



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: TWENTY – SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME: A

Twenty – Second Week of Ordinary Time: 30th August – 5th September 2020 (Weekday Cycle Year II / Psalter Week II)

Saturday 29th August: <i>The Passion of St John the Baptist</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 Keaney, Elizabeth Reilly, Alan Roberts, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning and John Wilcox.
Mass; Michael Hughes RIP	
Sunday 30th August: <i>Twenty – Second Sunday of the Year</i>	
10:00 am Mass; David R Morgan Snr RIP (Anniversary)	
Monday 31st August: <i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am Mass; Maria Sawicki RIP (Curtis)	
Tuesday 1st September: <i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass; Special Intention	
Wednesday 2nd September: <i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am: Mass; Lally & Jones Family RIP	
11:30 am: Funeral Service: Maria Sawicki RIP	
Thursday 3rd September: <i>St Gregory the Great, Pope & Doctor (memoria)</i>	
Mass; Holy Souls	
Friday 4th September: <i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am Mass; Deceased Members of the Mannion Family (Dixon)	
Saturday 5th September: <i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass; Maggie & Trevor Simpson 50 th Wedding Anniversary	
Sunday 6th September: <i>Twenty – Third 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.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: Please remember in your prayers to pray for the repose of the soul of ***María Sawicki*** who died on ***Monday 17th August 2020***. Maria's Funeral Service will take place at ***11:30 am*** here in Church on ***Wednesday 2nd September 2020*** followed by burial at Beeston Cemetery. Also ***Catherine O'Dooley*** who died on ***Thursday 27th August 2020***. Catherine's Funeral Service will take place at ***11:30 am*** here in Church on ***Monday 7th September 2020*** followed by burial at Beeston Cemetery. We remember them and their families at this sad time. May they rest in peace.

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 **THIS Monday, 31st August 2020** and donations can be either given to Father or myself. Many thanks – ***Diane Wilson***.

RE – OPENING OF CHURCHES: We continue with our new schedule for the time being and it is working well even with limitations and restrictions in place. Please remember the need for Social distancing and that 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 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" (***Please now indicate the number of people coming when bookings a pew***). 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 are unable to book online. For the remainder of August, Mass will be available on ***Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays***, all at ***10:00 am***. ***IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT LIMITATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS COULD YOU PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU ARRIVE IN GOOD TIME BEFORE MASS BEGINS SO THAT YOU CAN BE SHOWN TO YOUR PLACE. ALSO, IF YOU HAVE BOOKED FOR MASS BUT CANNOT ATTEND PLEASE LET US KNOW IN GOOD TIME.***

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.***

Twenty – Second Sunday of the Year A.

The Church has decreed that above each of her altars there should be a Crucifix. Whenever we enter a Catholic Church, therefore, the Crucifix will be the focus of our field of vision. The Crucifix: a depiction of humiliation, torture, pain and death. The Crucifix: not just an empty cross, clean and elegant, but a Cross being used to crucify the one man who never sinned, the one man who did not deserve to die. Why such pride of place for such a cruel reality? Why not put scenes of Christ's birth above every altar or of His Resurrection or Ascension? Because, "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me." Christ dying on the Cross was the perfect sacrifice offered to God in loving atonement for our sins and the sins of all people. Christ dying on the Cross was the perfect, loving act of obedience that reversed the vile disobedience of Adam in the Garden of Eden. With His arms stretched wide and raised between heaven and earth, Christ reconciled us to God and bridged the chasm opened by sin. If we want to go over that bridge and make our way to eternal life in communion with God, which is the only thing that can make us truly happy, we too must pass through the Cross. We must follow the footsteps of Our Lord: suffering, self – denial, opposition, humiliation and difficulty. We may even have to lose the "whole world," like so many saints and martyrs, in order to gain the truly abundant "life." Uninterrupted joy is reserved for heaven; the road to heaven is paved with crosses – rather, with Crucifixes, for the cross of a Christian is always borne together with Christ, so that we who die with Him will also rise with Him. *"Peter wanted as the Messiah a 'divine man' who would fulfil the expectations of the people by imposing His power upon them all: we would also like the Lord to impose His power and transform the world instantly. Jesus presented Himself as a 'human God,' the Servant of God, who turned the crowd's expectations upside – down by taking a path of humility and suffering.....God chooses a different way. God chooses the way of the transformation of hearts in suffering and in humility. And we, like Peter, must convert, over and over again. We must follow Jesus and not go before Him: it is he who shows us the way."* – Pope Benedict XVI.

Suffering, when we bear it with faith and unite it to Christ's suffering, is like the oven that cooks saints, the fire that purifies our hearts of selfishness. The Cross, when we carry it with Christ, is like a stopwatch in the hands of an expert trainer: it pushes us out of our comfort zone so that we can develop our spiritual potential to the full. St Augustine put it very clearly: *"There is more courage in a man who faces rather than flees the storms of life and, who holds cheap the opinion of men...Earthly life is a school training him for life eternal, a school in which he learns to use temporal goods in the spirit of a pilgrim, refusing to be enslaved by them and in which his strength is put to the test and his character purified by the crosses he has to bear."* The seventeenth century nun St Margaret Mary Alacoque, who received the revelations of the Sacred Heart of Jesus understood deeply the connection between God's love and the crosses he sends us: *"Nothing unites us so closely to the Sacred Heart of Our Lord Jesus Christ as the Cross which is the most precious pledge of His love. You must constantly carry the cross which He lays on you, be it interior or exterior, without growing weary or complaining of its length or weight. Does it not suffice that it has been given you by the hands of a Friend whose all – loving Heart had destined it for you from all eternity? Trust to the goodness of Our Lord in the crosses which He sends you; He will never abandon you, for He knows how to draw good from our ills and His glory from our trials."*

Sometimes, when life's crosses are especially heavy, it is hard for us to remember this. At times we find ourselves rebelling against the suffering that God permits to come our way, instead of finding its hidden meaning. Those can be lonely, dark times, full of temptation and sadness. But God promises that He will be faithful. St Paul wrote: "God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it." (1 Corinthians 10¹³). What is the "way out" that God provides? Many times, it is the comfort and support of other people; we are called to help each other carry our crosses. Jesus didn't let us suffer alone. He came and walked beside us through the Incarnation, comforting, strengthening and inspiring us with His example of self – sacrificial love. And through the Eucharist, He actually walks with us, letting His strength become our strength when we receive Him in Holy Communion. We must do the same for others. When family members, friends or neighbours find themselves bending under the weight of a heavy cross, we must be Christ for them, reminding them that God's love is real, that Christ has given meaning to their suffering. We are the ones who must help them continue to pray when their faith is wearing thin. We are the ones who must comfort the sorrowful, visit the sick and imprisoned, counsel the confused and show the face of God to those who are having trouble finding it. The more we help those around us carry their crosses, the more Christ – like we become, and the more Christ Himself will be able to help us carry our crosses.