



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: SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: B

Sixth Week of Eastertide: 9th – 15th May 2021 (Weekday Cycle Year I / Psalter Week II)

<u>Saturday 8th May:</u>	<u>Easter 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, Farzin Kazem, Breeda Keaney, Anne – Marie Reid, Alan Roberts, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning and John Wilcox.</p>
Mass;	Private Intention	
<u>Sunday 9th May:</u>	<u>Sixth Sunday of Easter</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Canon Owen O'Neill RIP (O Butler)	
<u>Monday 10th May:</u>	<u>Easter Feria</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Bill Taylor RIP (A Butler)	
<u>Tuesday 11th May:</u>	<u>Easter Feria</u>	
10:00 am: Mass (St Francis);	Kevin Glanville RIP (Judy)	
<u>Wednesday 12th May:</u>	<u>Easter Feria</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Alan Fallows RIP (Dixon)	
<u>Wednesday 12th May:</u>	<u>The Ascension of the Lord (Solemnity)</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>
7:00 pm: Mass (St Francis);	Special Intention (Robinson)	
<u>Thursday 13th May:</u>	<u>The Ascension of the Lord (Solemnity)</u>	
10:00 am: Requiem Mass;	Paul Fitzgerald RIP	
7:00 pm: Mass;	Pro Populo; People of the Parish	
<u>Friday 14th May:</u>	<u>St Matthais, Apostle (Feast)</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Intentions of Isobel Barnes	
<u>Saturday 15th May:</u>	<u>Easter Feria</u>	
Mass;	Holy Souls	
<u>Sunday 16th May:</u>	<u>Seventh Sunday of Easter</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Deceased Clergy of the Parish (Foundation Mass)	
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>		

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: Please remember in your prayers to pray for the repose of the soul of *Paul Edward Fitzgerald* who died on *Wednesday 21st April 2021*. Paul's Requiem Mass will take place on *Thursday 13th May 2021 at 10:00 am* followed by Cremation at Bramcote Crematorium. We remember him and his family at this sad time. May he rest in peace.

POOR CLARES: The Sisters send their sincere thanks to parishioners for the food and donations they received from our Parish, your continued support is very much appreciated by them and they pray for you all every day. The next visit will be Monday 31st May 2021 and any donations can either be left in the box in the Church or given to me. Many thanks again for your kindness and support. – *Diane Wilson*.

WEEKLY COLLECTION ENVELOPES: This year's weekly collection envelopes are due to finish at the end of May, if you don't have a set of envelopes and would like a set or, alternatively, you would like to set up a direct debit for your weekly offering, please either call (07850 978788) or e – mail: marie_calladine@hotmail.co.uk. If you are a UK tax payer we could also claim tax back on your donation after completion of a Gift Declaration Form. Thank you – *Marie Calladine*.

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. **PLEASE NOTE: I WOULD PREFER IT IF PEOPLE WOULD CONTACT ME BY TELEPHONE AND NOT BY E – MAIL.**

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.

PRO – LIFE CHAIN: SATURDAY 22nd MAY 2021 FROM 10:00 AM TO 12 NOON AT TRENT BRIDGE: SPUC invites you to mark the 53rd Anniversary of the Abortion Act coming into force in 1968, by joining our Pro – Life Chain. This is a ***peaceful, silent roadside vigil*** in solidarity with unborn children, their mothers and anyone suffering from the effects of abortion. We will be following Government guidance on Covid – secure requirements. For more information, contact John 07757 815625, Caroline (01623) 795062, or email: people@spucnottingham.org.uk

THE WORD AND THE COMMON GOOD: You are invited to join Catholics from around the Diocese of Nottingham for an interactive online course over six Monday evenings in June and July. As life starts afresh after lockdown, it is a rare opportunity to sow seeds of the Gospel.

- Discover how Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching can help us seize this moment and build a society that reflects God's Kingdom
- Build bridges following a year of social distancing and foster a new 'culture of encounter'
- Form new friendships, renew old ones and help to build our Parish Communities for mission.

The sessions begin on Monday 7th June 2021 at 7:00 pm for six weeks. To find out more, including details of an Open Evening, visit: <https://togetherforthecommongood.co.uk/training/here-now-us-people>.

'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.

