



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

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Christopher A Thomas, Presbytery, 25 Foster Avenue, Beeston, NG9 1AE

E – mail: frcathomas@live.com ☎: 0115 922 8145 Website: www.theassumption.co.uk

PARISH DEACON: Rev. Chris Stevens (deacon@lecatholic.org.uk) ☎: 0115 808 5428)

SAFEGUARDING REPS: **Clare Newman** – (Assumption) ☎: 07812 603083

Carol Morris & Jane Watts (St Francis) – ☎: 08445 880933

DIOCESAN CO - ORDINATOR: – **Clare McKenzie** – ☎: 0115 953 9850

TIMES OF MASSES AND OTHER SERVICES: TWENTY – EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME: A
Twenty – Eighth Week of Ordinary Time: 11th – 17th October 2020 (Weekday Cycle Year II / Psalter Week IV)

Saturday 10th October:	<i>St Paulinus of York, Bishop & the Anglo - Saxon Saints of the Diocese (memoria)</i>	<p><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, Anne – Marie Reid, Elizabeth Reilly, Alan Roberts, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning and John Wilcox.</p>
Mass;	Mike Begley RIP	
Sunday 11th October:	<i>Twenty - Eighth Sunday of the Year</i>	
10:00 am Mass;	Jack Dunsmore RIP	
Monday 12th October:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am Mass;	Eric Taylor RIP (Margaret)	
Tuesday 13th October:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am Mass (St Francis);	John Biles RIP (Anniversary) (Sarah)	
Wednesday 14th October:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Private Intention (Marie)	
Thursday 15th October:	<i>St Teresa of Ávila, Virgin & Doctor (memoria)</i>	
Mass;	Freddie Law RIP	
Friday 16th October:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am Mass;	Maria Sawicki RIP (King)	
Saturday 17th October:	<i>St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr (memoria)</i>	
Mass;	Dorothy Bailey RIP	
Sunday 18th October:	<i>Twenty - Ninth Sunday of the Year</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Pro Populo; People of the Parish	
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 *John Lyons* (brother of Jim Lyons) who died on *3rd October 2020*. We remember him and his family at this sad time. May he 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*.

BRIARS RETREAT CENTRE: Florence Agius and Abigail Newman will be doing a 10k sponsored walk for the Briars Retreat Centre on the 24th October 2020, which will take place in the Peak District. They have set up a JustGiving page. To find out more and to sponsor them please follow the link: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/briars?utm_medium=email&utm_source=ExactTarget&utm_campaign=20201003 – *Florence Agius and Abigail Newman*.

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.

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>

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 and the recent rise in cases of infection in Nottingham there is, as yet, 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).

We continue to operate the ‘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 - Eighth Sunday of the Year A.

In today's modern world the self – help industry is massive. Every year dozens of best – selling books and multi – media products flood the market with quick and easy methods to turn your life around and achieve perfect happiness. Scores of modern – day gurus travel the wealthy corridors of modern, secular society giving seminars and workshops on how to, “Live Your Best Life Now” or, “How to Release the Potential that Lies Within You.” Personal trainers, life – coaches and emotional management consultants are multiplying like rabbits. There is much good sense and some pearls of practical wisdom in all of this, which even sincere Christians benefit from. And yet, there is a fundamental danger involved in the self – help sub – culture. There is a powerful anti – Catholic gene in its very DNA. The self – help mindset is convinced that happiness, a well – balanced life, a truly fulfilling life, is basically the product of our own efforts. But from a Catholic perspective, that is a heresy (the ancient heresy of Pelagianism). If we could achieve our life's purpose by our own efforts and the right technique, Jesus would not have needed to come and save us. But He did. Original sin both damaged human nature in its very core and also unleashed the powers of evil in this world. The resulting battle for fulfilment, happiness and meaning is a battle that we simply cannot win alone: we need God's grace. That is why today's First Reading describes paradise as a work of the Lord. That is why today's Psalm describes God as a wise and Good Shepherd who guides and cares for His needy sheep. That is also why today's Gospel shows the destruction of the little kingdoms that the invited, ungrateful guests made for themselves; there is only One True King, Jesus Christ and, everlasting peace and prosperity can only be attained in His Kingdom.

