



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 –NINTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME: A
Twenty – Ninth Week of Ordinary Time: 18th – 24th October 2020 (Weekday Cycle Year II / Psalter Week I)

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| Saturday 17th October: | <i>St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr (memoria)</i> | <p><i>Your Prayers are requested for those who are sick:</i></p> <p>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; | <i>Dorothy Bailey RIP</i> | |
| Sunday 18th October: | <i>Twenty – Ninth Sunday of the Year</i> | |
| 10:00 am Mass; | <i>Pro Populo; People of the Parish</i> | |
| Monday 19th October: | <i>Weekday Feria</i> | |
| 10:00 am Mass; | <i>Ivy & Brian Sheridan RIP (Taylor Family)</i> | |
| Tuesday 20th October: | <i>Weekday Feria</i> | |
| 10:00 am Mass (St Francis); | <i>Intentions of Fr John Ryan OBE (Goodhind)</i> | |
| Wednesday 21st October: | <i>Weekday Feria</i> | |
| 10:00 am: Mass; | <i>Gerald Curran 90th Birthday (Breame Family)</i> | |
| Thursday 22nd October: | <i>St John Paul II, Pope (memoria)</i> | <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> |
| Mass; | <i>Holy Souls</i> | |
| Friday 23rd October: | <i>Weekday Feria</i> | |
| 10:00 am Mass; | <i>John Lyons RIP (Jim)</i> | |
| Saturday 24th October: | <i>Weekday Feria</i> | |
| Mass; | <i>Private Intention</i> | |
| Sunday 25th October: | <i>Thirtieth Sunday of the Year</i> | |
| 10:00 am: Mass; | <i>Vinnie Giedriatas RIP</i> | |
| 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.

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*.

CHURCH MAINTENANCE: Work to carry out repairs to the Church roof has now been completed. The work included repairs to the roofs above the side aisle adjacent to Foster Avenue, part of the roof above the side aisle adjacent to the Car Park and also the Sacristy area and Adoration Chapel. As well as new felt and flashing there was also some repointing required. Total cost of the works was **£ 8,088.00**. We have also in the past week had the drains cleared around the Church, Hall and car Park areas at a slightly more reasonable cost of **£ 650. 00**. However, we still need to replace the Gas Central Heating Boiler for the Church as the current boiler is obsolete and unserviceable. We are in the process of getting quotations from a number of local companies and at the moment it looks like the cost will be around **£ 40,000. 00!**

ST VINCENT de PAUL CHARITABLE DONATIONS: The Assumption SVP have made the following recent donations: Hope Nottingham Food Bank – £ 200. 00; SVP Lebanon Appeal – £ 200. 00 and; The Canaan Trust, Long Eaton – £ 100. 00

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*.

GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK: 27th October 2020 is the 53rd Anniversary of the Abortion Act being passed in England and Wales. Since 1967 over nine million babies have lost their lives to abortion. Millions of women and men have also had to deal with the suffering which so often follows an abortion. Please join us in praying and fasting for the end of abortion in this country on Tuesday 27th October 2020. For Post Abortion help and to support Pro – Life counselling see; www.GoodCounselNetwork.com. This event is also on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2739924072936969>.

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 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 – Eighth Sunday of the Year A.

The Pharisees who asked Jesus this question about taxes were only interested in one thing: getting Jesus in trouble with the authorities. Jesus saw through their ploy, but instead of ignoring or humiliating them, He taught them a lesson. And that lesson is as valid today as it was twenty centuries ago: Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and, to God what belongs to God. Every Christian holds dual citizenship, each one of which has its own benefits and duties. Our birth made us citizens of an earthly nation; our Baptism made us citizens of a heavenly Kingdom. Sometimes they overlap, but in the end, our earthly citizenship will finish, while our heavenly citizenship will last forever. It is obvious which one is more important. Through the centuries, the many Christian saints and martyrs have taught us that if we are ever forced to choose between the two, if ever Caesar tries to take what belongs to God, we must be faithful to our true, everlasting homeland, even if it means suffering painful consequences here on earth. But today Christ is reminding us that, as far as possible, we need to live out both of these citizenships responsibly. How can we do that? Let us reflect on how we can be good citizens of earth, giving to Caesar what belongs to him, as well as good citizens in Christ's Kingdom, giving to God what belongs to Him.

