



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 – SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME: A
Twenty – Seventh Week of Ordinary Time: 4th – 10th October 2020 (Weekday Cycle Year II / Psalter Week III)

Saturday 3rd October: <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.
Mass; Roy Bailey RIP	
Sunday 4th October: <i>Twenty – Seventh 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; Pro Populo; People of the Parish	
Monday 5th October: <i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am Mass; Mr Benny Farrelly (Curtis)	
Tuesday 6th October: <i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am Mass (St Francis); Kevin Glanville RIP (Spittle)	
Wednesday 7th October: <i>Our Lady of the Rosary (memoria)</i>	
10:00 am: Mass; Ernest Strickland RIP (Marie)	
Thursday 8th October: <i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass; Holy Souls	
Friday 9th October: <i>St John Henry Newman, Priest (memoria)</i>	
10:00 am Mass; Ron King RIP	
Saturday 10th October: <i>St Paulinus of York, Bishop & the Anglo - Saxon Saints of the Diocese (memoria)</i>	
Mass; Mike Begley RIP	
Sunday 11th October: <i>Twenty – Eighth Sunday of the Year</i>	
10:00 am: Mass; Jack Dunsmore RIP	
UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY!	
<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.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: Please remember in your prayers to pray for the repose of the soul of *Margaret Warburton* who died on **20th September 2020**. Margaret's Funeral Service will take place at **12:00 noon** in Church on **Thursday 8th October 2020** followed by cremation at Bramcote Crematorium. We remember her and her family at this sad time. May she rest in peace.

POOR CLARES: The Sisters were extremely happy and grateful to receive the gifts I took them from our Parish and send their thanks and prayers to you all. They are all keeping well and have managed to remain free of the virus. The next visit is **Monday 26th October 2020**. Many thanks to you all for continuing to support the Sisters during this difficult time. – *Diane Wilson*.

CAFOD HARVEST FAMILY FAST DAY: This week we are marking CAFOD'S Harvest Family Fast Day to help people facing the worst of the corona virus crisis. We have all felt the impact of this terrible disease – let us come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild and heal. Please pray for all those affected and donate online at: <https://cafod.org.uk/Give> or by using one of the envelopes. You can also give easily via text. **Text CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10.** (Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you would like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communication, text CAFODNOINFO to 70085. For more information please see our privacy policy: <https://cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice>).

THE CANANN TRUST: The Trust is marking their 25th 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.

CENTENARY MASS (4th OCTOBER 2020): This year Stella Maris (formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea) is celebrating 100 years of its support to seafarers, fishers, and their families. To mark the beginning of our centenary year we will be holding a live-streamed Mass celebrated by Archbishop Philip Tartaglia of Glasgow. Join us online to share in this very special celebration on Sunday 4th October 2020 at 3:00 pm. The Mass will be streamed live at www.stellamaris.org.uk/centenarymass.

SEA SUNDAY (20th DECEMBER 2020): The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have decided to postpone Sea Sunday this year. This is because, due to the coronavirus pandemic, most parish churches were not able to open in July when the annual collection normally happens. We hope to be able to celebrate Sea Sunday 2020, on 20th December, with other Catholic churches across the country. We would really appreciate it if you could kindly join us in prayers, support and gratitude on Sea Sunday 2020. As the official Catholic charity supporting seafarers, fishers and their families worldwide, Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) is most grateful for your support. To understand why the Second Collection is so vital for our continuing work with seafarers, we are including some useful materials in our resource pack which you will be able to download soon from our website at <https://www.stellamaris.org.uk/sea-sunday>.

RIGHT TO LIFE UK: (+44 (0) 1732 460911 info@righttolife.org.uk) *Help protect babies with cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot.* Sadly abortion is currently available in the UK, right up to birth, for babies with cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot. All of these conditions can be corrected. A Cross – Party group of MPs from the three largest parties in the UK Parliament have come together to bring forward the Abortion (Cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot) Bill. The Bill will change the law to clarify that cleft palate, cleft lip, and club foot are not grounds for abortion in the UK. Can you help with getting your MP to support the Bill? Please visit www.standupandsmile.org.uk to email your MP asking them to support the Bill. It only takes 30 seconds.

HELP STOP DIY ABORTIONS: During the Coronavirus pandemic unborn babies and their mothers have been at even greater risk of abortion. The Government's "pills through the post", brought in as Covid measure, means that over 23,000 women in England and Wales aborted their baby at home during lockdown. Please help us to spread the truth about DIY abortion and save women and babies from the tragedy of abortion. Will you deliver pro-life information leaflets about DIY abortions door – to – door in your area? Every leaflet could make the difference to a vulnerable woman and save a baby's life. Please go to our [website](#) to learn more and order some leaflets. Or you can order leaflets by calling SPUC on 020 7091 7091.

