



*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 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME: A

Twenty – Third Week of Ordinary Time: 6th – 12th September 2020 (Weekday Cycle Year II / Psalter Week III)

<p><u>Saturday 5th September:</u> <i>Weekday Feria</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mass; <i>Maggie & Trevor Simpson 50th Wedding Anniversary</i></p> <p><u>Sunday 6th September:</u> <i>Twenty – Third Sunday of the Year</i></p> <p>10:00 am Mass; <i>Pro Populo; People of the Parish</i></p> <p><u>Monday 7th September:</u> <i>Weekday Feria</i></p> <p>10:00 am Mass; <i>Catherine O'Dooley RIP (Rosary Group)</i></p> <p>11:30 am Funeral Service: <i>Catherine O'Dooley RIP</i></p> <p><u>Tuesday 8th September:</u> <i>The Nativity of the BVM (Feast)</i></p> <p>10:00 am Mass (St Francis); <i>Special Intention</i></p> <p><u>Wednesday 9th September:</u> <i>Weekday Feria</i></p> <p>10:00 am: Mass; <i>John & Helen Wilcox's Intentions (O'Connor)</i></p> <p><u>Thursday 10th September:</u> <i>Weekday Feria</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mass; <i>Holy Souls</i></p> <p><u>Friday 11th September:</u> <i>Weekday Feria</i></p> <p>10:00 am Mass; <i>Maria Sawicki RIP (Hegarty)</i></p> <p><u>Saturday 12th September:</u> <i>Weekday Feria</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mass; <i>Private Intention</i></p> <p><u>Sunday 13th September:</u> <i>Twenty – Fourth Sunday of the Year</i></p> <p>10:00 am: Mass; <i>Pro Populo; People of the Parish</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Your Prayers are requested for those who are sick:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">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, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning and John Wilcox.</p>
<p>UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY!</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>
<p><i>The Parish Hall of Our Lady of the Assumption and the Parish Hall at St Francis of Assisi 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 style="text-align: center;"><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.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: Please remember in your prayers to pray for the repose of the soul of **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 her and her family at this sad time. May she rest in peace.

POOR CLARES: The Sisters were really happy to receive the donations I took over to the Convent and, as always, send their sincere thanks to you all. The sisters are well and have managed to avoid the corona virus so far and life is settling down to the new normal for them. As always, they want you to know that our Parish is in their prayers daily. My next visit will be Monday 28th September 2020. Many thanks for your continued support – **Diane Wilson**.

ENCOUNTERING GOD & SHARING THE GOSPEL: As Catholics we are called to keep returning to the call of our Baptism to welcome God into our life and share the good news of Jesus with others. The Alpha course is a great tool to do just that. We will be running an online Alpha course open to both Parishes where you can watch a great talk on faith, then discuss it and socialise with others. All without leaving your house! This a great way to share your faith by inviting friends and family to it as well, particularly those you know who are asking questions about life. As it is online it is open to everyone. We will be starting in the last week of September / first week in October, for more information speak to Joe Hopkins or email: alpha.assumption@gmail.com.

VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE OF REPARATION AND PRAYER FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE, WALSINGHAM 27th SEPTEMBER 2020: With great help and support from the Shrine staff we are able to offer, this year, a "Virtual" Pilgrimage to Walsingham, where distance is no barrier to sharing in the day. It can be accessed via YouTube on Walsingham Catholic TV (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=__0aJG5juz0) or at the Basilica live stream <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>. Devotions will be streamed throughout the day, beginning with the Mass at 12.00 noon. Full details are available on the website, including the programme for the day: <https://www.prolifepilgrimage.org/>. Bishop Marcus Stock of Leeds is leading the day and will be at the Shrine in person. It is a day of prayer and reparation for the sanctity of life. Our society has attacked the Church's deep rooted teachings on these issues for a very long time. The Pilgrimage started 37 years ago with some parishioners from Spanish Place, Westminster diocese, led by Fr Jeremy Davies, on a single coach. In recent times the day has been attended by between 1000 and 1400 pilgrims.

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 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 unable to book online. For the time being and, the foreseeable future, 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 – Third Sunday of the Year A.

