



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 BAPTISM OF THE LORD: B

First Week of Ordinary Time: 10th – 16th January 2021 (Weekday Cycle Year I / Psalter Week I)

Saturday 9th January:	<i>Saturday after the Epiphany</i>	<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, Canon Owen O’Neil, Alan Roberts, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning and John Wilcox.</p> <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;	<i>Pro Populo; People of the Parish</i>	
Sunday 10th January:	<i>The Baptism of the Lord (Feast)</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	<i>Heino Chrobok RIP (Butler)</i>	
Monday 11th January	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	<i>Neil Andrew Brennan RIP (Birthday)</i>	
Tuesday 12th January:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00am: Mass (St Francis);	<i>Marianne Walton RIP (Curtis)</i>	
Wednesday 13th January:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	<i>Joan Lynch RIP (Wilson/Powell)</i>	
Thursday 14th January:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass;	<i>Holy Souls</i>	
Friday 15th January:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	<i>Elizabeth Reilly RIP (Stevens)</i>	
Saturday 16th January:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass;	<i>Pro Populo; People of the Parish</i>	
Sunday 17th January:	<i>Second Sunday of the Year: B</i>	
Mass;	<i>Louise Whitham RIP (Marie)</i>	
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 WEDNESDAY 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/join/zoom/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

NATIONAL LOCKDOWN GUIDANCE JANUARY 2021: *Further to the announcement of the new lockdown by the Prime Minister on Monday evening, you will see that in the National Lockdown Guidance there is very little change to the guidelines that we have been following for some time. However, the feeling and belief I and, a number of priests have, is that the responsible course of action is to close our Churches for this period. I would suggest that in this and, indeed, in all situations, we use our discretion as to what is safe and advisable in our particular circumstances. As the Government has often said, just because you can do something doesn’t mean you should.*

I believe it is a good idea, at this stage, to review and amend our arrangements, given the apparent increased danger of transmission of the virus and the vulnerability of our congregations and those who assist as stewards and cleaners. As the Bishop said at the beginning of the first National Lockdown priests are not to feel pressured to do anything that they feel will put them or anyone else at risk. We are also reminded that the Sunday obligation remains suspended and that live – stream Masses are widely available.

Therefore, from next weekend and until the 17th February 2021, our two Churches will be closed for public worship. I hope to resume public Masses on Ash Wednesday but will only be inclined to do so when and, if, our area is placed in a lower tier or that the signs indicate that the infection rate is significantly falling.

All Masses listed in the Parish Newsletter will be said privately. Funerals can continue in Church under strict restrictions. This closure is to support the message to ‘Stay at Home, Protect the NHS and Save Lives’ and to recognise that despite all the measures we take in our churches, to come to Mass is still a risk, especially travelling to and from Church, particularly for the more vulnerable and elderly members of our communities.

The vaccine roll – out is not as rapid and widespread as reported, leaving many people still at risk. Compliance with ‘Hands – Face – Space’ is still inconsistent in our communities with many people not wearing masks and not keeping 2m from each other. We look forward to welcoming you back as soon as it safe to do so.

CELEBRATION OF MASS: For next week only we will still Celebrate Mass publicly. Needless to say that now, we still need to be even more aware of the need to follow the guidelines that we have in place and to remember to use the hand sanitisers, wear 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.***

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 OLOL CMAT: Headteacher, St Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Nottingham (closing date 25th January 2021); Teacher of English (0.6 FTE), All Saints' Catholic Voluntary Academy, Mansfield (closing date 20th January 2021); Teaching Assistant, St Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Nottingham (closing date 13th January 2021); Midday Supervisor, The Good Shepherd Catholic Voluntary Academy, Woodthorpe (closing date 25th January 2021); HR Officer, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi – Academy Trust, Nottingham (closing date 11th January 2021); Exams Officer, Christ the King Catholic Voluntary Academy, Arnold (closing date 11th January 2021); Teaching Assistant, Trinity Catholic School, Nottingham (closing date 11th January 2021): <https://www.ololcatholicmat.co.uk/vacancies-and-recruitment/>.

