



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: SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS: B

Second Week of Christmastide: 3rd – 9th January 2021 (Weekday Cycle Year I / Psalter Week II)

Saturday 2nd January:	<u>Saints Basil the Great & Gregory of Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors (memoria)</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, Alan Roberts, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning and John Wilcox.</p>
Mass;	Holy Souls	
Sunday 3rd January:	<u>Second Sunday after Christmas</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Kate Rae RIP (Calladine)	
Monday 4th January:	<u>Christmas Feria</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Elizabeth Reilly RIP (SVP)	
Tuesday 5th January:	<u>Christmas Feria</u>	
10:00am: Mass (St Francis);	Eddy Fowler RIP (Goodhind)	
Wednesday 6th January:	<u>Epiphany of the Lord (Solemnity)</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Dorothy Atkin RIP (Anniversary)	
6:00 pm: Mass (St Francis);	Fr Michael Stewart RIP (Anniv) (Curtis)	
Thursday 7th January:	<u>Thursday after the Epiphany</u>	<p>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;	Hugh Curtis RIP (Anniversary)	
Friday 8th January:	<u>Friday after the Epiphany</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Marianne Walton RIP (Jack)	
Saturday 9th January:	<u>Saturday after the Epiphany</u>	
Mass;	Pro Populo; People of the Parish	
Sunday 10th January:	<u>The Baptism of the Lord (Feast)</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Heino Chrobok RIP (Butler)	
UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY!		
<p>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).</p> <p>For enquiries or to book a Mass Intention, please see me after the one of the Scheduled Public Masses or contact me by telephone. Mass Stipends and Parish Collection Envelopes can be posted or given at a later date.</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 very happy and grateful when I took your Christmas gifts to them on 21st December 2020. They hope that you all had a very happy and holy Christmas and send you their very Best Wishes for 2021. They are all well and they want you all to know that they remember our Parish every day in their prayers. The next visit to the Convent will be **Monday 25th January 2021** and any donations can be left in the box in the Narthex or given to Father Christopher or me. Many thanks for continuing to support the Sisters at Bulwell they really do appreciate it. –*Diane Wilson*.

2021 – YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH: In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris Corde* (“*With a Father’s Heart*”), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. The Letter marks the 150th Anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX’s declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the Anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special “**Year of St Joseph,**” **beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021.** The Holy Father wrote *Patris Corde* against the backdrop of the Covid–19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of “*ordinary*” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, “*the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,*” who nonetheless played “*an incomparable role in the history of salvation.*” For more information and to download a copy of the Apostolic letter please visit: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/year-of-st-joseph/>

“BEING A DISCIPLE WEB SERIES:” January is a time when we try and work at being a better person, why not explore how we can be a grow as a disciple of Jesus? On the **4 Thursdays of January 2021** we will explore a different aspect of what it means to be a Catholic disciple with Brendan Thompson the CEO of Catholic Voices in a web series on Zoom. Catholic Voices are an international organisation that shares the Good News in the global media. This will be a great foundation for Parishes, Chaplaincies and individuals to explore how we can support each other in growing as Catholic disciples. Register for the series here: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMrcuygqjwpGdNBRC5NIQ46Eu1bleEg246A> For information on how to access things on zoom visit: https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/information/diocesan-commissions/01_commission-adult-formation/using-zoom



CHRISTMAS TREE: The Christmas Tree will remain in Church until the **Solemnity of the Epiphany on Wednesday 6th January 2021.** As we did last year we asking for donations of presents, remembering those in particular for whom Christmas is not going to be such a joyful time. It is hoped therefore that these presents would be particularly useful to the needy and homeless and we can pass them on to the Canaan Trust. If I could appeal to you then, for things such as hats, gloves, scarves, socks, toiletries, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, disposable razors, hygienic wipes, combs and deodorant. These items do not need to gift wrapped as they can then be more easily sorted and distributed.