Jesus eloquently illustrates this truth by including a curious detail in the parable in today's Gospel. In ancient Palestine, one of the social customs at wedding banquets was for the host to provide a festive garment for all the guests. It could be something as simple as a scarf or shawl. With all the guests wearing this garment, an atmosphere of unity and joy was created and the special honour of the bride and bridegroom (who were wearing different garments), was emphasized. In the parable, after the banquet has begun, the king comes in to greet the guests. And lo and behold, he finds a guest without a wedding garment. There are only two possible reasons why a guest would not have a wedding garment: either he sneaked in without being invited or he didn't care about celebrating the wedding and just wanted to enjoy the food and drink while doing his own thing. In either case, such a guest is not a guest at all – he has no relationship to the bride and groom and so he has no reason to be there. And so the king threw him out. When we try to follow Christ without accepting His will and the teaching of His Church, we are trying to get in to the wedding banquet while refusing to put on the wedding garment. Our Catholic faith is not a self – help buffet or a pick – and – mix counter where we can decide and choose according to our own personal preference; it is the Revelation of God and it requires humility, obedience and trust.

This is something that comes across clearly in the Church's Liturgy. Think about the Sacraments. In all of them, we receive something from God, something we cannot do for ourselves. In Baptism, we are given a candle and a white garment and the priest pours the water over our forehead. In Confirmation the Bishop anoints us with Holy Chrism. In Holy Orders a man is ordained when the Bishop lays his hands upon the new priest's head. In the Anointing of the Sick the priest applies the holy oil to the sick or dying person's body. In Confession it is the priest who says out loud, as Christ's representative, "*I absolve you from your sins...*" In the Eucharist, we don't take Holy Communion for ourselves, we receive it from God's minister. Even in Marriage, each spouse gives to the other their life – long commitment. The Sacraments are the exact opposite of a self – help approach to growth in wisdom and happiness. They remind us that we cannot save ourselves, that a fulfilled and fulfilling life comes not just from our own efforts, but from our own efforts empowered by the gift of God's Grace.

Finding what our hearts desire requires believing in Jesus, leaning on Jesus, following Jesus, obeying Jesus, staying close to Jesus. This is the first law of Christian spirituality. As St Paul says in today's Second Reading, "There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength," that is Christ and not through self – help techniques. We all believe that. But even so, because our society is steeped in the self – help mentality, our faith is not always as strong as it should be. One self – help idea that may be sapping our strength is sometimes referred to as the prosperity Gospel. The basic concept is that if we live a good moral life here on earth, God will shower material blessings on us, giving us smooth sailing through life on earth. This is such a widespread and seductive idea that all of us have been affected by it. And yet, it is not a Catholic idea at all. Jesus promised that "the world will give you trouble," (John 16³³) and He made it quite clear that to be His follower we must, "deny ourselves and take up our cross every day." (Luke 9²³). This means that the joy of Christianity does not consist of perfect comfort, bliss, health and peace here on earth. We are pilgrims here; our glimpses and hints of happiness are always accompanied by problems, sufferings and difficulties. To be strong, our faith must be built on that realistic expectation. This is why St Paul could say in today's Second Reading, "I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty." In good times and in bad, in sunshine or in the darkness of the valley of death, Christ remains our Good Shepherd. "We can try to limit suffering, to fight against it, but we cannot eliminate it. It is when we attempt to avoid suffering by withdrawing from anything that might involve hurt, when we try to spare ourselves the effort and pain of pursuing truth, love and goodness, that we drift into a life of emptiness, in which there may be almost no pain, but the dark sensation of meaninglessness and abandonment is all the greater. It is not by sidestepping or fleeing from suffering that we are healed, but rather by our capacity for accepting it, maturing through it and finding meaning through union with Christ, who suffered with infinite love. ...The true measure of humanity is essentially determined in relationship to suffering and to the sufferer. This holds true both for the individual and for society. A society unable to accept its suffering members and incapable of helping to share their suffering and to bear it inwardly through 'com – passion' is a cruel and inhuman society." (*Pope Benedict XVI, Spe Salvi, 37 – 38*).