



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: OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE: A

Thirty – Fourth Week of Ordinary Time: 22nd – 28th November 2020 (Weekday Cycle Year II / Psalter Week II)

Saturday 21st November:	<i>Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (memoria)</i>	<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, Alan Roberts, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning and John Wilcox.</p>
Mass;	<i>Pro Populo; People of the Parish</i>	
Sunday 22nd November:	<i>Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Solemnity)</i>	
Mass;	<i>Holy Souls (November Dead)^{6/9}</i>	
Monday 23rd November:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass;	<i>Holy Souls (November Dead)^{7/9}</i>	
Tuesday 24th November:	<i>St Andrew Düng – Lac and companions, Martyrs (memoria)</i>	
Mass;	<i>Holy Souls (November Dead)^{8/9}</i>	
Wednesday 25th November:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass;	<i>Michael Cummins RIP (2nd Anniversary)</i>	
Thursday 26th November:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass;	<i>Private Intention</i>	
Friday 27th November:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass;	<i>Holy Souls (November Dead)^{9/9}</i>	
Saturday 28th November:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass;	<i>Special Intention</i>	
Sunday 29th November:	<i>First Sunday of Advent: Year B</i>	
Mass;	<i>Daniel Dunsmore RIP</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 VERSION 2: On 5th November 2020, new regulations came into force with, “The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 4) Regulations 2020.” The Regulations preclude gatherings for communal worship, including the celebration of Mass, Baptisms and most weddings. Advice to us all is now clear, that for the next few weeks; **STAY AT HOME**. You must not leave or be outside of your home except for specific purposes. These can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>. Our Churches will remain closed until further notice. Funerals in Church will be permitted during the lockdown but with the existing limit of 30 people. All other services cannot go ahead. During this time, I will continue to celebrate Mass privately. Intentions for Masses are listed above in the weekly schedule. Please feel free to get in touch if you need any help or support during Lockdown or for any other reason. Requests will always be treated confidentially. Lots of us may be struggling practically, emotionally, spiritually.....do not be afraid to ask because we all need help at some point. **Above all, keep safe and well, stay at home as much as possible and look forward to coming back together in December.**

THE END OF LOCKDOWN(?): The current lockdown is scheduled to end on 2nd December 2020. That means (all being well!) that Mass can take place again for us from **Friday 4th December 2020** onwards. Booking for Masses from that date will open on **27th November 2020**. The website will simply pick up where it left off and the existing schedule of Mass times will be carried on for the time being.

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*.

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 which began 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: **¹Friday 13th; ²Sunday 15th; ³Tuesday 17th; ⁴Wednesday 18th; ⁵Thursday 19th; ⁶Sunday 22nd; ⁷Monday 23rd; ⁸Tuesday 24th and; ⁹Friday 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.***

ST. ELISABETH CONVENT, BELARUS: The joyous Christmas season is approaching! The season that is filled with love, family and, most importantly, God. As you may be aware, Sisters from the St Elisabeth Convent (Minsk, Belarus) are unable to participate in annual Christmas markets in our region due to travel restrictions. Nevertheless they have found a great way to spread the Christmas joy, love and deeds of mercy. They are launching the very first on – line Christmas Market this year, so that people from all over the world can purchase Christmas presents and souvenirs made with love and continuous prayer. Please, click here to participate: <https://catalog.obitel-minsk.com/christmas-market> **Through purchasing beautiful Christmas gifts each one of us will be able to serve the poor, sick, homeless and lonely people.** Because every item purchased at the on – line Market is a donation towards one of the Convent’s ministries. The on – line Christmas Market of St Elisabeth Convent offers a range of unique handmade items that will make memorable Christmas gifts, including: traditional hand painted Christmas ornaments; wooden toys and souvenirs; Santa Claus and Father Frost figures; handcrafted Christmas tree baubles; Nativity scenes and sets; Christmas themed ceramics and glass products; Orthodox Nativity icons; Russian matryoshka dolls and much more. Sisters are sending their prayers and blessings from Minsk. Throughout the pandemic and shutdowns, the Sisters were able to continue running and supporting their multiple social ministries that care for the vulnerable and sick near their Convent. Their biggest inspiration has been Saint Elisabeth (Elisabeth Fyodorovna see: <https://orthochristian.com/116358.html>) who helped the sick and the needy during her lifetime. Please remember that you are always more than welcome at our Convent. With love in Christ, Sister Olga, ST ELISABETH CONVENT 220053 Vigotskogo 6, Minsk, Belarus, phone/fax: +375173353089 elisabeth.convent@gmail.com obitel-minsk.ru/en/

