



*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 – SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME: A  
Twenty – Sixth Week of Ordinary Time: 27<sup>th</sup> September – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 (Weekday Cycle Year II / Psalter Week II)

<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September:</b>	<i>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 Keaney, Elizabeth Reilly, Alan Roberts, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning and John Wilcox.
<b>Mass;</b>	<i>Private Intention</i>	
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September:</b>	<i>Twenty – Sixth Sunday of the Year</i>	<b>HOSPITALS</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>10:00 am Mass;</b>	<i>Mrs Gerty Byrnes RIP</i>	
<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September:</b>	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
<b>10:00 am Mass;</b>	<i>Nancy Burrows RIP (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary) (Des)</i>	
<b>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September:</b>	<i>SS Michael, Gabriel &amp; Raphael, Archangels (Feast)</i>	
<b>10:00 am Mass (St Francis);</b>	<i>John Spittle RIP (Judy)</i>	
<b>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September:</b>	<i>St Jerome, Priest &amp; Doctor (mem)</i>	
<b>10:00 am: Mass;</b>	<i>Julian Childs' Intentions (Powell)</i>	
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October:</b>	<i>St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin &amp; Doctor (memoria)</i>	
<b>Mass;</b>	<i>Holy Souls</i>	
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October:</b>	<i>The Holy Guardian Angels (memoria)</i>	
<b>10:00 am Mass;</b>	<i>Samuel James Dowling RIP</i>	
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October:</b>	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
<b>Mass;</b>	<i>Roy Bailey RIP</i>	
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October:</b>	<i>Twenty – Seventh Sunday of the Year</i>	
<b>10:00 am: Mass;</b>	<i>Pro Populo; People of the Parish</i>	
<b>UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY!</b>		
<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](mailto: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 *Laura Benson* who died on *2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020*. Laura's Funeral Service will take place at *11:30 am* here in Church on *Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020* followed by burial at Beeston Cemetery. Also *Margaret Warburton* who died on *20<sup>th</sup> September 2020*. Margaret's Funeral Service will take place at *12:00 noon* in Church on *Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020* followed by cremation at Bramcote Crematorium. We remember them and their families at this sad time. May they 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 **THIS Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020**. Many thanks for your continued support – *Diane Wilson*.

**THE CANANN TRUST:** The Trust is marking their 25<sup>th</sup> Year in 2020 seeking to care and support the homeless and needy from across the local community. Despite Covid they have not closed down or retreated to a telephone service only, which so many other statutory services and voluntary services have chosen to do. Operating 24 – 7 the Trust has remained accessible and open to support and assist all who are in need – men, women, families, young and old. The Trust has seen an over 100% year on year increase for help with food. With the inability during this year to hold any fund raising events there is a shortfall of almost £ 50,000 in charitable funds. Despite this the Trust is determined not to let anyone down. In light of this they are asking for our help at this Harvest time, with basic food items, which would be of the greatest benefit. Because of Covid, they are seeking tins and packets rather than fresh produce. Products which would be of particular benefit would be the following: Tins of Carrots, Tins of Peas, Tins of Beans, Tins of Sweetcorn, Tins of Tuna, Tins of Spaghetti Bolognese, Tins of Corned Beef, Tins of Spam, Tins of Meatballs, Tins of Chili, Tinned Meat Pies, Tins of Rice Pudding, Tins of Fruit Cocktail, Packets of Mash Potato (powder), Packets of Tea, Jars of Coffee, Jars of Pasta Sauce, Jars of Curry Sauce, Packets of dried Pasta, Packets of Cereal and UHT Milk.

**ENCOUNTERING GOD & SHARING THE GOSPEL:** The online Alpha course for both parishes will begin on **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:alpha.assumption@gmail.com).

**SITUATIONS VACANT:** St Ralph Sherwin Multi Academy Trust are seeking to appoint a Lead Lay Chaplain to serve their Schools and Communities. The closing date for applications is **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 9:00 am**. For more information and how to apply for this vacancy, please visit: <https://www.srscmat.co.uk/lead-lay-chaplain-homeworking-or-at-our-trust-cent/>

**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](mailto:julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk).

**RE – OPENING OF CHURCHES:** In spite of recent Government announcements there is no change to the current situation regarding Mass attendance and 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**.

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.

