



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: THIRTY – SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR: A

Thirty – Second Week of Ordinary Time: 8th – 14th November 2020 (Weekday Cycle Year II / Psalter Week IV)

Saturday 7th November:	<u>Weekday Feria</u>	<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>Private Intention</i>	
Sunday 8th November:	<u>Thirty – Second Sunday of the Year A</u>	
Mass;	<i>Pro Populo; People of the Parish</i>	
Monday 9th November:	<u>The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (Feast)</u>	
Mass;	<i>Bob & Anne Solloway (Private Intention)</i>	
Tuesday 10th November:	<u>St Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor (memoria)</u>	
Mass;	<i>Stacia & Harry Willis RIP (Anniversary)</i>	
Wednesday 11th November:	<u>St Martin of Tours, Bishop (memoria)</u>	
Mass;	<i>Mike Wilson RIP (6th Anniversary) (D & D Wilson)</i>	
Thursday 12th November:	<u>St Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr (memoria)</u>	
Mass;	<i>Peter Hamble RIP (Galea)</i>	
Friday 13th November:	<u>Weekday Feria</u>	
Mass;	<i>Holy Souls (November Dead)</i>	
Saturday 14th November:	<u>Weekday Feria</u>	
Mass;	<i>Ann & Lawrence Blackburn RIP (Barnes)</i>	
Sunday 15th November:	<u>Thirty – Third Sunday of the Year A</u>	
Mass;	<i>Holy Souls (November Dead)</i>	

THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY AS ALL PUBLIC ACTS OF WORSHIP ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL AT LEAST 2nd DECEMBER 2020!

The Church of Our Lady of the Assumption and the Church of St Francis of Assisi are closed to members of the public, until further notice at least 2nd December 2020. The Parish Hall of Our Lady of the Assumption and the Parish Hall at St Francis of Assisi will remain 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).

For enquiries or to book a Mass, please also do this via the telephone. Stipends can be posted or given at a later date, but for the foreseeable future if you book, or have already booked a Mass Intention, then this Mass will be Celebrated in private.

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.

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.

LOCKDOWN VESRION 2: On 4th November 2020, Parliament passed into Law The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) The Regulations preclude gatherings for communal worship, including the celebration of Mass, Baptisms and most weddings. However, it is important to stress that this does not represent a return to the previous lockdown earlier in the year. Funeral Masses and Funeral Services may continue to be celebrated, with an attendance of up to 30 people (not including those who are required for the celebration). For more information please see: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/1200/made> and; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july>.

These are in force from *5th November to 2nd December 2020*.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: Please remember in your prayers to pray for the repose of the soul of *Elizabeth Reilly* who died on *Friday 30th October 2020*. Elizabeth's Funeral will take place on *Monday 16th November 2020* at *11:00* in Church followed by burial at Beeston Cemetery. Also for *Anne Magee* who died on *2nd November 2020*. Anne's Funeral will take place on *Thursday 19th November 2020* at *11:00* in Church followed by burial at Beeston Cemetery. We remember them both and their families at this sad time. May they 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; Tuesday 17th; Wednesday 18th; Thursday 19th; 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. *I will continue to offer Mass privately during this current period of lockdown, including the scheduled Masses and Novena Masses for the November Dead.*

THE BLESSING OF GRAVES: (CANCELLED); Due to current restrictions we will not be able to have the Blessing of the Graves this year.

Thirty - Second Sunday of the Year A.

At first glance we may think that the wise virgins in today's Gospel are mean or maybe even selfish. But that is not the case. Their role in the wedding feast, according to customs of the time, was to welcome the newlywed couple to the bridegroom's home after the wedding. That was their responsibility. To give away their oil would be to shirk their responsibility: there was simply not enough oil for ten lamps. For us to be unfaithful to Christ and His Church – no matter under what pretext – would be equally irresponsible. The First Reading teaches the same lesson. Wisdom was understood by the ancient philosophers as the key to a meaningful and fulfilling life. It was the object of the human person's greatest quest and must be sought after and desired beyond all other things. Everything else was secondary. In Biblical terms, this is still true for us today. It is Wisdom, God Himself and God's love as grasped and experienced by the human heart, that is "bright and does not grow dim". The rest of the goods of this world come to an end; they wear out; they do not fill our hearts. We should not ignore this most obvious lesson of Our Lord's parable. We all have the possibility of salvation, of entering into eternal life with God and the saints. But we also face the possibility of damnation, of being excluded from heaven. Our Lord could not have made it clearer: "the door was closed." It all depends on what we choose to seek as our highest goal. Our primary responsibility in life, the best use of our freedom, consists in making our friendship with God into that highest goal: that is true wisdom. But God will not force us to do that; if He did, it would not be friendship.

It is easy to deceive ourselves on this point. We can think that communion with God in time and eternity is truly the goal we are aiming for, when in fact we are actually making an idol out of something else – like money, pleasure, comfort, possessions, knowledge, fame, power or popularity. That was St. Jerome's problem. St. Jerome, one of the most intelligent and well – educated men in the history of the Church, grew up in Rome in the Fourth Century. In addition to being one of the greatest writers of all time, an accomplished Greek and Latin scholar, (with a special expertise in the work of ancient Rome's greatest rhetorician, Cicero) a secretary to Popes, the official translator of the Bible and a valiant defender of the true faith against heretics (and there were a lot of them back in the Fourth and Fifth Centuries), St. Jerome was an expert in the spiritual life. But he did not get to such heights of sanctity without his own struggles. In fact, as a young man, when he was just beginning to make a name for himself, he had a dream that changed his life. He found himself before the judgment seat of Christ and was asked, "Jerome, what is your faith?" He answered, "I am a Christian." He received the following unexpected response from Our Lord, "You are not. You are a Ciceronian." And in fact, Jerome himself admitted, upon later reflection, that he was so in love with his studies and with the intellectual life that he hadn't completely given himself to Christ. His priorities needed some sprucing up.

Or like the man was once in financial trouble. He could barely support himself or his family. Then he got an idea. He would go back to Church and ask for God's help. He was a little nervous at first, but he finally made it through the doors. He knelt down at the back and prayed: "God, if you are up there, please help me win the lottery so I can support my family." He came back day after day and made the same prayer. But nothing seemed to happen. Weeks passed, then months. Finally, on a Friday, he was making his regular visit and praying his regular prayer: "God, if you are up there, please help me win the lottery." And much to his astonishment, the ceiling opened and a thunderous voice from heaven answered him: "Okay, fine. But will you at least please buy a ticket?!" How often we are like that! We want all that God promises that He will give us, but we refuse to do our part; maybe because we are too lazy or too fearful to take the little risk of learning to pray or studying the faith with as much interest as we study the social media.

Now, we all have heard this lesson before and our salvation is a high priority for all of us. But what about the family that lives next door or just down the road? Have they ever been explained that the Bridegroom is coming, that there is a wedding banquet waiting for us all in eternity? Do they even have a lamp, let alone the oil of faith to light it? Or what about your cousin or an old friend; the one you haven't seen in years – is their lamp full of oil? Christ reminds us of this truth because we need to be reminded of it and maybe someone we know needs to be reminded too. We are all Christ's messengers. Let us all think of someone we know, someone who needs a lamp or needs some oil. Let us pray for them this week and ask Christ to tell us how to bring His message to them. And let us promise Him that we will try to do so this week. We can do nothing greater for that person than to offer to help them get a lamp – or find their old one – and help them fill it with oil. At the end of Mass the Church sends us forth with: "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord," or, "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life." This is exactly what it means: "Go in peace, with your lamp refilled and let others know that the Lord wants them in His Kingdom too."