SIGN THE PETITION TO SAVE THE RIGHT TO SAVE LIVES: Pro – abortion MPs in Parliament want to stop pregnant women getting help outside abortion clinics by calling for buffer zones. SPUC is campaigning to save the right for peaceful Pro – Life vigils to take place. Hundreds of children are alive today in this country because their mother met a loving Pro – Life person just before they walked into the abortion clinic. We must protect this vital work. Please sign our petition to save the right to save lives. It only takes a minute of your time, but it could mean a lifetime for an unborn baby. You can sign the petition here: <https://spuc.org.uk/SaveTheRightToSaveLives>

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 12th 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/>

HEAD OF CENTRE VOLUNTEER – MARRIAGE CARE: Broken relationships are extremely painful especially among family and friends. Marriage Care is a Catholic organisation providing marriage preparation and ongoing relationship support for couples across England and Wales. Our local centre which covers Nottingham, Derby and the surrounding area is looking for someone with experience of team management to take on our Head of Centre role and lead and support our local team in delivering vital relationship support services. If you want to be part of a friendly team making a real difference in your community, please enquire. For more information you can visit us at: www.marriagecare.org.uk or email volunteer@marriagecare.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 are 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 - Seventh Sunday of the Year A.

In today's Readings God is reminding us today that all good things in life have come to us from Him. Many people often get angry at God and ask why He allows bad things to happen. Fewer people are humble and honest enough to ask themselves a much more important question: Why do good things happen, why is there any good in the world at all, where did it come from? We should think more about the answers to those questions. Today's Readings paint the picture of a vineyard or a garden. Gardens are environments carefully created by gardeners in order to enable plants to be healthy and reach maturity, bearing abundant fruit. God sees our souls as gardens of virtue. Just as God supplied the vineyard with air, sunlight, water, soil, the wall to protect it and the tower to guard it, so He supplies each one of us with life, talents, opportunities, family, Sacraments, faith, knowledge, conscience and the guidance of the Church. There is no good thing we can think of that does not owe its origin and existence to God. And one of the very best things that God gives us is His mercy and His patience. Today's Readings show how many chances God gives His tenants to do the right thing, to fulfil their duties, to do what they were put there to do. When they do not do what is right, God sends three different messengers, including His own son. In justice, however, He did not have to send anyone. He could have evicted those selfish stewards right away. But God is patient with our sin and selfishness. He keeps giving us more and more chances, many more than we deserve. He never gives up on us, even though sometimes we give up on ourselves. God's boundless mercy is the best evidence of His immense goodness.

One common characteristic of many natural religions that human beings have developed throughout history is something called anthropomorphism. This is a fancy word for saying that without the help of God's own revelation, people have a tendency to think that God (or the gods, if we are talking about paganism) is just like us, only bigger and stronger. We are all familiar with stories from ancient Greece, in which the false gods got into arguments, tried to trick each other, committed adultery – it was as if they were just like human beings, only immortal. Christianity put an end to anthropomorphism – now we know that although human beings are made in the image of God, God is not made in the image of man. God is unlimited in His knowledge, His goodness, His wisdom, His power – He is not just bigger and stronger than us, He is on a wholly different level altogether. And yet, our fallen human nature still has a tendency to think in terms of anthropomorphism. One anthropomorphic mistake we often make is to think that God loses His patience with us, just as we lose patience with other people (or with ourselves). We think that since we run out of mercy, that giving mercy takes a huge effort for us, well then, it must be that way for God too. Not at all. God's mercy is not like a giant eye – dropper in heaven, reluctantly and jealously dispensing forgiveness and love in little bits, drip by drip. That is how we do it. But God's mercy is more like a waterfall, a rushing mountain spring or an ever – flowing fountain. Or as Psalm 42 alludes to, “Like the deer that longs for running streams, so my soul longs for you my God.” The only thing that will make us die of thirst is our self – centred refusal to drink from this fountain – like the stewards in today's parable. God's mercy and goodness is always ready to come into our lives, always – we just have to open the door.

The more deeply we know this truth and are convinced of it, the more joyful we can be. Joy is the emotion that comes from having or possessing a good thing. Most of this world's joys are fragile and passing, because this world's good things are fragile and passing. But God's goodness, His selfless interest in and, unconditional love for us, is never – changing, stable, constant and eternal. The more we are aware of it and lay claim to it, the more joy we will experience and the more constantly we will experience it, coming gradually to discover what St Paul describes in today's Second Reading as “the peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand.” And how can we deepen our knowledge and conviction of God's limitless goodness? St Paul says we must become people of prayer: offering to God all our worries, thanking Him for all our gifts and contemplating all the good and noble things that God has done and surrounded us with. The society around us, our own selfishness and the devil try to clog up our minds with complaints and problems, so that we lose sight of the bigger picture. Only by consciously lifting our hearts and minds to God, every day, throughout the day, do we gradually come to root our lives in the deep, rich soil of God's goodness. How is our prayer life? Does it consist merely of saying prayers? Does it include heart – to – heart conversations with Our Lord? Does it include time to reflect on God and His plans through reading the Bible and other spiritual books? Today let us renew our commitment to being Christians worthy of our name, Christians who love Christ enough to spend some time with Him in personal prayer, every single day. A thought for the coming week, “***Don't think less of yourself; but think about yourself less.***”