



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: EASTER SUNDAY: B

First Week of Easter: 4th – 10th April 2021 (Weekday Cycle Year I / Psalter Week I)

Saturday 3rd April: Holy Saturday

8:00 pm: Easter Vigil; Pro Populo; People of the Parish

Sunday 4th April: Easter Day of the Resurrection of the Lord

10:00 am: Mass; Special Intention

11:30 am: Mass (St Francis) Intentions of Kiera Morgan Harvey

Monday 5th April: Monday within the Octave of Easter

10:00 am: Mass; Frank & Susanna Battell RIP (Powell)

Tuesday 6th April: Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

10:00 am: Mass (St Francis); Mary Keane RIP (11th Anniversary)

Wednesday 7th April: Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

10:00 am: Mass; Anne Armitage RIP (Wilson / Calladine)

Thursday 8th April: Thursday within the Octave of Easter

Mass; Mrs Martha Whitmore RIP (Foundation Mass)

Friday 9th April: Friday within the Octave of Easter

10:00 am: Mass; Marianne Walton RIP (Breame)

Saturday 10th April: Saturday within the Octave of Easter

Mass; Pro Populo; People of the Parish

Sunday 11th April: Second Sunday of Easter

10:00 am: Mass; Eamon, Breeda & Ann Marie Keaney's Intentions

Your Prayers are requested for those who are sick:

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.

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.

**UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED
THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY!**

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).

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.

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: Many thanks to everyone who gave donations for the Sisters this month – my car was full and it was good to be taking them so many extra treats for their Easter celebrations. The Sisters send their sincere thanks to you all and remember our Parish every day in their prayers. The next visit will be on *26th April 2021. – Diane Wilson.*



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: The children from the Parish are doing brilliantly in their efforts for CAFOD's Walk for Water over Lent. Taking part, we have: *Gethín, Carwyn, Fiorella, Gino, Phoebe, Lottie, Flora, Blathnaid, Dylan, Oliver, Max, Grace, Flo, Frank, Arthur, Bella, Niamh, Freddie and Henry*. So far they have walked just under 2 million steps! Their fundraising total stands at **£ 676. 00**. Thank you so much to everyone who has sponsored them so far. All of the donations are really spurring them on. If you would still like to sponsor them, you can do so 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.*

MISSIO – RED BOX 2020: In 2020 our Parish raised **£ 991. 85** through our Red Boxes and donations to MISSIO and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you! Communities around the world are so grateful that people here in Beeston are supporting them through prayer and our generous donations. The missionaries, and the communities they serve, are living in such difficult circumstances, made even harder by COVID – 19. They have asked us to pass on their thanks, and tell us that they pray for us all. Thank you everyone and if you would like to have a Red Box or have one that needs to be emptied please let me know. – *Diane Wilson Parish MISSIO Secretary.*

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS: Obviously due to the Coronavirus Pandemic we have been unable to Celebrate some of the important Sacraments in the life of the Church over the past year. Specifically, Baptisms, First Confessions and First Holy Communions and Marriage. I am hoping that Baptisms can begin again after all the restrictions are finally lifted by the Government on **21st June 2021**. Any families wishing to have their child(ren) Baptised are asked contact me as soon as possible to arrange a date for after the 21st June. Similarly, with First Confessions and First Holy Communions, it is hoped that we can complete the programme that was begun in 2020 and that the Celebration of the First Holy Communion Mass can be held some time at the beginning of the New School Year in either September or October 2021. Any children who would have ordinarily made their First Holy Communion in 2021 (School Year 3) will now begin preparations in 2022 and we will have two Schools Years' Celebrations at the same time. Any couples who intend to marry in 2021 are also asked to contact me as soon as possible to confirm dates and make arrangements for the Marriage Preparation Course.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CMAT SITUATIONS VACANT: The Becket School – Teacher of History; Our Lady of Perpetual Succour – Headteacher; Holy Cross – Deputy Headteacher; All Saints' – Teacher of Geography; All Saints' – Sixth form Administrator; Our Lady of Lourdes – Contracts and Procurement Manager; St Philip Neri with St Bede – Midday Supervisor; All Saint – Teacher of Chemistry; All Saints' – Head of Maths; All Saints' – Teacher of Maths and; The Trinity School – Teaching Assistant (level 2). To be posted very shortly – Christ the King – Teacher of Maths (full time and part time) and Christ the King – Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages. For further information visit: <https://www.ololcatholicmat.co.uk/vacancies-and-recruitment/>.

