



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

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Christopher A Thomas, Presbytery, 25 Foster Avenue, Beeston, NG9 1AE

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TIMES OF MASSES AND OTHER SERVICES: SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR: B

Second Week of Ordinary Time: 17th – 23rd January 2021 (Weekday Cycle Year I / Psalter Week II)

<u>Saturday 16th January:</u>	<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, Canon Owen O’Neil, Alan Roberts, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning and John Wilcox.</p>
Mass;	Pro Populo; People of the Parish	
<u>Sunday 17th January:</u>	<u>Second Sunday of the Year: B</u>	
Mass;	Louise Whitham RIP (Marie)	
<u>Monday 18th January</u>	<u>Weekday Feria</u>	
Mass;	John & Helen Wilcox and Family (Stevens)	
<u>Tuesday 19th January:</u>	<u>Weekday Feria</u>	
Mass;	John Hayes RIP (Curtis)	
<u>Wednesday 20th January:</u>	<u>Weekday Feria</u>	
Mass;	Joe & Norma Brennan 62 nd Wedding Anniversary (Varney)	
<u>Thursday 21st January:</u>	<u>St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr (memoria)</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;	Holy Souls	
<u>Friday 22nd January:</u>	<u>Weekday Feria</u>	
Mass;	Deceased Members of the Gildea Family (Kathleen)	
<u>Saturday 23rd January:</u>	<u>Weekday Feria</u>	
Mass;	Private Intention	
<u>Sunday 24th January:</u>	<u>Third Sunday of the Year: B</u>	
Mass;	Pro Populo; People of the Parish	
<p>UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY!</p>		
<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*.

“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

NATIONAL LOCKDOWN GUIDANCE JANUARY 2021: *Further to the announcement of the new lockdown measures by the Government and the continued advice to stay at home and only go out if it is absolutely necessary, the feeling and belief that 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 new strains 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, until the 17th February 2021, our two Churches will be closed for public worship. I hope to resume public Masses on Ash Wednesday but, I 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.

I know that this is not what some people want hear and it is not a decision that has been taken lightly. Personally, saying Mass on my own is not something I am always happy to do. But the facts confirm the really terrible news, that there have been over 86,000 deaths in the UK and over 3 million cases of infection and the news reports constantly remind us of the real struggle and pressures which our health care workers face, both physically and mentally on a daily basis and, have done for a considerable period of time now. This temporary closure then, 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.

All Masses listed in the Parish Newsletter will be said privately. Funerals can continue in Church under strict restrictions. We look forward to welcoming you back as soon as it safe to do so.

The Second Sunday of the Year: B.

In today's First Reading we hear the story of God calling Samuel. In some ways it is almost magical. There is a wonderful picture of the boy lying asleep in the dark, behind the sanctuary, in the stillness of the night, where only one light remains glowing. He is awakened three times by a mysterious voice calling him by name. In no way does Samuel suspect that the Lord is calling him, after all he is just a boy, with no airs or graces, a mere servant of the old priest Eli. He had no knowledge of the Word of God, so he needed the help of Eli to realise that it was God who was calling him. It is Eli who makes it clear that the voice he is hearing is the voice of God and he directs him how to reply. So when God called him for the fourth time, Samuel was ready to hear Him. With the straightforward simplicity of a child, Samuel springs to his feet in unquestioning obedience and total willingness to serve: "Speak Lord, your servant is listening."

The story of Samuel can be our story too. He stands for all of us – people of no significance; people of no consequence in life. Though we may not be important in the eyes of the world, none of us is ever ignored by God. We are always in His mind and forever under His care. Because we believe that every day, everywhere, every one of us is being called. Called to follow and called to serve. God is constantly calling us into a relationship with Him in all the circumstances of life in which we find ourselves. When we were Baptised our ears were symbolically opened to hear His call. But in the noisy world in which we live, there is a danger that the voice of God will be drowned out and not heard.

In today's world we are often surrounded by noise. In most shops, factories, restaurants and pubs there is constant background music. Most of us get into our cars and as soon as we turn the ignition the radio immediately blares out. Now it's true the pace of life has got much quicker. We are surrounded by so much gadgetry and technology that many people no longer make time for silence or peace and quiet in their lives. It is almost as if people are afraid of stillness and quiet. It is as if people are no longer prepared to appreciate or see what is going on around them. To look at the simple things in life, like the early morning sunrise or a beautiful sunset. And yet God has said to us, "Be still and know that I am God."

If we are surrounded by noise and constant activity then it becomes harder for God to speak to us. And God can only speak to us if we are listening. We know that God speaks to us in many different ways, through our family and friends, through nature and through many other people whom we tend to forget or neglect. But we must be listening. All too often we tend to talk too much and listen too little. We want to have our say. Maybe God gave us two ears and only one mouth for a very good reason. Maybe we need to listen twice as often as we speak.

Very often we will spend time with people who mean a lot to us, because we want to give of ourselves to them. We listen to them. Often we will do things that we know will please them. Surprisingly, God asks no less. He asks us to give Him time and space. He asks us to let Him into our lives. So perhaps we need to ask ourselves, "What is our relationship with God like? Are we able to be like Samuel? Can we genuinely say, 'Speak Lord, your servant is listening'?" Or are we more likely to say, "Listen Lord, your servant is speaking?" In today's First Reading we saw how Samuel answered the call of the Lord. We learn that when Samuel answered God's call, "the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground."

To inspire us even more, in the Gospel, we see the transformation of Simon Peter when he decided to follow Jesus. The Gospel speaks to us about the call of Andrew and how the disciples stood and stared as Christ passed by. Christ is forever passing us by and His invitation is straightforward and open – ended. He is constantly asking us what we want out of life. If we wish to discover where He lives, He throws His life open for inspection under many different disguises. "Where do you live?" "Come and see." They went and they saw. Andrew was so impressed that he sought out his brother Simon, saying, "We have found the Messiah." And we know that from that day forward their lives were never the same again, they were changed forever.

All relationships are based on trust and communication. Once we begin listening to God, as happened with Samuel, Andrew and Simon Peter, our lives will be changed. John Powell, in his book, *A Reason to Live, a Reason to Die* said: "*Once you say the 'yes' to Jesus and accept His blueprint for the fullness of life, the whole world can no longer revolve around you, your needs, your gratifications; you will have to revolve around the world, seeking to bandage its wounds, loving the dead into life, finding the lost, wanting the unwanted, and leaving behind all the selfish parasitical concerns which drain our time and energies. It is frightening isn't it? We are called to go out of ourselves, as though we were going out of an old home, a place where we once lived and felt secure, never to return. Once we truly encounter Jesus in faith we can never be the same again.*"

It does seem quite terrifying. If we listen to Our Lord, we might not like what we hear. It may be difficult for us to accept. It may force us to change our point of view. We may feel that it is too hard for us. But the call of God is a call to trust. To trust that He at least, will not let us down. Because once we begin listening to the Lord, our lives will change. This is where trust must come in. In today's First Reading we saw how Samuel answered the call of the Lord. We learn that when Samuel answered God's call, "the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground." God is waiting for us to turn to Him, waiting to for us to put our trust in Him, saying to us, as he said to Andrew and the other disciples, "Come and see."