



*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: NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME: A
Nineteenth Week of Ordinary Time: 9th – 15th August 2020 (Weekday Cycle Year II / Psalter Week III)**

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| <u>Saturday 8th August:</u> | <i>St Dominic, Priest (memoria)</i> | <p><i>Your Prayers are requested for those who are sick:</i></p> <p>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 Keaney, Elizabeth Reilly, Alan Roberts, Maria Sawicki, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning and John Wilcox.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HOSPITALS</p> <p>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.</p> |
| Mass; | <i>Special Intention</i> | |
| <u>Sunday 9th August:</u> | <i>Nineteenth Sunday of the Year</i> | |
| 10:00 am Mass; | <i>Pro Populo; People of the Parish</i> | |
| <u>Monday 10th August:</u> | <i>St Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr (Feast)</i> | |
| 10:00 am Mass; | <i>Tom & Eve Mullins RIP (Willis)</i> | |
| <u>Tuesday 11th August:</u> | <i>St Clare, Virgin (memoria)</i> | |
| Mass; | <i>Special Intention</i> | |
| <u>Wednesday 12th August:</u> | <i>Weekday Feria</i> | |
| 10:00 am: Mass; | <i>Della Saxton RIP (Curtis)</i> | |
| <u>Thursday 13th August:</u> | <i>Weekday Feria</i> | |
| Mass; | <i>Holy Souls</i> | |
| <u>Friday 14th August:</u> | <i>St Maximilian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr (memoria)</i> | |
| 10:00 am Mass; | <i>Fr Eamonn O Hara RIP (Lyons)</i> | |
| <u>Saturday 15th August:</u> | <i>Weekday Feria</i> | |
| Mass; | <i>Private Intention</i> | |
| <u>Sunday 16th August:</u> | <i>The Assumption of the BVM (Solemnity & Patronal Feast)</i> | |
| 10:00 am: Mass; | <i>Bob Solloway RIP (Carol & John)</i> | |
| UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY! | | |
| <p><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></p> <p><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></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.

**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).**

POOR CLARES: The Sisters were delighted with the gifts I took from our Parish on my latest visit. They send their thanks to you for your generous support and want you all to know that you are remembered every day in their prayers. During these difficult times they have particularly appreciated being remembered by our Parish. Fortunately the virus has not affected the Convent and they remain safe. My next visit is planned for *Monday 31st August 2020* and donations can be either given to Father or myself. Many thanks – *Diane Wilson*.

RE – OPENING OF CHURCHES: Thank You to all who have who have kindly volunteered to help with the stewarding and cleaning as we can finally begin to open the Church for Public Mass once again. We began with our first Mass last Wednesday and it seemed to work very well even with limitations and restrictions un place.

We have about 26 volunteers but 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. Please book one pew for 2 or more people in the same household or “social bubble” (number not required as one pew will be allocated irrelevant of the number). If you would like to book a pew and individual seats, please treat as 2 separate bookings. Thank you.

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. From this week and 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.

Please be aware that for Health & Safety and security reasons there is **NO ACCESS** through the Car Park from Devonshire Avenue / Cavendish Place; entrance to the Car Park is from **FOSTER AVENUE ONLY**.

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.**

Nineteenth Sunday of the Year: A

In today's Gospel, Peter shows both his recklessness and his uncertainty – two characteristics that make him easy to relate to. It is about three o'clock in the morning as the Apostles battle against a stormy sea and Jesus comes walking across the lake towards the boat. The Apostles are scared stiff – they think they are seeing a ghost. Even Our Lord's reassurance does not allay their fears. So Peter takes the matter into his own hands and challenges the ghost to do something that only Christ could do – enable him to walk on the stormy water. And he does – for a few steps. But then Peter takes his eyes off Christ; he looks around at the waves and the storm and, he starts to sink. As long as Peter kept his eyes on Christ he was able to walk unhindered through the stormy sea. As soon as he let his eyes wander away from Christ to look at the intimidating waves, he began to sink. The same is true for us, as we strive to make our way through the stormy temptations and challenges of life in a fallen world. Only focusing on Christ can keep us afloat. Christ is always close to us in our storms, asking us to believe in Him. In His words to Peter, tinged with disappointment, we see how much He longs for us to trust Him: “Why did you doubt?” As soon as Jesus steps into the boat, the storm gives way to peace and calm. Christ wants to be our peace, our strength and the solution to all of life's troubles. St Peter didn't learn this lesson straight away, but he learned it well; in his First Letter he put it like this: “cast all your anxieties on Him (Christ), for He cares about you.” (*1 Peter 5*⁷). Or as St Augustine said, “If I try by myself to swim across the ocean of this world, the waves will certainly engulf me. In order to survive I must climb aboard a ship made of wood; this wood is the Cross of Christ. Of course, even on board ship there will be dangerous tempests and perils from the sea of this world. But God will help me remain on board the ship and arrive safely at the harbour of eternal life.”

So, having faith in Christ doesn't mean that we will always understand everything that happens in life, but it does mean that we always know who we are and where we are going. This is the priceless value of the gift of faith. There is a story about a man who was accustomed to giving orders and always getting his own way. One day he was travelling to an important meeting. He decided to take a shortcut and found himself completely lost. He asked the first person he saw, a young child, for directions. “Boy, which way to Dover?” he gruffly asked.

“I don't know,” the child responded, a little embarrassed.

“Well, then,” the man demanded, “How far to Brighton?”

“I don't know that either,” the child answered.

“Is there someone around here who can give me directions, then?” the man said, as he raised his voice.

“I don't know,” shrugged the child. The man's questions got angrier as the boy kept responding with the same answer. Finally the man lost his temper and shouted,

“Well you don't know very much, do you!” Then for the first time, the boy smiled. Looking up the winding road to a little house where the evening light glowed through the window and where his brothers and sisters played in the yard, the boy said,

“No. But I'm not the one who is lost!”

As Christians, we don't necessarily have all the answers to life's problems – though the more we study our faith the more answers we can find. Yet, if we stay focused on Christ and close to Him, we do have the one Answer that matters most – we know that we children of God and His All – Powerful love is always watching over us, even during life's darkest storms.

But how can we in the twenty – first century keep focused on Christ? We won't be able to look into the physical eyes of Jesus as Peter did. But we can still keep our eyes fixed on Christ, in at least three ways. First, we can spend time in prayer. The presence of Christ in prayer is a truly amazing gift of God's love that we always have with us. Secondly, we can always find Christ in the Holy Scriptures. The Bible is a unique book; it is inspired by God. When we read it with faith, seeking to find Christ there, He reveals Himself to us. The Catechism quotes St Jerome, saying: “Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.” It is the immature and irresponsible Christian who does not take some time each day, even if only a few minutes, to gaze upon Christ by reading the Bible. Thirdly, we can gaze upon Christ by serving our brothers and sisters in need. Jesus Himself said that whatever we do for our neighbours, we do for Him – He is present in them. Today, as Christ, comes to us once again across in the stormy seas of our concerns, worries and weaknesses, let us welcome Him with strong faith and let us promise to keep on welcoming Him and to focus upon Him, every single day.