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.

'A Father's Heart' – A Podcast for Catholic Dads: The Diocese of Nottingham has launched a new Podcast to celebrate the Year of St Joseph. A Father's Heart takes its name from *Patris Corde* (Pope Francis' letter that launched this special year). This letter is split into 7 sections, each highlighting a different characteristic of St Joseph's fatherhood. Each month the podcast will pick a section for 2 dads, from around the Diocese, to reflect on and discuss. Find out how to listen (and subscribe) by going to: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/podcasts.

'Being a Missionary Disciple': After the great success of Bishop Patrick's Lent Talks on Discipleship, the Formation for Mission Team are offering two talks on Zoom in May on 'Being a Missionary Disciple.' The first talk '*The Ascension & the Great Commission*' will be given by Canon Christopher Thomas (General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales) on ***Thursday 13th May 2021 at 7:00 pm***. This talk will explore the importance of the Ascension and how we can live Jesus final instructions to us. The second talk '*Pentecost & Mission*' will be given by Pippa Baker (A Catholic Missionary, Speaker & Musician) on ***Wednesday 19th May 2021 at 7:00 pm***. This talk will examine the significance of Pentecost for us and how the Holy Spirit equips us for mission in our everyday lives. To register visit: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk.

'Helping people encounter Jesus': The Alpha Course is a highly successful way for people and parishes to help others encounter Jesus. Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa (Preacher to Popes St John Paul II, Benedict XVI & Francis) has said about it: 'One of the advantages of Alpha is that it focuses on Kerygma [the Good News the Jesus desires on friendship]...faith in itself blossoms only by hearing the Kerygma.' The Diocese of Nottingham has partnered with the Alpha in a Catholic Context team to deliver training on how to run Alpha to empower you to help others encounter (or reencounter) Jesus. Visit: https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/information/diocesan-commissions/01_commission-adult-formation to register for the training dates on 13th & 20th April 2021.



*Surrexit
Dominus
Alleluia:
May you all
have a happy,
holy and
restful Easter.*

Easter Sunday: B.

(READINGS: Acts 10^{34, 37-43}; Psalm 117^{1-2, 16-17, 22-23}; Colossians 3¹⁻⁴ and; John 20¹⁻⁹)

Jesus, the Crucified One, has now been raised from the dead. He is risen. Utter defeat has been transformed into irreversible victory. Evil has had its way with God's anointed and, been found wanting. It did all it could to break down the courage and fidelity of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. It exhausted its arsenal of hatred, injustice, humiliation and pain. It fought an impressive, bloody fight – but God's Anointed came out victorious. And what does that mean for us? Well, it means everything; absolutely everything.

The Resurrection is the stamp that validates everything Jesus did and said: His claim to be God's Son, to have authority to forgive sin and re-establish communion between God and man; His universal call to abandon self-centeredness for the love of God and our neighbour as the only path to true and lasting happiness; His promise to give grace through a Church that will endure forever. If Jesus had not been raised from the dead, none of that would be worth listening to. He would have been just one more nice guy who finished last, one more dreamer whose dreams were crushed by the harsh reality of real life. That is why whenever people start living against Christ's teachings and example; they always raise doubts about the reality of the Resurrection. After all, if Christ didn't rise from the dead, He has no more authority over our lives than Socrates or Buddha or Mohammad. But He did rise from the dead. His victory over evil and falsehood and injustice and suffering is total, unquestionable and irreversible. In the face of twenty centuries filled with a steady stream of saints and martyrs, an unchecked growth of the Catholic Church and, an unquenchable Christian vitality, no reasonable person can really deny it.