SCHOOL GOVERNORS: Parents of pupils at English Martyrs' School will have received a nomination form this week in readiness for election of two **Parent Governors** in December, ready for the New Year meeting. Additionally if you are not a parent but you are interested in becoming a **School Foundation Governor** (you will need to be a practising Catholic for this category) then please contact me (07827 854773) for further details or to ask any questions – **David Boott** (Chairman of Governors)

ONLINE LITURGY: The new Chaplaincy team at English Martyrs' School have put together a Liturgy for the Solemnity of Christ the King / Youth Sunday, which will be shared via English Martyrs' YouTube channel (<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCT4oCcfjCkx99gAnrvlyB9g>) this weekend, and we would love for some of the parish to be able to share this with us – **Emily Pugh and Helen McElhone**.

VOCATIONS CAFÉ: The Diocesan Vocations Team are holding a Zoom Café for men and women on Tuesday **1st December 2020 at 7:00 pm**. If you would like to meet the team, ask any questions or simply just listen in, e – mail Diane at: vocationsadmin@dioceseofnottingham.uk for the link and password to enable you to join them on your device with your drink and cake. Find out what it means!!!

ADVENT LITURGY: During these different times it is more important than ever that we join as a community to share faith and love. Our Year 7 Chaplaincy Team here at The Trinity Catholic School are leading us in a livestreamed Advent Liturgy on **Wednesday 2nd December 2020 at 7:00 pm** to try and help us start the Advent season together and would love it if you could join us. The Liturgy will be streamed on the Be Inspirational YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/beinspirational>) for all to watch and is a wonderful opportunity to both support these students and to spend some time as a family in prayer. We hope to see you there!

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC MULTI – ACADEMY TRUST SITUATIONS VACANT: Please be aware that OLOLCMAT has the following new vacancies at the following Schools within the OLOLCMAT: 2 fixed term teaching assistants – St Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Mapperley Park, Nottingham; Classroom Teacher (maternity cover) – St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Langwith Junction and; Midday Supervisor (Casual) – St Philip Neri with St Bede Catholic Voluntary Academy, Mansfield. Details of all current vacancies can be found on our website: <https://www.ololcatholicmat.co.uk/vacancies-and-recruitment/>

MARY'S MEALS, "DOUBLE THE LOVE" CAMPAIGN: "So much can be asked of us at this time of year. It may be hard to always say yes. Mary said yes to being the Mother of Jesus and as a young, unmarried girl this must have been a terrifying moment for her. Yet her "yes" brought Jesus into the world and changed lives forever. Throughout this year of many challenges, thanks to our generous supporters, Mary's Meals has continued to say yes to feeding desperately hungry children with a daily meal in a place of education. Now we are delighted to share with you a new opportunity to say yes and provide 43, 000 hungry children in Bong County, Liberia, with a life – changing meal at school. From **2nd November until 31st January 2021**, donations made to our Double The Love campaign will be matched by the UK government, up to £ 2 million. Please consider setting a place at our [Big Family Christmas dinner table](#) or buying a Christmas gift card on our website. More information on how to support us can be found at: www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove Thank you."

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

It is hard not to feel unsettled at the scene portrayed in today's Gospel. Our Lord confronts us with the idea that, in the end there are only two sorts of people – sheep and goats. Those who see Christ in others and serve them and, those who don't. And that in the end we will be answerable for who we are before the judgement seat of God. It is a well – known warning of the need to see the face of Christ in those around us and to treat them as He would. It is a solemn instruction on the need to love and be generous towards others. But it is presented in terms that force us to ask ourselves where we stand: among the sheep or among the goats.

