



*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 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME: A
Twenty – Fifth Week of Ordinary Time: 20th – 26th September 2020 (Weekday Cycle Year II / Psalter Week I)**

<i>Saturday 19th September: Weekday Feria</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, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning and John Wilcox.
Mass; <i>Special Intention</i>	
<i>Sunday 20th September: Twenty – Fifth Sunday of the Year</i>	HOSPITALS 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.
10:00 am Mass; <i>Pro Populo; People of the Parish</i>	
<i>Monday 21st September: St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist (Feast)</i>	
10:00 am Mass; <i>Catherine O’Dooley RIP (Breame)</i>	
<i>Tuesday 22nd September: Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am Mass (St Francis); <i>Mr Willie Tunney (Curtis)</i>	
<i>Wednesday 23rd September: St Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest (mem)</i>	
10:00 am: Mass; <i>Holy Souls</i>	
<i>Thursday 24th September: Our Lady of Walsingham (memoria)</i>	
Mass; <i>Special Intention</i>	
<i>Friday 25th September: Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am Mass; <i>Pro Populo; People of the Parish</i>	
<i>Saturday 26th September: Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass; <i>Private Intention</i>	
<i>Sunday 27th September: Twenty – Sixth Sunday of the Year</i>	
10:00 am: Mass; <i>Mrs Gerty Byrnes RIP</i>	
UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY!	
<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>	
<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.

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: The online Alpha course for both parishes will begin on **Thursday 1st October at 7:30 pm** to sign up please fill out our online form: <https://forms.gle/23GRw5P9E8qLSohg6>. The Alpha course is a great space to discuss some of the big questions in life and perfect for inviting friends and family who are not churchgoers to help them come to know Jesus. The meetings involve watching a short film on a different topic each week, then discuss it and socialising with others; the whole meeting only lasts an hour and 15 minutes. All without leaving your house! The online form also has a link to watch a trailer of the film series which gives an overview to the course. If you have any questions please contact Joe Hopkins or email alpha.assumption@gmail.com.

FOUNDATION DIRECTORS: The Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Education Service would welcome applications from practising Catholics willing to serve the Diocese as Foundation Directors on one of the boards of our four Diocesan Catholic Multi – Academy Trusts. A passion for continuing to deliver the Bishop’s vision for Catholic education and for making a difference is very important. This volunteer role would provide tremendous opportunities to work with fellow directors in leading a large organisation. For an informal discussion with the Director of Education to find out more about what the role involves, or if you would like an information pack including details of how to apply, please contact Julie Sweeney (PA to the Director of Education) at julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk.

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: Work to carry out repairs to the Church roof is almost complete. Unfortunately, the scaffolding will remain in place along the side of the Church adjacent to Foster Avenue for most of next week.

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 - Fifth Sunday of the Year A.

“Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.” This is a warning. Our Lord tells this parable just after Peter asked Him what the twelve Apostles will get in return for having given up everything to follow Jesus. The parable itself most obviously applies to the Jewish nation in general. The Jews were God’s Chosen People, the first nation on earth to receive God’s revelation. They are the workers who were hired at daylight. But when the eternal Kingdom appears in all its fullness at the end of history, the Jews may find others honoured by God more than themselves, just as the first workers found that the latecomers were treated with extra generosity – the last will be first. The parable is also a warning to the Apostles. They too were given a special role in the history of salvation. They were chosen to be the visible foundation of the Church, but in the end, others will achieve greatness in Our Lord’s name as well – the first will be last. God, therefore, has plans that we do not always understand. As the First Reading put it, “My thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways.” Why does Jesus issue this warning? Because He wants us to have interior peace. Nothing disturbs our minds more than the thirst for recognition and esteem. When we are always comparing ourselves with others, we are filled with worries, envy, stress, anger and uncertainty. And this can occur even within our own Catholic communities! But if we simply try to give our best in life for Our Lord, thinking more of the glory of God than of ourselves and recognizing the abundant generosity of God’s love, then our trust in Him will grow and, those selfish motives will shrink away, and we will begin to experience the unshakable peace and security that only Jesus Christ can give.

Jesus is the very best of teachers, because He always backs up His words with His example. It is interesting to note that the very next passage in the Gospel of Matthew, the one right after this parable, is Our Lord’s third and final prediction of His coming Passion. Jesus and His Apostles were going up to Jerusalem and St Matthew tells us that while they were on their way, Jesus took the Twelve aside and said to them: “Now we are going up to Jerusalem and the Son of Man is about to be handed over to the chief priests and scribes. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the pagans to be mocked and scourged and crucified; and on the third day he will rise again.” Jesus had just told them that “the last shall be first,” and now He tells them that He is going to allow Himself to be humiliated, tortured and killed – that He will freely be taking the very last place. Notice how specific Our Lord’s prediction is. He points out that His persecutors will be both Jewish and Gentile and He details the different types of torture that will be used. He knew exactly what was going to happen to Him and yet, knowing it, He still walks right into it. Instead of honour, Jesus freely accepts scorn; instead of a reward, He freely accepts punishment; instead of praise, He accepts mockery. Those who are vain and envious and seek the first place all the time will end up in the last place; their lives will be flashy on the outside for a little while and tragic on the inside forever, but those who humble themselves will be exalted. Jesus treads the path first, so that His friends won’t fear to follow.

Seeking God’s glory above all is not something we can learn overnight. Besides a solid sacramental and prayer life, it also takes a sincere and constant effort to keep our naturally selfish tendencies under control. One area where our selfishness is especially disorderly is that of our speech, our words. The devil can make a lot of progress against us by encouraging us to speak badly of other people. Active Catholics like us are extremely vulnerable to the temptation of self – righteousness. Like the Pharisees, we can start thinking so highly of ourselves that we begin looking down on others. When we fall into that trap, it usually comes out in our speech. So, we criticize other people – not constructively, to their faces, but destructively, behind their backs; we spread news of their failings and sins – this is the sin of detraction; we spread rumours that we don’t know are true – this is gossip and; sometimes we even tell lies about them – this is slander. Whenever we do those things, it is because we want to appear superior in the eyes of the people we are speaking to. We think (wrongly) that lowering their opinion of someone else will elevate their opinion of us. Yet, how can that be pleasing to God? If we cared more about glorifying God than our self, we would do the exact opposite! Instead of cutting people down, we would build them up, speaking well of them – just as we would like them to do for us. Jesus knows all the dirt on us and yet, He tells no one. This week, let us follow His example, so that we can begin to experience the interior peace that comes from seeking the glory of God more than the glory of the self.