



*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 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME: A
Twenty – Fourth Week of Ordinary Time: 13th – 19th September 2020 (Weekday Cycle Year II / Psalter Week IV)

<p>Saturday 12th September: <i>Weekday Feria</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mass; <i>Private Intention</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 Keaney, Elizabeth Reilly, Alan Roberts, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning and John Wilcox.</p>	
<p>Sunday 13th September: <i>Twenty - Fourth Sunday of the Year</i></p> <p>10:00 am Mass; <i>Pro Populo; People of the Parish</i></p>		
<p>Monday 14th September: <i>The Exaltation of The Cross (Feast)</i></p> <p>10:00 am Mass; <i>Bob Solloway RIP (1st Anniversary)</i></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>Tuesday 15th September: <i>Our Lady of Sorrows (memoria)</i></p> <p>10:00 am Mass (St Francis); <i>Mrs Margaret Deane RIP (Curtis)</i></p>		
<p>Wednesday 16th September: <i>SS Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs (memoria)</i></p> <p>10:00 am: Mass; <i>Holy Souls</i></p>		
<p>Thursday 17th September: <i>Weekday Feria</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mass; <i>Private Intention</i></p>		
<p>Friday 18th September: <i>Weekday Feria</i></p> <p>10:00 am Mass; <i>Cath O'Dooley RIP (Cookson)</i></p>		
<p>Saturday 19th September: <i>Weekday Feria</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mass; <i>Special Intention</i></p>		
<p>Sunday 20th September: <i>Twenty - Fifth Sunday of the Year</i></p> <p>10:00 am: Mass; <i>Pro Populo; People of the Parish</i></p>		
<p>UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY!</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><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.

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.

CHURCH MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY WARNING: Beginning on *Monday 14th September 2020* and for the rest of the week, there will be workmen on site to carry out repairs to the Church roof. This will involve the erection of scaffolding along the side of the Church adjacent to Foster Avenue and possibly in some the car park area. Following on from our Quinquennial Inspection last year a number of major maintenance works are required in and around the Parish property. The Japanese Knotweed problem which we had at the side of the Parish Hall has now all but been eradicated using an Herbicide Treatment Programme, with 10 year Insurance Backed Guarantee at a cost £3,750 + VAT. This includes further inspections next year to check that it has all been cleared up. The repairs to the Church roof involve works to the side aisle adjacent to Foster Avenue, the Sacristy and rear Sanctuary areas. Following approval from the Diocese we are able to go ahead with these works at a cost of £6,740 + VAT. The other major work involves replacing the Church Boiler which is obsolete and unserviceable. At the moment, following meetings with a Building Services Design Consultant, we are seeking Tender Quotes, which will have to be submitted to the Diocese for approval. One other minor job, by comparison, which we also need to do, will be the clearing and cleaning out of the drains and guttering, which should be a relatively minor cost and take about a day.

RE – OPENING OF CHURCHES: I am very grateful to all the volunteer Stewards / Cleaners, who have been so generous in their time and efforts as we continue with our new schedule. We must of course continue to 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, with no dialogue 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 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 - Fourth Sunday of the Year A.

This conversation between Peter and Jesus is really a commentary on the fifth Beatitude, which Jesus stated way back in Chapter 5 of St Matthew’s Gospel: “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall have mercy shown them.” Mercy goes against our fallen human nature. Automatically, we tend to have favourites, hold grudges, resent insults, demand our “rights” and, care much more about our own hopes, plans and problems than about other people’s. When we do take an interest in other people, it is usually because we like them and not because we view them as so valued by God that He sent His Son to die on the Cross for them as well. When we operate on this merely natural level, we always run into a limit in our ability to forgive those who offend or harm us. But Jesus is teaching us today that a Christian is called to be limitless in forgiveness: to be merciful as God is merciful. We are glad that God is gentle and patient with us, always willing to forgive us, always showering us with His blessings, always there when we need Him, always ready to understand us, always ready to sympathize with us before judging us.....in short, we are glad that God is merciful with us, although we know we don’t really deserve it. And yet, we are often reluctant to be like that with others, just like the man in the parable. If we don’t let God help us overcome that reluctance, our hearts will become so closed that eventually Christ’s mercy simply won’t be able to get in. If we do overcome it, our hearts will open wider and wider, allowing the full flood of God’s love to inundate them, making them an oasis for others who suffer and a magnet for their kindness and generosity. Blessed indeed are the merciful, for showing mercy is the only way to attract it.

One of the biggest obstacles to living Christian mercy is uncontrolled anger. When we are treated unfairly, our anger flares up, which often wounds people and turns them away from God instead of drawing them closer to God. St Apollonius, an Egyptian hermit who lived in the Third Century, shows us another way: a Christ – like way. Apollonius was one of the first Christians in his area to be arrested during the Roman persecution under Diocletian, since he was so well known as a holy man. To break down his resistance pagan citizens were sent to visit him in prison in order to mock and intimidate him. One of these visitors was named Philemon, a popular actor and musician. Apollonius reacted to his taunts simply by saying, “My son, may God have mercy on you and not lay these reproaches to your charge.” Philemon was dumbstruck by inner peace and spiritual strength. It moved him so much that he began questioning the saint about his faith. Soon Philemon himself embraced the Christian faith and when Apollonius was put on trial for treason, Philemon was too. They both refused to renounce their faith in Christ and so were sentenced to death by burning. After the fire was kindled, as they prayed, miraculous dew fell upon them and the wood, extinguishing the blaze. The bystanders were filled with awe and the judge panicked, deciding to send the prisoners on to a higher authority in the great city of Alexandria. During the journey, Apollonius and Philemon spoke with their guards about Christ and showed such meekness, courage and wisdom in their demeanour and speech that by the time they were brought to trial, the guards joined them as professed Christians. In the end, guards and prisoners were both martyred for their faith. God is merciful and there is no better way to help others come closer to God than to be a mirror of that mercy and gentleness in the way we treat them.

Today’s brilliant parable rightly convicts us of our repulsive, deep – seated tendency to be self – righteousness and, we need to be convinced of that. But we should not therefore overlook the parable’s eloquent depiction of Our Lord’s generosity. Jesus Himself is the King who forgives the “huge amount.” In the Greek text this amount is quantified as 10,000 talents, an unimaginable, astronomical quantity of money. Likewise, Our Lord’s compassion exceeds even the malice of His own murderers: “Father forgive them, for they know not what they do,” He spoke from the Cross. This is why discouragement can never come from the Holy Spirit. Discouragement is giving into a kind of hopelessness. But hopelessness is lack of trust in God’s all – powerful love and infinite mercy. With God, all things are possible, the Bible tells us. And through our friendship with Jesus, God is always with us, always at our side. As St. Paul says today’s Second Reading: “Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.” With Jesus, then, there is no end to the amount of second chances we can have. The clearest proof of this is the extraordinary gift of the Sacrament of Confession – something that no other religion in the whole history of the world has ever had. Today, let us give Jesus the joy of renewing our faith in His goodness and in His mercy. And this week, let us put our faith into practice and spread that mercy to others by treating them as God has treated us.