At first glance, it seems that Jesus is being authoritarian in today's Gospel. He is explaining to His Apostles, the future leaders of the Church, how they should deal with members of the Church who fall into sin and cause scandal to the family of believers. Here Jesus is referring especially to the kind of sin that affects the whole community directly. He instructs His Apostles not to ignore it, but to do something about it. Maybe that is why it sounds so authoritarian to us – we are used to thinking that tolerance, even the tolerance of sin, is of the highest value. But that is not Our Lord's perspective. He wants His Church to care about tolerance, yes, but He wants it to care even more about the truth. Sin is real and it is destructive, both for the person sinning and for the whole community. Sin is like a destructive fire that starts in one person's soul. If it isn't put out quickly with Christ's mercy, it can destroy that person and spread like a spiritual forest fire through a whole community. And that is why Jesus instructs His Apostles to do everything possible to bring people back when they stray. First they should approach them one – to – one and patiently encourage them to come back to Christ. If that does not work, they should patiently involve some objective parties in the discussion. And only if the scandal continues should there be a public denunciation, in order to make it clear to everyone that the sinful, scandalous behaviour is contrary to God's loving plan of salvation – to isolate the fire. This Gospel passage comes right after Our Lord's parable of the Good Shepherd who leaves his 99 sheep in order to seek out the one that has strayed. Christ is insisting here that all His followers and, especially His ordained ministers, have the same selfless and determined attitude.

In past periods of history, the reality of sin was something everyone was familiar with. But in our modern age this basic truth has been eclipsed by a devotion to the false god of relativism. Relativism says that there is no objective right and no objective wrong that is equally valid for everyone. Instead, relativism says, the only thing that matters is what each individual thinks is right or wrong for them. In other words, morality is relative to each person. Now this may sound nice, but it is both illogical and impractical. It is illogical because it contradicts itself. The statement "right and wrong is not universal, but personal," is actually a universal statement. It is like saying, "It is objectively true that there is no objective truth." That makes no logical sense. But relativism is also impractical – no one actually lives by it, because they can't. Imagine a school teacher who failed all his blond – haired students, just because they had blond hair and in his mind that was a sign that they didn't deserve to pass. No one would accept that. It is clearly unfair treatment. But a true relativist would have to accept it. That same illogical logic is at the root of what our society tries to tell us about sins like extra – marital sex, homosexual unions, abortion and euthanasia. In order to have a reason to justify what many people have strong, personal desires to do, they try to say that there are no universal moral standards – in other words, that there is no such thing as sin. But that is like saying there is no such thing as poison – it may be a psychological comfort, but it is dangerously wrong. And Jesus is reminding us today that sin is destructive and real and, that He is the antidote.

There is right and wrong. And wrong is destructive. This is why we should be grateful, not resentful, when the Pope and our Bishops remind us about what is right and what is wrong – as Jesus commanded them to do in today's Gospel. They are protecting us from fashionable ideas which are not grounded in the Truth which comes from God and not from human opinions. But for us to appreciate fully our Church's teaching, we have to do two things. First, we have to actively listen to it. It is not enough for a mature Catholic to listen to the news on the television or radio. That would be like thinking that your mum's hairdresser could keep you up to date on your mum's life. We need to use better sources and resources and go deeper! There are plenty of good Catholic sites available on the Internet like The National Catholic Register (<https://www.ncregister.com>), Zenit – the World Seen From Rome (<https://zenit.org/?l=english>) or Catholic Exchange (<https://catholicexchange.com>). Secondly, we have to remember the difference between doctrine and recommendations. Church leaders often make excellent recommendations about public policies, like how to improve a public education system. Since these are recommendations, Catholics are free to disagree, discuss and improve them. Doctrines, on the other hand, are teachings that flow directly from God's own Revelation. These have to do with things that are always true, regardless of circumstances. For example, when the Church consistently teaches for two thousand years that abortion is evil, that is the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking and no Parliamentary decision or Government can ever make abortion good. Things that are included in the Catechism of the Catholic Church are doctrines. And recent popes have been using Encyclical Letters to explain those types of things more fully. Today, as Jesus renews His commitment to us, let us thank Him for being the Good Shepherd who wants to save us from the destruction of sin and let us promise Him that this week we will do our part to be good shepherds too, as well as faithful sheep.