Let's start with the duties of heavenly citizenship. What exactly belongs to God? Do we owe any taxes to the heavenly Inland Revenue? All of us know the answer immediately; it is written in the very first pages of the Bible. All that we are, all that we possess and all that we can hope for has come to us from God. Just as the Roman coin bore the image of the Emperor who made it, so the human soul bears the "image and likeness" of God, our Creator and our Father. He called each one of us into existence; He wants each of us to exist, so that we can enter into and develop a personal relationship with Him. This is the whole purpose of our lives: to live in communion with God, starting now and leading into everlasting life. As the Catechism puts it: "Coming from God, going toward God, man lives a fully human life only if he freely lives by his bond with God." Freely living by our bond with God means living as He created us to live. And He has shown us how to do that by sending us His Son, the model of every Christian life. And so, giving to God what belongs to God means obeying His commandments, following the example of Christ, our Saviour and heeding the teachings of His Church. Ignoring God and His commandments, as if He were far away, uninterested or foolish – that would be a kind of spiritual theft, like stealing the Emperor's coins. This is an important point for us to remember, because every one of us is called individually by God to follow Him and fulfil a mission in life. As Pope St John Paul II said: "It is essential for us to understand that Jesus has a specific task in life for each and every one of us. Each one of us is hand – picked, called by name, by Jesus! There is no one among us who does not have a divine vocation!"

The duties of our earthly citizenship are just as real, although they will only last for our lifetime here on earth – not forever. Jesus sums them up by saying, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar." Caesar in this case symbolizes the civic or political community. When God created us, He didn't create us to be completely self – sufficient individuals. Instead, He created us to be social, to need and enjoy the company and assistance of other human beings. Human nature requires us to live in communities – just look at how long it takes for a human baby to become capable of surviving on its own, much longer than any other mammal on the planet. This social aspect of our nature is also part of our being created in God's image. After all, Christ revealed to us that God is both one and three; the essence of God is love, the everlasting love between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. And so, for us to live our human lives to the full, we must be an image of that Divine community; we must be responsible members of the communities in which we live. These communities come together to form civil society and they provide us with many benefits: protection from crime, public services and opportunities for personal and family development. And so, it is our strict duty of justice to give back to society through obedience to good laws and active collaboration, like paying taxes and doing community service. In this sense, being patriotic is a virtue in which every

Catholics can excel; we should be the most dependable and loyal citizens of all. Since we know that God can make even our small, clumsy efforts to influence history have a big positive impact, we should always be making those efforts. This is one reason why Catholics, throughout history, have been at the forefront of all the great social and historical movements. But when Catholics really engage in social issues, are we not unfairly imposing our religion and morality? That false argument ignores the distinction Jesus makes in today's Gospel passage. When it comes to politics and culture, not all issues are on the same level. Some issues are foundational; they belong to God and were built by God into the very DNA of human society; they are non – negotiable. Other issues are secondary; they belong to Caesar and are open to debate. Treating unborn children as a mistake, as abortion does, is a foundational injustice – what good are any of the other human rights if those innocent people never even make it out of the womb? Taxes and diplomacy are important issues, but they are essentially different from the basic foundational issues. These secondary issues are like the walls of a house: you can knock out a wall or rearrange a room without the house falling down, but if you mess with the foundations, you lose the whole structure. Giving foundational issues first priority, is not imposing our morality; it is simply defending the vital core of human society. Do laws against rape and murder "impose" someone's private morality? No – they simply defend basic human rights. God is the Lord of history. Today, let us renew our heartfelt commitment to be His responsible fellow workers, which includes defending what belongs to God whenever Caesar wants to take it over.