



*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

E – mail: frcathomas@live.com ☎: 0115 922 8145 Website: www.theassumption.co.uk

PARISH DEACON: Rev. Chris Stevens (deacon@lecatholic.org.uk) ☎: 0115 808 5428)

SAFEGUARDING REPS: **Clare Newman** – (Assumption) ☎: 07812 603083

Carol Morris & Jane Watts (St Francis) – ☎: 08445 880933

DIOCESAN CO - ORDINATOR: – **Clare McKenzie** – ☎: 0115 953 9850

TIMES OF MASSES AND OTHER SERVICES: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT: B

Third Week of Lent: 7th – 13th March 2021 (Weekday Cycle Year I / Psalter Week III)

<u>Saturday 6th March:</u> <u>Lenten Feria</u>	Mass; Private Intention	<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, Farzin Kazem, Breeda Keaney, Anne – Marie Reid, Canon Owen O’Neil, Alan Roberts, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning and John Wilcox.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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>
<u>Sunday 7th March:</u> <u>Third Sunday of Lent: B</u>	10:00 am: Mass; Pro Populo; People of the Parish	
<u>Monday 8th March:</u> <u>Lenten Feria</u>	10:00 am: Mass; Elizabeth Reilly RIP (Powell)	
<u>Tuesday 9th March:</u> <u>Lenten Feria</u>	10:00 am: Mass (St Francis); Intentions of Kiera Morgan Harvey	
<u>Wednesday 10th March:</u> <u>Lenten Feria</u>	10:00 am: Mass; Marianne Walton RIP (Twomey)	
<u>Thursday 11th March:</u> <u>Lenten Feria</u>	Mass; Kevin Rigley RIP (Anniversary)	
<u>Friday 12th March:</u> <u>Lenten Feria</u>	10:00 am: Mass; Special Intention (Cookson)	
<u>Saturday 13th March:</u> <u>Lenten Feria</u>	Mass; Private Intention	
<u>Sunday 14th March:</u> <u>Fourth Sunday of Lent: B</u>	10:00 am: Mass; John Frederick Dixon RIP (Teresa)	
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.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: Please remember in your prayers to pray for the repose of the soul of *Eileen Hopkins* who died on *Wednesday 24th February 2021*. Eileen will be received into Church on Tuesday 23rd March and her Requiem Mass will take place on *Wednesday 24th March 2021 at 10:30 am* followed by Burial at Wilford Hill Cemetery. We remember her and her family at this sad time. May she rest in peace.

POOR CLARES: The Sisters were really pleased and thankful for the donations they received from our parish. Mother Damian sends her sincere thanks to everyone who has sent donations to them and wants you to know that you are remembered every day in their prayers. They are all well and have so far managed to avoid the virus and some of the sisters have started their vaccinations. Our support is so important to them. My next visit will be 29th March 2021. Thank you – *Diane Wilson*.

SYCAMORE COURSE: HOW TO PRAY: A Lent course of six sessions about Christian prayer and the adventure of the spiritual life. For those who are just beginning and also for those who have been praying a long time! Sycamore is an adaptable Catholic resource for sharing and growing in the faith. You are invited to explore one of the core parts of being a disciple of Jesus in the Church – Prayer. Each *Wednesday during Lent at 7:00 pm* join us on Zoom to watch a video input on a different topic of prayer: “*How to Pray; The Power of Prayer; The Bible; The Mass and; more*” and then discuss it with parishioners from both our Parishes. It is still not too late to join and if you would like to sign up please visit: <https://forms.gle/Qx87VMM1zfk5A6s49> or for more information email Joe Hopkins: alpha.assumption@gmail.com. We hope to run another Sycamore course in Eastertide looking at “*Living Our Faith in the World.*”



CALLING ALL PARISHIONERS!! English Martyrs' Chaplaincy Team, with some members of EM staff and parishioners from both St Francis and The Assumption are taking on the Lent Walk for Water Challenge. We will each be aiming to walk 10, 000 steps a day for 40 days to raise money for CAFOD's

work around the world. Follow the link below for sponsorship or share the link with your friends and family if you would like to join in with the challenge: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/english-martyrs-chaplaincy-team-and-catholic>. Check out our Social Media platforms for regular updates throughout Lent @em_chaplaincy Instagram and English Martyrs' Youtube Channel. Thank you so much for your continued support. – *Year 6 Chaplaincy Team*

THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY WALK FOR WATER: Some of the children from the parish are also taking part in CAFOD's Walk for Water over Lent. Taking part, we have: *Gethin, Carwyn, Fiorella, Gino, Phoebe, Lottie, Flora, Blathnaid, Dylan, Oliver, Max, Grace, Flo, Frank, Arthur, Bella* and *Niamh*. Together, we are trying to make up the 10,000 steps a day challenge, which is no mean feat! But the children have got off to a fantastic start, with many of them reaching the target and beyond. In the first few days, together they walked over half a million steps! We are going to collect their totals every Sunday at our online liturgy, so who knows what the final total will be! If you could support them by sponsoring them, they would be absolutely delighted. You can do this by going to this link: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/assumptionchildren>. Thank you in advance for all your support. – *Catherine Agius and the children and families of the Children's Liturgy Group*.