The unyielding judge reads out the record of performance, with unnerving implications for the present; that a close watch is being kept on all that we do. It is not a picture we find particularly attractive. We prefer to think of Christ as our brother and fellow – traveller, who accompanies us in our frailty and weakness. As the Responsorial Psalm proclaims, "The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want." It is a familiar refrain of comfort and reassurance. The sovereign King of the Gospel Reading is not as attractive as the Shepherd of the First Reading; who looks after the lost and brings back the stray. But even the gentle shepherd, described by Ezekiel, warns us not to forget that we shall be judged.

It does us well to remember that all our actions will be judged and all that we do has consequences. Following Christ makes certain demands upon us and calls us to be committed to the values He proclaimed. This does not mean however, that we face a test; where the number of people we feed, clothe or visit is noted down, to be read back to us on Judgement Day. It is not about pass marks, but rather about our relationship to our actions. Christ is severe, not on humanity itself, but on sin. He asks us to recognise that if sin characterises our attitude, then we shall share in His condemnation of it. Our actions form us: what we do shapes the sort or person we are. If we cannot say, “Yes” to our brothers and sisters in need, why should it be any different when we see God Himself? A heart so closed that it does not see God in the poor and the outcast will not be able to recognise Him face to face.

In the Creed we proudly profess, “He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end.” This relates directly to today’s Gospel. We will be judged by the response we have shown to those in need and our attitude towards others. Perhaps the biggest disease or epidemic of our society today is that of apathy and, its related symptoms: people who feel unwanted and uncared for. The greatest evil of today’s society is surely the lack of understanding and the indifference that characterises many people’s attitudes. The desire of many people is that they will be recognised and accepted for who they are. And so the immortal words of the Gospel are as relevant today as they ever were. What we need to do is restate them as they relate to us.

The King will say to those on His left Hand, “Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry – not for food, but for a smile or a word of encouragement; but all you did was point out my mistakes and criticise me.

I was thirsty – not for a drink, but for a word of recognition. But all you did was complain about your own problems and ignore mine. I was thirsty – for a sign of friendship, but you ignored me; or a little companionship, but you never gave me a drop.

I was a stranger – not a foreigner, but someone who was different from you; and you refused to have anything to do with me. My opinions differed from yours, but you refused to see my point of view.

I was naked – not because I lacked clothes, but because I lacked self – worth and you refused to cover me. Stripped of self – confidence, you made me feel the chill wind of your dismissal. I was naked because my good name had been taken away by idle gossip or an untruth and, you refused to believe me, instead you joined in the mockery.

I was sick – not in body, but through doubt and worry: and you never even noticed. I was sick through failure and disappointment and you couldn’t care less. I was looking for hope, but all you did was blame me.

I was in prison – not one made of bars, but a prison of loneliness and fear; and you just gave me the cold – shoulder. I was in a prison of my own guilt and you refused to forgive me.

I was homeless – not for one made of bricks and mortar, but for the want of tenderness and affection; and you left me out in the cold. I was homeless for the want of sympathy and understanding and acceptance; and you closed your heart to me and locked me out.”

What the Gospel is emphasising is the importance of turning our hearts and minds to Christ and trusting in His teaching: otherwise we run the risk of being rejected ourselves. God is going to judge us on the works of mercy we perform in response to human need. One thing is certain, there will be no excuses accepted on the Last Day. No one will be granted the luxury of saying, “Well I minded my own business and didn’t do anybody any harm. I passed by on the other side of the road.” Christ will not be deceived by appearances. He will look into our hearts and so all pretence will be wiped away, all falseness will be exposed and our real selves will be brought into the light. In a glance we will be recognised for who we are. Either sheep or goats: The ones who saw and did something about it or; the ones who saw and did nothing.

Today’s Gospel is a story with two endings. You know that it is in you to be either a sheep or a goat. Either is possible. That is what could be. The real question is: What will be? The story that isn’t written yet; the story that Jesus hasn’t told. The story you have to write for yourself. Your own story. Myself by myself. And Our Lord says, “You’re the one who has to tell the story for you. You are the one who has to choose the ending for you. The come ending or the go ending. The sheep ending or the goat ending. The Lord be with you or the Lord be without you. End of story. Over and out. Or over and in. In any case, Our Lord says, “Over to you!”