



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: THE SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS: A

Thirty – First Week of Ordinary Time: 1st – 7th November 2020 (Weekday Cycle Year II / Psalter Week III)

<p><u>Saturday 31st October:</u> <i>Weekday Feria</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Mass; <i>Iain Findlay RIP</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><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>
<p><u>Sunday 1st November:</u> <i>All Saints (Solemnity)</i></p> <p>10:00 am Mass; <i>Laura Benson RIP</i></p>	
<p><u>Monday 2nd November:</u> <i>All Souls (Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed)</i></p> <p>10:00 am Mass; <i>Deceased Members of the Mannion Family (Dixon)</i></p>	<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>
<p><u>Tuesday 3rd November:</u> <i>Weekday Feria</i></p> <p>10:00 am Mass (St Francis); <i>Anna Mairura RIP (Anniversary)</i></p>	
<p><u>Wednesday 4th November:</u> <i>St Charles Borromeo, Bishop (mem)</i></p> <p>10:00 am: Mass; <i>Lilian Cresswell RIP (Stafford)</i></p>	
<p><u>Thursday 5th November:</u> <i>Weekday Feria</i></p> <p>11:00 am: Requiem Mass; <i>Kate Jean Rae RIP</i></p>	
<p><u>Friday 6th November:</u> <i>Weekday Feria</i></p> <p>10:00 am Mass; <i>Julia Wilson RIP (Birthday) (D & D Wilson)</i></p>	
<p><u>Saturday 7th November:</u> <i>Weekday Feria</i></p> <p>Mass; <i>Private Intention</i></p>	
<p><u>Sunday 8th November:</u> <i>Thirty – Second Sunday of the Year A</i></p> <p>10:00 am: Mass; <i>Pro Populo; People of the Parish</i></p> <p>2:00 pm: / 3:15 pm <i>Blessing of the Graves Beeston / Chilwell Cemeteries</i></p>	
<p>UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY!</p>	
<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.

Also for James Dobbin who died on 18th October 2020. Jim and his wife Margaret were prime co-ordinators of SPANED in the Nottingham Diocese in support of Fr Frank Daly and they founded Orla House in Mapperley Plains for the Residential Care of people with special needs. May he rest in peace.

POOR CLARES: The Sisters send their sincere thanks for the donations they have received from our Parishioners when I visited them on Monday 26th October. They are all well and managing to stay safe and they want you to know that you are all in their prayers every day. The next visit will be *Monday 30th November 2020*. Thank you for continuing to support them. – *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 27th 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.

RE – OPENING OF CHURCHES: In spite of our current Tier 3 restrictions we are still able to have limited public Masses at the moment. I am very grateful to all the volunteer Stewards / Cleaners, who continue to be so generous in their time and efforts as we continue with the current limitations. We must of course continue to remember the need for Social distancing and not mix outside your own household / support bubble. 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.***

All Saints.

The word that keeps appearing today is joy. Today the Church invites us to lift our gaze to heaven, to call to mind our older brothers and sisters who not only persevered in their faith while they lived on earth, but actually lived their lives in such a way that they built up Christ's Kingdom in the world. They not only resisted the onslaughts of evil, but they conquered territory for good. Now they are enjoying their reward, and that should give us joy too. Not because their achievement takes away the problems we still have to face here on earth – it doesn't. Today's joy does not come from a false gospel that you sometimes hear preached on television these days: the gospel of 'prosperity,' which promises heaven on earth. That is not Christian joy. Jesus never promised heaven on earth – in fact, He promised that following Him meant carrying crosses and facing persecution. So where does today's joy come from? First of all, it comes from sharing in the victory of the Saints. They are our brothers and sisters and so their victory belongs to us too. If your brother wins the Olympic Gold Medal, you would be filled with joy. The Saints have won much more than that and they are our siblings. Second, today's joy also comes from being reminded that God has given us the three tools we need to follow in the footsteps of the Saints – to win the Gold Medal ourselves and make it to heaven.

The first tool is knowledge of our destination. We know where we are going in life! We know what comes after death! This is what the First Reading reminds us of. St John sees God's angels of destruction hovering over the four corners of the earth. Their job is to put an end to human history, that sorry story of sin, greed, injustice and destruction. Yes, this world will come to an end. God will not permit injustice, sorrow and sin to last forever. He will put things right. So St John sees these angels poised to do damage, but then he sees that they are instructed to, "Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." What is that seal on the foreheads of God's servants? It is the Sign of the Cross that the Bishop makes with the Sacred Chrism when he anoints us at the moment of our Confirmation. It marks us as followers of Christ. And all of human history from the time of Christ's first coming has one purpose: for every human being to have an opportunity to receive that mark, to become Christ's follower. Those who do will be clothed in the white robe of grace and enter into eternal life, which starts here on earth and lasts forever in heaven. This is where we are going and we know it! That is the first tool that can help us follow in the footsteps of the Saints.

But it is not enough to know where we are going. As human beings we also need to know who we are. We need to know where we fit in the universe. We need to know where we came from as well as where we are going. Since we are created in God's image, we have a basic need not only to love, but to be loved. And we cannot be loved if we are not known. And we cannot be known unless we have an identity. We have to know that we are someone, not just a nameless speck in the universe. The Second Reading reminds us of who are: "Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are." Children of God. Members of God's family. We have Christ's blood coursing through our veins. Just as all the Saints did. The Saints not only knew this, but they lived in accordance with it. Many parts of the Catholic Church have the tradition of choosing a Confirmation name – the name of a Saint who has especially inspired us, with whom we can identify in a personal way. Today let us renew that choice. It is a symbolic way to recommit to our true identity as children of God and that identity is the second tool God gives us to help us follow in the footsteps of the saints, so we can share in their joy.

But it is not enough just to know who we are and where we are supposed to be going. We also need to know how to get there. This is what today's Gospel passage reminds us of: the Beatitudes, the basic attitudes of Christ and the basic attitudes that help us live as Christians. St Matthew places the Beatitudes at the start of Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount. They serve as a summary of everything else Jesus will say throughout the Gospel. They also summarize everything that Jesus Himself lived out during His time on earth. The Beatitudes take the Ten Commandments to their fulfilment. The Commandments were about exterior actions: "Thou shalt" and "thou shalt not." The Beatitudes are about the inner attitude of the heart that produces action: "Blessed are the gentle, the merciful, the peacemakers." What we do flows out from what we are. Since we are children of God, sons and daughters in the Son, Jesus Christ, we should act like Christ. Christ Himself is the way to our destination. Christ loved the Father by fulfilling His will even to the point of dying on the Cross. He loved His neighbour by leaving behind the glory of heaven and coming to earth to teach, to heal and to forgive our sins. Loving God and neighbour – this is the core of all the Beatitudes: an attitude of the heart that focuses more on God and others than on our self.

In every Mass our prayers are joined with those of all the Angels and Saints, thanking God and asking for grace. But many times we are so preoccupied with the hardships of life here on earth in the Church Militant that we pay little attention to the Church Triumphant. Today, let us lift our eyes to the Triumphant and let our hearts rejoice.