The Baptism of the Lord.

Jesus did not need to be baptised for His own sake, but He wanted to be baptised for our sake. Baptism is the first of the seven Sacraments. It is like a spiritual operation that God uses to fix everything that was broken in our souls as a result of Original Sin. Then, with the help of the other Sacraments, God can lead us through a program of spiritual rehabilitation, making us into elite athletes of Christ, elite in wisdom and virtue – in other words, saints. But Jesus was not affected by Original Sin. He did not need reconstructive surgery on His soul. St John the Baptist recognises this and that is why he tells everyone that he is not even worthy to remove the sandals from the feet of Jesus. So if Jesus did not need a spiritual rebirth, if He was already in perfect communion with the Father, why did He subject Himself to baptism? It was for our sake: He wanted to reveal His strategy for redeeming the world: entering so fully into the human condition, that He could take upon Himself the weight of all our sins, so that we could be freed from them and have a new start, a new hope and, a new life. Through the centuries, the Holy Spirit has gradually revealed the full beauty and meaning of this first Sacrament. Today let us reflect on two of Baptism's most intriguing characteristics, because the more we appreciate them, the more fully we will be able to live the life Christ died to give us.

The first amazing thing about Baptism is that it elevates us from being merely part of God's creation to becoming God's adopted children. This is why part of the Baptismal Rite includes officially proclaiming the Christian name of the person who is to be baptised. The name indicates personal identity and Baptism increases our personal identity by making us members not only of our natural family, but also members of God's own, eternal and supernatural family. This really happens with Baptism – it is not just a pretty ritual or a nice symbol: it really happens. As St John tells us in today's Second Reading, "Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ (*this is the faith we profess at Baptism*) has been begotten by God." When we are baptised, God's own divine life is actually planted within us, like a seed and wherever God's life is, God Himself is. This is why every baptised Christian is a temple of God: the Holy Trinity, in a mysterious way, actually dwells within each one of us after we have been baptised, as long as we do not commit a mortal sin. And if we do commit a mortal sin, Confession will allow God to absolve it and return to our soul. This is one of the reasons why Christians are so careful to avoid sins that desecrate our bodies, like drugs and drunkenness, sexual sins and self – inflicted violence or self – mutilation. Our bodies are temples of God's Holy Spirit and we should always treat them with respect. Pope St Leo the Great said, "*Christian, recognise your dignity and, now that you share in God's own nature, do not return to your former base condition by sinning. Remember who is your Head and of whose Body you are a member. Never forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of the Kingdom of God.*"

Original sin separated the human race from God. Baptism, the Sacrament by which the grace Christ won for us on the Cross first comes into our soul, is how God re – establishes friendship with every human being, one person at a time. In a very real sense, every Baptism is a miracle. But the Christian life does not end with Baptism – or with the party after the Baptism – it only starts there. Once we have received this great gift, we have to take responsibility for it. Imagine that Jesus Christ were in your living room. Imagine that He was always there, at your service, completely willing to go with you when you go out, to help you with your chores and projects, to show you the world, to teach you whatever you wanted to know, to be a full – time personal trainer for every aspect of your life. Would we leave Him there alone? Would we never take time to be with Him, never invite him to come with us when we went out, never talk to Him about all the things going on in our lives? Would we limit our contact with Him to saying, "Hello," and, "Goodbye," when we had to go through the living room? Christ is not in our living room; but He and the Father and the Holy Spirit, are in our souls through the Sanctifying Grace that we received in Baptism. And it is our responsibility and opportunity to take advantage of that fact, to develop a deep and personal friendship with God throughout our lives. That is the only way we will be able to discover and fulfil our life's mission.

Baptism is a great, miraculous gift and it is also a great responsibility, the beginning of a lifelong adventure, the adventure of following Christ through this earthly pilgrimage and into the everlasting joys of heaven. It is the only journey that can really satisfy the deep yearning of our hearts for meaning, wisdom and purpose.