On the first day of the week, the third day of His Passion, Jesus Christ rose from the dead! Today is His day! Many great historical figures have led exemplary lives, taught wise doctrines and even died for the truth. But only one has risen again. Among the vast array of humanity's greatest heroes, only about Jesus Christ can we say: "He rose again on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures." Only in Christ's Resurrection do goodness and power finally unite. The good guy wins! Only in Christ's Resurrection does love prove that it is stronger than death. In Christ and in His Resurrection, a new – a wildly new – hope dawns for all mankind; the hope that if we stay united to Him through faith and grace, we will rise with Him, rise from our very tombs and live with Him forever in the never-ending adventure of heaven. No one else offers such a hope, because no one else has risen from the dead to be able to offer it – only Our Lord.

The Resurrection is the definitive watershed in the history of religions; it makes Christianity absolutely unique. In the Resurrection, reality becomes more wonderful than myth. Only the reality of the Resurrection can explain the reality of the history of the Church: A few weak, non-influential, and uneducated fishermen from Galilee, frightened out of their wits when Jesus was arrested and executed, suddenly become world travellers, phenomenally successful preachers and valiant martyrs. And the Church they spread continues to spread after they die, holding fast to the exact same doctrine they preached, century after century, in nation after nation. Only the abiding presence of the Lord can explain this and only the Resurrection explains the abiding presence of the Lord. This is what makes us, as Christians, different.

This is Resurrection and this is our hope. If Christ had not risen from the dead, what good would His suffering have meant? What good would His love, symbolized by His suffering and death, have been if evil and death had been able to extinguish it? Only the bright light of the Resurrection gives meaning to the blood-stained darkness of the Cross. We can only endure our Good Fridays because we know that Easter Sunday is right around the corner.

The great Renaissance artist, Michelangelo, expressed this in a small, little known marble sculpture of the Resurrected Christ that can be seen today in Rome in the Church of Santa Maria sopra Minerva. The figure of Christ in this sculpture is glorious. He stands firm, but not stiff. He is young, muscular, confident and energetic – like a boxer before a fight or a soldier coming home from a victorious battle. The Risen Lord stands alone. The only other figure in the sculpture is His Cross. He holds it in His left arm. It is small and undersized. It is much too small to have been used to Crucify Him. It is just a flimsy little wooden cross; He holds it as easily as we would hold a bouquet of flowers. And that is the whole point of this work of art. The life-giving power of the Risen Lord has overwhelmed the deathly power of the Cross. That is what Easter Sunday does for us. That is what the Resurrection does for us. It makes the light of hope shine so brightly in our lives that it shrinks our crosses down to size. We can bear them now and with joy, because we know that they are leading us towards the glorious victory of the Resurrection. The Resurrection is our hope.

Today we should relish this joy of Easter, thanking God for letting us share in this victory and for giving us this great hope. But let us not stop there. Let us not just enjoy Easter, let us also allow it change our lives. Christ's Resurrection is not just a nice idea; it is a power, the power of eternal life at work in us. So, why not do something for the eight weeks of the Easter season to engage in that power? Almost every one of us made an effort to live Lent in a special way. Most likely we gave something up for Lent. That was a practical way to try to allow the special graces that God sends during Lent to have some room to work in our souls. So, if we gave something up as a way to help us live the penitential season of Lent, why not take something up, as a way to help us live the joyful season of Easter?

In the Letter to the Colossians, St Paul encourages us, "Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth." Why don't we make an Easter resolution that will help us do that, that will help us keep in mind the eternal life in Christ that is waiting for us if we stay faithful to him?

It could be something simple: like doing something together as a family each Sunday between now and Pentecost – a proper Sunday lunch say or just going out for a walk together. Maybe it could be taking some time each evening to re – read some of your favourite books, the ones that stir up joy in your soul. Leave behind the mobile phones, the tablets (unless of course you do need medication), the laptops, all those electronic stimulants and really engage in the power, the real power of the Resurrection; the thing that lifts us above the ordinary and the mundane.

If we ask the Holy Spirit to give us some ideas, I am sure He won't let us down. He just needs us to decide to let Easter make a difference in our lives, the way it really should. Our souls need that as much as they needed the time of penance and contrition that we lived during Lent. The Church really is a wise Mother in giving us six weeks of Lent and eight weeks of Easter. This faith in the Resurrection and its real meaning is like the flame of the Easter Candle at the Easter Vigil. It starts small, burning brightly in the darkness. Then it spreads to another candle and another and then another. It reaches each one of us and brings its light and warmth close to us. Today we should bask in that light and enjoy that warmth.