was shaking so hard that he could not see the faint smile on the king's face.

"You have been wise in coming to me," the king said. He called to his son, the young prince. "Take this man to your room and array him in some of your clothes, so that he too may enjoy the royal hospitality on this glorious night." By our own efforts we could never earn God's love or our salvation. But we don't have to, because He loves us already and He has given His very life for us.

When life is going smoothly, it is easy to believe that nothing can separate us from God's love. But when tragedy and hardships strike, our faith is put to the test. There are two things we can do to strengthen ourselves for those times of testing. First, we can make small, voluntary sacrifices every day, uniting them to Christ's great sacrifice on the Cross. This helps us learn to see things as Christ does and to find God's presence even in the darkness of suffering. The idea is very simple: choose something difficult and offer it to Christ as a gift, just as He chose something difficult – the Cross – out of love for us. It can be as small as using the stairs instead of the lift or driving in silence for five minutes instead of turning on the radio right away or drinking water instead of lemonade at lunchtime. Second, we can strengthen our Christian hearts by reaching out to others who are experiencing tragedy and hardship, by helping others carry their crosses. It is so easy to isolate ourselves from those who suffer. But that is not our calling. We are called to be like Christ, who came all the way to earth from heaven in order to comfort, strengthen and save us. If we have family members who are old or ill, we should surround them with care, attention and encouragement. When friends, colleagues or classmates are facing hard times, we should be the first ones at their side, reminding them that God's love has not and will not abandon them. By offering small sacrifices to Christ and by helping others carry their crosses we become, like Christ, experts in *suffering with love* and flaming beacons of hope and faith in this dark and discouraged world. And that, after all, is what being a Christian is all about.