



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: THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME: A

Thirtieth Week of Ordinary Time: 25th – 31st October 2020 (Weekday Cycle Year II / Psalter Week II)

Saturday 24th 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, Anne – Marie Reid, Elizabeth Reilly, Alan Roberts, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning and John Wilcox.
Mass; Private Intention	
Sunday 25th October: <i>Thirtieth Sunday of the Year</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>
10:00 am Mass; Vinnie Giedriatas RIP	
Monday 26th October: <i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am Mass; John Frederick Dixon RIP (Teresa)	
Tuesday 27th October: <i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am Mass (St Francis); John Waterhouse RIP (Galea)	
Wednesday 28th October: <i>Saints Simon & Jude, Apostles (Feast)</i>	
10:00 am: Mass; Private Intention (DW)	
Thursday 29th October: <i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass; Holy Souls	
Friday 30th October: <i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am Mass; Pro Populo; People of the Parish	
Saturday 31st October: <i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass; Iain Findlay RIP	
Sunday 1st November: <i>All Saints (Solemnity)</i>	
10:00 am: Mass; Laura Benson 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 *Kate Jean Rae (Gildea)* who died on *Wednesday 21st October 2020*. Kate's Funeral will take place on *Thursday 5th November 2020* at *11:00* in Church followed by burial at Beeston Cemetery. 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 *THIS Monday, 26th October 2020*. Many thanks to you all for continuing to support the Sisters during this difficult time. – *Diane Wilson*.

MISSION – RED BOXES: Although Covid 19 has made the emptying of Red Boxes extremely difficult this year, we are now approaching the end of the year when totals for 2020 need to be sent in and boxes emptied and the contents banked. I am willing to collect and return your box if this is easier for you – social distancing observed of course – and my phone number is on the label underneath the box. Please can you call me to arrange a collection time or if you possible can drop your box off at Church this would be appreciated. Many thanks for your help and continued support at this difficult time – *Diane Wilson Parish MISSIO Secretary*.

NOVEMBER DEAD: During the month of November we are once again encouraged by the Church to remember all those of our family and friends; whom we have known, who have died. This year we will have our Novena (Nine Days) of Masses for the Holy Souls beginning on *Friday 13th November 2020*. Due to current limitations, this will not be on consecutive days, however, one Mass will be offered for the general intention of the Holy Souls and specifically for all those whose names we have placed upon the altar on the following days: *Friday 13th; Sunday 15th; Monday 16th; Tuesday 17th; Wednesday 18th; Sunday 22nd; Monday 23rd; Tuesday 24th* and; *Friday 22nd November 2020*. If you wish your loved ones to be included in the Novena, please complete a form and place it in the envelope provided, along with any donations, which you will find in the Narthex. All names will be placed on the Altar for the celebration of these Masses and also throughout the whole month of November; both during and after the Novena. All donations in the envelopes will be taken out at the end of the month and further Masses will be offered throughout the year for all the deceased members of our Parish and their families and friends. If you cannot get an envelope or list from Church, then please make your own list on a piece of paper and put it along with your donation through the door of the Presbytery, so that these names can also be included.

THE BLESSING OF GRAVES: All being well this will take place on the second Sunday in November. I will attend *Beeston Cemetery*, Wollaton Road, at *2:00 pm* on *Sunday 8th November 2020* and *Chilwell Cemetery*, Field Lane on the same day at *3:15 pm* to hold a short service for family and friends of our Parishioners who have gone to the Lord. All are welcome to attend to pray for the dead of our Parish.

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!**

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 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.**

Thirtieth Sunday of the Year A.

The “Law and the Prophets” that Jesus refers to in today’s Gospel (the Old Testament) were considered by the Jews to contain the absolutely unique Self – Revelation of the One, True God to His Chosen People only. Possessing this Revelation made ancient Israel more privileged than all other nations and peoples. Therefore, when the Pharisee (who, like all Pharisees, was an expert in, “the Law and the Prophets”) asks Jesus to identify the greatest among the 613 commandments of the Old Testament, he is really challenging Christ to give an interpretation of the entire history and reality of the Israelite nation. We can imagine Christ fixing His eyes on those of the questioner, wondering how sincere the question really was. St Matthew does not tell us how the Pharisee reacted, but we can imagine that he was surprised, if not downright shocked. Jesus had been asked to name one Commandment, but then He listed two. The shrewd Pharisees would have noticed this. In listing two Commandments, Jesus was pointing out that you cannot separate loving God from loving your neighbour. And that is exactly what many of the Pharisees did every single day. God is our Creator and Saviour; His love is both universal and personal. He loves every single human being so much, that He gave His life on the Cross to pay the price for each person’s sin, to open the gates of heaven to every single person who is willing to follow Him. And so, if someone truly loves God with all their heart, it would be a contradiction not to treat one’s neighbours – those very people for whom God loves and suffered to save – with sincere and self – sacrificing respect. The old saying applies above all to God: Any friend of yours is a friend of mine.

In ancient Rome, Christians used to use Catacombs for their burial places. The Catacombs consist of miles of underground tunnels and chambers that were painstakingly carved out of the unique tufa soil on the outskirts of Rome. Tufa is a mixture of normal topsoil and elements from volcanic ash and lava. As long as it is not exposed to the air, it shows no special characteristics, except that it is remarkably soft and easy to dig. But when you excavate into it, exposing it to the air, it gradually becomes almost as hard as rock. And so it was the perfect environment to create a vast network of underground cemeteries, chapels and hiding places. You can still visit these Catacombs today. When you do, you notice that in addition to the normal graves, there are thousands of little horizontal niches dug into the walls of the passageways. Two or three feet long, less than a foot high and two or three feet deep, these niches are much too small to serve as a burial place for a fully – grown body. Archaeologists discovered what they were used for. In ancient Rome, when Christianity was still a minority, outlawed religion, it was common practice for pagan women to abandon, by exposure, unwanted or crippled babies. Special clearings outside the city were used just for this purpose. As Christianity spread, Christian women started going out to those clearings to rescue the unwanted babies, convinced that they were loved by God and created in His image. Some of the babies would die from exposure before or soon after being rescued. When that happened, the Christians would bury these babies in the little niches in the Catacombs. In this way, at great cost and inconvenience to themselves, they actively lived out Christ’s commandment to love.

In today’s world, people are very busy. Sometimes we even feel much too busy to take time to reach out to neighbours in need. It is very possible, however, that at the end of our life we will see things quite differently. But even in the midst of our busy – ness, we can make an effort to love God by loving our neighbour, precisely in the way we interact with the people around us. A true Christian should always remember that people matter more than things. We should never be too busy for a kind word or a sincere smile. But those of us who really are super – busy can also make use of a secret weapon that allows us to do more in less time, to fulfil both of Christ’s two great commandments in one action. And it does not add anything at all to our ‘to – do list’ or calendar. It is so simple that you might be tempted to shrug it off when I tell you – but that would be a major mistake. What is this secret weapon? Praying for other people. When we pray for people we are exercising both loves at the same time: we show our love for God by talking to Him and expressing confidence in His goodness and power and, we show our love for our neighbour by caring about them. Each one of us should have a list of people we pray for regularly – family members and friends; but also orphans, politicians, Christians suffering persecution...the list could be endless. We should keep the list somewhere that we will have a chance to use it – near the windscreen of the car or the drawers where we fold the laundry. To pray regularly and sincerely for others – it is the secret weapon for loving God and loving our neighbour. During this next week, let us promise to use that weapon well.