BISHOP PATRICK'S LENTEN TALKS: You are invited to join Bishop Patrick and people from across the diocese this Lent in reflecting on our relationship with God. To be a disciple of Jesus means to know and love Him, but to also know we are known and loved by Him too. Bishop Patrick will give two talks on Zoom exploring God's Love for us and how we can respond to it. 1: *Knowing the Heart of God* (clearing false images of God that we may carry around with us) *Thursday 11th March 2021 at 7:00 pm* and 2: *Knowing the Love of God* (understanding our identity as God's sons and daughters) *Thursday 11th March 2021 at 7:00 pm*. Each talk will include input from Bishop Patrick, a time for questions and answers, and small group discussion. You can register for one or both talks on the diocesan website: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk.

SITUATIONS VACANT: The Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Education Service is seeking to appoint a Deputy Director of Education who will provide a strategic lead in the areas of Catholic Life, Formation, Inspection, Religious Education and Collective Worship. For further information / application pack or if you wish to arrange an informal conversation with the Director of Education, please contact Julie Sweeney: julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk *Closing date 30th March 2021.*

CELEBRATION OF MASS: *The public Celebration of Mass is available once again.* 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, 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. ***PLEASE NOTE: If there are only two people coming from the same household please book TWO SEATS and not a whole pew as this will allow more people to attend Mass.*** 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 are 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.

The Third Sunday of Lent: B.

(READINGS: Exodus 20¹⁻¹⁷; Psalm 1⁸⁻¹¹; 1 Corinthians 1²²⁻²⁵ and; John 2¹³⁻²⁵)

In our First Reading from the Book of Exodus we have, what we might call, the user manual or the operating instructions for the human person, for human life and for human existence. We have the Ten Commandments, what we sometimes call the Decalogue. It is the root of what we refer to as Judeo – Christian morality. If we obey those Ten Commandments, then things are going to work correctly. You are going to have a happy, productive and righteous life now and, in eternity. Disobey them, ignore them, think that you know better and that you don't need anybody to tell you how to live. Well then be prepared for unhappiness, strife, frustration and eternal death.

The Ten Commandments, the ten supreme “Words” of the Jewish Law, express the Old Testament experience of God as a moral Lawgiver on Mount Sinai. But we all have consciences. We are all aware of the difference between the concept of right and the concept of wrong. We are aware not only of how things have been and are, but also of how they ought to be. We have a sense of the ethical imperatives that bind us because they are true and because they accord with practical reason. The moral law is not something we make up as we go along, it is something we recognise or receive. It may be discovered by a process of reflection about what is good; or alternatively it may be disclosed to us. For Israel, the moral law was above all something disclosed to them by God. And in giving the Law God revealed His love for the people of Israel and what the good life is like.

Critics of course claim that the Ten Commandments, this foundation of Judeo – Christian morality, has all been imposed. They say that these Laws are so confining, that they are so crushing of our freedom, that they are so oppressive, that they almost handcuff us and take the fun out of our lives. But, people of faith and reason know better; as human experience has taught us. These Ten Commandments, on the contrary, do happen to be freeing and liberating; because they do indeed bring out the best in us. They lead us to peace and goodness and they construct very good and very peaceful and civilised societies. They are hardly imposed by some prudish God, but they flow from the most noble core of the human heart. In fact, versions of those Ten Commandments have been found in the most primitive cultures among people who have never heard of Moses or Mount Sinai or the Book of Exodus; because they are part of human nature.

So, we know that these Ten Commandments keeps us free and spares us from the chains of slavery that our darker side, our sinful side, always threatens to entangle us with. The Ten Commandments, the operating instructions, the user manual. What are they? The first three give us instruction about the most supreme relationship of all; our relationship with Almighty God. “I am the Lord your God; you shall have no gods except me.” In other words, we worship no body or no thing, but the One True God. You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it; that is clear enough. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy; Sunday the first day of the week, belongs to God alone.

The next seven guide us in our relationships with one another. Honour your father and mother; there is the basis for family life. You shall not kill – violence to ourselves or to another person can never be right. We usually couple six and nine together: you shall not commit adultery; you shall not envy or covet your neighbour's wife: to honour the sacred bond of matrimony, the only genuine place for the expression of sexual love. Seven and ten go together; you shall not steal, you shall not covet or envy your neighbour's possessions. That is clear enough; we should be happy and content with what we have and be grateful to God; we don't want more, more, more and we should not go to immoral means to achieve it. And finally, you shall not bear false witness against your neighbour – no lying or cheating or gossip, nor any harsh or destructive words.

Jesus, the New Moses summed them all up very well: Love God and love your neighbour as yourself – the two greatest Commandments. And this same Jesus, the New Moses, also reminded us that He did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but to bring it to perfection.

To have these Ten Commandments proclaimed during Lent is an ancient tradition of the Church. Because this is the time traditionally and, to this day, when Catechumens and Candidates, namely those men and women preparing to be received into Full Communion with the Church, on Holy Saturday night at the Easter Vigil, this is the time when they are reminded of the fundamentals of Christian Discipleship. So, this is the Sunday that they are given or taught the Ten Commandments and shown the moral implications of what it means to be a fruitful member of the Church. They are learning them as a new thing, learning them for the first time as it were; they are hearing them and their implications for the first time.

And as we challenge them to start obeying them and living them, we admit that the same challenge applies to us. Because we live in a culture, in a society, that not seeks to prohibit the Ten Commandments from the classroom, from law and from political and public life and, which also tempts us to abandon them, to banish them from our hearts. But of course, this is contrary to the human heart and to our human nature. The Church teaches us today that we have to get back to the user manual, to the operating instructions for the human person and for human life itself.