CELEBRATION OF MASS: Following the post – Christmas announcement by the Government that we will now be in Tier 4, it is still possible that we can still Celebrate Mass publicly. Needless to say that we still need to be aware of the need to follow the guidelines that we have in place and to remember to use the hand sanitisers, wearing face coverings and maintain the 2 metre social distancing rule. Please remember that you will still need to book to come to Masses using the Diocesan booking system. Details of how to book for Mass can be found on the Diocesan Website by following the link: <https://massbooking.uk/> where you will first need to Sign Up (if you haven’t already done so) in order to book for Mass. This is a pre – booking system and is the only way of regulating those who come to Church. **PLEASE NOTE: that you can only book on the Mass Booking System up to 7 days ahead, so some of the Masses will not be visible yet.** The latest time to book for a Mass will be **TWO HOURS** before. 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 for The Assumption (Tel: 07850 978788), or at Long Eaton by calling Christina Boott on 07875 625974; but I would ask that you only use this option if you unable to book online. Mass will be available at The Assumption, Beeston on **Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** and, at St Francis, Long Eaton on **Tuesdays**, all at **10:00 am**. The Sunday obligation continues to be suspended, so if you are unsure about coming along, do not feel under any obligation to do so; and if you or someone in your household, displays symptoms of Covid19, then please do stay at home.

IT IS IMPORTANT to arrive in **GOOD TIME** to allow to the Stewards to check you in and show you to your places. Stewards will assist you upon arrival and upon leaving the Church so that everyone is kept safe.

The need to wear face coverings in Churches in England is still mandatory and the distribution of Holy Communion will continue to 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. For more detailed guidance please refer to the previous Newsletters.

***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.***

THANK YOU: To all who helped to prepare the Church for the Christmas Masses, especially the Stewards who continue to maintain the Health and Safety requirements needed for our Church to be opened for Mass. Special thanks to the Flower Arrangers who made the Church look so beautiful for Christmas in such trying times. Thanks also to the Music Group and children from English Martyrs' School for their preparation, performance and editing of our Virtual Carol Concert (<https://youtu.be/xIUT55DpohU>). I would also like to express my thanks for all your cards and gifts and generous Christmas Offerings, as well as continued messages of support during the past year. I pray that we may all be able to fully come together again as a Parish Community before too long.

All Good Wishes and Prayers for Happy, Holy and Prosperous New Year.

- Fr Christopher Thomas

SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF OUR PARISH DURING 2020

3 BAPTISMS:
(all before Lockdown)

*Roisin Caoimhe O'Sullivan Dunne, Eli Søren Ball, Esther Rose Hopkins
and Sebastian David Owens.*

1 MARRIAGE:

Timothy Edwards & Julia Rynkiewicz.

20 DEATHS:

*Desmond Purdue, John Dixon, Andis Cerkasas, Jeanne Jacobs, John Bonsall,
Norma Brennan, Jean Fox, Madeleine Hawes, Sheila Mills, Sean Rickard,
Maria Sawicki, Catherine O'Dooley, Laura Benson, Margaret Warburton,
Kate Rae, Elizabeth Reilly, Anne Magee, James Loughrey, Joan Lynch
and Marianne Walton.*

For obvious reasons there have been no First Holy Communions during this year and some Baptisms and Weddings have had to be postponed as well; hopefully we can celebrate these events in 2021.

The Epiphany of the Lord.

If there is one thing that every human heart is absolutely starving for, then I think that it is someone to trust. Someone who will not only promise to never let you down, who will never judge you, who will never abandon you, but someone with enough goodness and enough power to keep that promise. Every one of us needs someone we can rely upon no matter what, someone we can go to no matter what, someone who will be glad to see us no matter what – someone who is utterly, totally and unhesitatingly faithful. And thankfully we all do have that someone and, that someone is God.

The coming of the Wise Men to adore the baby Jesus is one of the Bible's most beautiful proofs of God's faithfulness. More than 500 years before Christ's birth, God had promised, through the prophet Isaiah, that He was going to lead "all the nations" to Jerusalem to share in the light of salvation. He even promised that they would bring gold and incense. In the Book of Psalms, He had made the same promise in different words "the kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts will pay Him tribute; the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts." In spite of 500 years of wars, migrations and historical turbulence which re-wrote the map of the civilized world at least three different times, God actually did what He said He was going to do. The Wise Men came from the non-Jewish world; they represent all the nations. By coming to Christ, they enter into the light of salvation bringing gifts. This shows us that God is good and faithful – because He kept His promises. It also shows us that God is all-powerful; the ups and downs of history are under His control.

And this is our God – the same one we come to worship today, who will give Himself to us today in Word and in Sacraments. All of God’s goodness and power are ours, because we belong to Christ and Christ is the very Incarnation of God’s faithfulness.

