



*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: THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**Twentieth Week of Ordinary Time: 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2020 (Weekday Cycle Year II / Psalter Week IV)**

<b><i>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August: <u>Weekday Feria</u></i></b>	<b><i>Mass;</i></b> <i>Private Intention</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.
<b><i>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August: <u>The Assumption of the BVM (Solemnity &amp; Patronal Feast)</u></i></b>	<b><i>10:00 am Mass;</i></b> <i>Bob Solloway RIP (Carol &amp; John)</i>	
<b><i>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August: <u>Weekday Feria</u></i></b>	<b><i>10:00 am Mass;</i></b> <i>Paul Stevenson RIP (Curtis)</i>	<b><u>HOSPITALS</u></b> 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.
<b><i>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August: <u>Weekday Feria</u></i></b>	<b><i>Mass;</i></b> <i>Sick of the Parish</i>	
<b><i>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August: <u>Weekday Feria</u></i></b>	<b><i>10:00 am: Mass;</i></b> <i>Christine Humfrey RIP (Powell)</i>	
<b><i>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August: <u>St Bernard, Abbot &amp; Doctor (memoria)</u></i></b>	<b><i>Mass;</i></b> <i>Special Intention</i>	
<b><i>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August: <u>St Pius X, Pope (memoria)</u></i></b>	<b><i>10:00 am Mass;</i></b> <i>Deceased Members of the Mannion Family</i>	
<b><i>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August: <u>Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary</u></i></b>	<b><i>Mass;</i></b> <i>Holy Souls</i>	
<b><i>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August: <u>Twenty – First Sunday of the Year</u></i></b>	<b><i>10:00 am: Mass;</i></b> <i>Pro Populo; People of the Parish</i>	
<b>UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY!</b>		
<b><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></b> <b><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></b>		

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

**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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 have finally begun to open the Church for Public Mass once again. We have now had our first ‘full week’ of the new schedule and seems to be working well even with limitations and restrictions in place.

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*.” Another condition, added from last weekend, is the need to wear face coverings in Church.

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. 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. For the remainder of August Mass will be available on *Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays*, all at **10:00 am**.

Churches cannot currently pass round the collection plate, there is however, a collection basket adjacent to the exit door onto Foster Avenue. I know that many of you have already changed to Standing Order for Church Offerings and there is also a donation section on the Mass Booking website at the bottom of the booking page, allowing people to make a one – off or regular donation to the Parish via JustGiving, with or without Gift Aid.

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.***

## *The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

The foundations of Christ's Kingdom are laid, but He hasn't yet finished building it up. He is still extending its borders and gathering more and more people into it. This is the work of the Church militant, the Church on earth: to build up Christ's Kingdom, to bring more and more people into His friendship, so that they follow Him and find the meaning their lives are meant to have. But what will happen at the end of history? What will the Church become when the years of building reach their completion? One of the important lessons of today's Solemnity is precisely the answer to that question.

Catholics have always seen the Blessed Virgin Mary as an image of the whole Church. Mary brought the baby Jesus into the world on the first Christmas, took care of Him as He grew to manhood and accompanied Him as He fulfilled His mission. The Church as a whole has a similar relationship with the Mystical Body of Christ – with every member of that Body. The Church continually brings Christ into the world through Her many works of charity and apostolate and especially through bringing more Christians into the world through Baptism. And with Her teachings and the Sacraments, the Church cares for and accompanies Her members as they grow to maturity and carry out their missions. And so, just as God assumed Mary into heaven, body and soul, at the end of her earthly mission, so God will lift the whole Church into perfect communion with Himself in heaven at the end of history. Our Lady's Assumption, then, is God's promise to us. Every Christian who follows Mary's path of humility and fidelity to God's will can look forward to following her into the glories and joys of heaven.

One of the favourite images used by early Christian artists to represent the Church was a huge ship. The Church is like a spiritual version of Noah's Ark. This fallen world is flooded with sin, temptation and suffering. But God has provided us with a dependable vessel to sail us through all of that. The ship itself is made of normal, earthly material: namely, human beings, with all their flaws and failures. But it is also held together, protected and guided by something infallible and indestructible: the Holy Spirit. As long as we stay on board the ship, that is, within the Church, in harmony with the Pope and, the Bishops in communion with him, we are safe and our lives will be fruitful and meaningful; both here on earth and later, for all eternity, in heaven. Storms will come and blinding fog and hardships. And some crew members and passengers will abandon the ship – as many have done throughout the ages. They will build rafts and try to make it to port on their own. But only the Barque of Peter has the divine guarantee to successfully reach the harbour of heaven. As Jesus promised St Peter in the sixteenth chapter of St Matthew's Gospel: "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church and the gates of the underworld shall not prevail against it." As the First Reading shows us, God will save Christ and the Church from the dragon's grasp. This is His promise and His guarantee. And just to make sure that life's troubles and hardships don't throw us into doubt and discouragement, Jesus ratified that guarantee and proved His fidelity by taking His Mother, the Mother of the Church, up into heaven, body and soul. That is what we celebrate today, on this Sacred Solemnity of the Assumption.

One of the practical repercussions of this truth is given special attention by today's Liturgical Prayers. In the Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer for today's Solemnity, it says: "For today the Virgin Mother of God was assumed into heaven as the beginning and image of your Church's coming to perfection and a sign of sure hope and comfort to your pilgrim people." Why is it a sign of sure hope and comfort? Because earth is not heaven. Our lives here are full of doubts, difficulties, sufferings and pain. Our efforts to follow Christ face obstacle after obstacle. We don't always understand why God doesn't fix things. We are travelling through life in the midst of problems, troubles and frustration and sometimes we can't see the way out. This is the reality of life in a fallen world; so, our faith in Christ doesn't take away the Cross. It didn't take away the Cross from Mary's life; it didn't take away the Cross from the lives of the saints. But it does show us that the first Christian, the Mother of all Christians, was taken up into heaven at the end of her earthly journey. When we lift our gaze to her, standing at the right hand of Our Lord, as the Psalm tells us, we are given the assurance that our God is faithful. If we stay true to Him, He will be true to us. And so Mary's Assumption gives us comfort and hope as we stumble through life's hardships, enabling us to persevere through our trials, as she did and to rejoice in the Lord even while the world gives us trouble. Let us enjoy this comfort and this hope and, rest assured that they are not an illusion, but the everlasting truth.