The following items are important to remember:

***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.***

***PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING TO TWO METRES ESPECIALLY IMMEDIATELY AFTER MASS CLOSE TO THE EXIT DOORS AND STEPS ONTO FOSTER AVENUE.***

***FACE COVERINGS ARE MANDATORY IN PLACES OF WORSHIP IN ENGLAND. ALL THOSE WHO ARE ATTENDING CHURCHES MUST WEAR A FACE COVERING UNLESS THEY ARE EXEMPT FROM DOING SO. THIS IS FOR THE GOOD OF ALL WHO GATHER IN THE CHURCH FOR MASS AS IT IS AN ENCLOSED PUBLIC SPACE WHERE THERE ARE PEOPLE FROM DIFFERING HOUSEHOLDS WHO THEY DO NOT NORMALLY MEET. PRIESTS IN THE SANCTUARY PROVIDING THEY ARE SUFFICIENTLY DISTANT (2M OR MORE) FROM THE CONGREGATION DO NOT NEED TO WEAR A FACE COVERING EXCEPT WHEN DISTRIBUTING HOLY COMMUNION. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE SEE: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/06/Guidance-Acts-of-Worship-Mass-V10-03082020.pdf>***

**IN ENGLAND, IF YOU ARE OVER THE AGE OF 11 YOU MUST WEAR A FACE COVERING IN ANY PLACES OF WORSHIP. ANY PREMISES WHERE FACE COVERINGS ARE REQUIRED ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE REASONABLE STEPS TO PROMOTE COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW. THERE ARE SOME CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE PEOPLE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO WEAR A FACE COVERING. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE SEE:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

**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 - Sixth Sunday of the Year A.*

It is common in today's world to find Catholics who openly disagree with core Catholic teaching. I am sure that we all know people who say that they are Catholic, but who don't come to Mass on Sunday – they only come on Christmas and Easter, if they come at all. We all have heard or read about politicians who say that they are ardent and practising Catholics, but who publicly support laws that go directly against some of the most basic tenets of morality as taught by the Catholic Church. And if we are honest with ourselves, we even recognize in our own lives this same tendency. We call ourselves practising Catholics and yet, we spend more time working on our favourite hobbies than on our prayer life; we spend more time becoming an expert in our professional life than in our spiritual life and our faith and; we tolerate in our own lives hidden habits of selfishness and sin while we criticize other people for their more visible faults. If we think about it a little bit, we see very clearly that this contradiction between what we believe and how we live is not a good thing. It is like the second son in today's parable. He impressed his father with fancy words and a good show of healthy obedience, but underneath the surface he was still living for his own self – centred gratification, not for the greater good of his mission in the Father's kingdom. When we fall into that contradiction, it is no wonder that we don't grow in our experience of Christ's love and grace, and it is no wonder that we don't grow in wisdom, interior peace, and the deep Christian joy that we thirst for. Faith, if it is real, makes a real impact on our lives. When it does not, our spiritual growth is stunted.

St James expressed this bluntly in his New Testament Letter: “As a body without a spirit is dead, so is faith without deeds.” (James 2<sup>26</sup>). The harmony between words and deeds, appearance and reality, is so important for Christ that He built it right into the very fibre of Christianity. All the Sacraments, the source of God's grace for the Church, have two elements: matter and form. The form is the words that explain the meaning; the matter is the material that is transformed into a channel of grace by those words. If you have just the matter or just the form, you have no Sacrament; you need both. So, if a priest says the words, “This is my body, this is blood,” over a piece of pizza and a glass of orange juice, nothing happens. But when he pronounces those words of consecration over the unleavened bread and the wine mixed with water during Mass, Christ Himself becomes truly present in the Eucharist – Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. Likewise, if a penitent goes to confession and receives absolution, but then purposely refuses to fulfil his penance, he is not freed from his sin. That would be hypocritical – saying that you were repentant, but not really being repentant. The Church's process of canonization shows the same focus on integrity. Hundreds of people may testify that someone was truly holy and a model of heroic Christian virtue, but unless the intercession of the saint – to – be brings about a miracle, there can be no canonization. If we come to Mass on Sunday and say all the right prayers, but then we go to work or school on Monday and make no effort to live as Christ would have us live, then nothing happens in our souls – our lives do not bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit, because we are hypocrites. Real faith requires real action.

This honest look at our tendency to be hypocritical, like the second son in today's parable, can make us feel discouraged. But discouragement never comes from God. He is all – powerful, all – loving, all – knowing and all – merciful. And since He is on our side – as the Crucifix proves to us – everything is possible for us, nothing is out of our reach. Discouragement is a temptation. It is a feeling that comes when we recognize how weak we are and how little we can really do when we rely on our own strength. And the devil wants us to give into that feeling – as if we really did have to rely on our own strength. But we don't. The whole point of today's beautiful readings is that what we cannot do with our own strength, we can do by turning to Christ. That is what the prostitutes and the tax – collectors discovered and so they were able to repent and change the direction of their lives. That is what the first son in the parable discovered – he repented from his selfishness and found strength to fulfil his duties. That is what the First Reading teaches us so clearly: that if we turn away from our sins and turn towards Christ, we shall surely live! That is even what today's Psalm tells us: God is our Saviour, He overflows with mercy and shows sinners the right paths. Today the Lord has reminded us of how much we all need His grace. Let us promise that this week we will come and drink deeply from the fountains of this grace: especially through our prayer and the Scriptures. These are the secrets to our hope, because they unite us to Christ. And if we use them well, we will also be able to spread our hope to others.