The Catechism tells us that, *“Knowing that God is faithful is the foundation of our whole spiritual life. Believing in God, the only One and loving Him with all our being has enormous consequences for our whole life. It means trusting God in every circumstance, even in adversity.”* A prayer of St. Teresa of Avila wonderfully expresses this trust, *“Let nothing disturb you; Let nothing frighten you, All things pass away. God never changes. Patience obtains all things. He who has God, finds he lacks nothing. God alone suffices.”*

Today, more than ever, we really need to let this truth sink in. It is like the story of the rock climber. He was in the mountains, climbing alone and it was getting late. The sun had just gone down, and the temperature was dropping fast. He was descending a section of rock that was inclined beyond the vertical, like the inside of a steep roof. He was deep in the shadows of cliffs. Suddenly, he slipped, lost his grip and he did a free fall of about forty feet before his rope caught on the last stay he had driven into the rock. He was hanging like a spider on a strand of web. He tried to climb up the rope, but at the end of the long day, he just didn’t have the strength. He was hanging there in the void. It was pitch dark, it was cold and he had nowhere to turn. So even though he wasn’t a church – going man, he said a prayer: “God, if you’re up there, please help me.” Much to his surprise, he heard an answer. It said, “Cut the rope.” He was surprised but overjoyed to get an answer, but he didn’t like the answer he got. He looked below him. Only the black darkness. It was getting colder. He prayed again, “God, if that is really you, please help me.” Again, he heard an answer, “It really is me. Cut the rope. Trust me.” He looked down again. It was getting colder. He couldn’t understand why God wanted him to cut his only support. He took out his knife. But he just couldn’t bring himself to cut the rope. The next morning in the bright sunlight, a group of rock climbers found him hanging from his rope, frozen to death, just six feet above the ground. So many times, we are at the end of our rope and we need the help of someone we can trust – someone who is faithful, like God. He won’t always explain everything to us, because we simply cannot understand it all – our eyesight is limited. But when we hear His voice in our conscience, we know that the one who is all – good and all – powerful is faithfully guiding us, as He guided the Wise Men and, He won’t leave us hanging – if we truly believe in Him.

God is always guiding us along the journey of life, but that doesn’t mean the journey is easy. The Wise Men left their homelands far behind in order to follow the star, but just when they seemed to be arriving at their destination, the star disappeared. That is why St Matthew tells us that they were so delighted when they saw the star again after their meeting with King Herod. At some point in their journey, for some reason, they had lost sight of the star. If they had turned back at that point, they would never have found what they longed for. We are often in the same situation. We know God is faithful and we want to trust Him, but we lose sight of the star. That is when we have to exercise our faith in God – to keep following Christ, to keep obeying the commandments and Church teaching, no matter how hard it may be.

I am sure that each of us knows someone who has lost sight of the star. Maybe they are finding it hard to accept some of the Church’s teachings. Maybe they are facing suffering and loss. Maybe they are stuck in sin and are drifting further away from the light of truth. Whatever their specific situation, they need to be reminded that God is faithful, that only by following Him can our life’s journey be successful. Today God reminds us that we can count on Him. This week it is our turn to remind someone else. Let us ask God to tell us who it is and let us promise to remind them this week that God can be trusted, that it is worth it to follow the star.

God is always guiding us, always accompanying us; He never forgets about us. To live in tune with this beautiful, powerful truth of our faith – that we can count on God – means to freely obey our conscience. Conscience is that secret chamber of our soul. And only two people have the key to that: you and God. In that secret chamber of our conscience, God shows us the star that can lead us to true meaning and joy. In that secret chamber of our conscience, God tells us what we need to leave behind in order to become truly free. What has He been telling us in our conscience? What has He been asking of each one of us? He loves each of us more than we love ourselves and so He is always urging us forward on the path of life. Like a good teacher, He never stops encouraging us to give our best, to be true to our Christian calling. Maybe He has been nudging your conscience, telling you to break off an unhealthy relationship or to take the first step to heal a broken one. Maybe He has been warning you to be more faithful to a particular relationship or responsibility. Only you and God know which star He has been pointing out to you. Sometimes we are afraid to follow it. The Solemnity of the Epiphany reminds us that we have nothing to be afraid of. God is totally and utterly trustworthy. Let us ask Him for the grace to follow that star. And let us pray for all those people who have stopped following it or who still haven’t seen it. God hasn’t given up on them either and neither should we.