NEOPHYTES CELEBRATION: Normally on the 7th Sunday of Easter those who have been received into the Church at Easter (Neophytes) are invited to a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral with Bishop Patrick. This year Bishop Patrick will lead a half an hour online service of celebration for Neophytes, please join him at **3:00pm on Sunday 16th May 2021** on his YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/BishopPatrickMcKinney

THY KINGDOM COME: Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer wave between the feasts of Ascension (**13th May 2021**) and Pentecost (**23rd May 2021**). It is a time when Christians around the world are invited to pray for more people to know Jesus and answer the call to be His disciple. There are a collection of Catholic resources you can use on your own or with others in this time including: Morning and Evening Prayer, praying with Our Lady resources, live streamed Night Prayer, resources to pray for those you know who aren't followers of Christ and more! Further information here: www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/resources-catholic-church. Resources for children and families here: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/cheekypandas>

FUNDRAISER FOR PAX CHRISTI: In the week from **15th to 21st May 2021**, Pax Christi, the Catholic Peace Organisation, will be trying to raise funds to make up for lost income due to Covid – 19. Fausta is having a dance – a – thon, Bruce is delivering a peace message to Foreign Embassies in London, Matt is cycling 50 miles visiting peace sites, Pat is going on a walk from Victoria to the Peace Pagoda in Battersea Park, Rachel will be cycling for 75 miles, to celebrate Pax Christi's 75th Anniversary. More fundraisers are joining the fun. Please go to their website: www.paxchristi.org.uk/register-you-interest/ for details on how you can sponsor them.

PRAY IN MAY WITH MARY'S MEALS: Since our humble beginnings, Mary's Meals, named after Mary the Mother of Jesus, has been built on a foundation of prayer and the many little acts of love from those who support us. This May, the month traditionally dedicated to Our Lady, we invite you to join us in prayer to celebrate the wonderful work of Mary's Meals and give thanks that we are now reaching more than 1.8 million children with a nutritious meal in 19 countries every school day. We also pray for God's continued blessing on our beautiful mission, that through His providence it will always flourish, enabling us to reach more hungry children. You could offer your prayerful support in a number of ways such as, praying the Rosary for our work. You will find inspirational resources for our "Pray In May" campaign, including our prayer card, on [our website](#). Thank you for remembering Mary's Meals in your prayers. God bless you all.

Sixth Sunday of Easter: B.

(READINGS: Acts 10²⁵⁻²⁶; 34-35; 44-48; Psalm 97¹⁻⁴; 1 John 4⁷⁻¹⁰ and; John 15⁹⁻¹⁷)

As we come closer to Pentecost and the end of the Easter season, the Church brings us back to the Last Supper with today's Gospel passage. The moment is solemn. Jesus is at table with His closest followers, His handpicked Twelve Apostles. He knows that this is the last time that they will be gathered in this way until they meet again in eternity. Nothing is carelessly said. Everyone on their deathbed has their final words, their legacy: these are Our Lord's words. Jesus explains that He has loved us and that He longs for us to remain in His love, to stay in His friendship, so that we may experience the indescribable joy that flows from true love. And then He lays down His New Commandment, the summary of all His teaching and of His entire life: "love one another as I love you." The Ten Commandments of the Old Testament were summarised by Jesus during His public life into two Commandments of the New Testament: Love God with all your heart and love your neighbour as yourself. But now, at the climax of His earthly mission, Jesus combines those two into a final, New Commandment: love one another as I have loved you.

This is the Christian battle plan. At the Last Supper, Jesus was on the verge of His final battle against evil and all the forces of darkness. And the Church He is forming through His Apostles will take that same battle to the ends of the earth and to every corner of human history and culture. The plan is so simple and straightforward, summed up in this single, final, definitive command: love one another as I have loved you. We are Christ's soldiers and that is our mission in following Him.

Following Christ is not complicated. In fact, today Jesus reduces the essence of what it means to be His follower into one sentence. This sentence is His New Commandment, a commandment that summarises everything that He has taught. If we do that, we are on Our Lord's path and we will experience the joy and meaning that only God can give us. And to make it even simpler; because He knows that we tend to complicate things unnecessarily, Jesus explains exactly what He means by the word "love," a word that the Devil is always trying to distort: "A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends." In other words, love is self-giving and so, the greater the self-giving, the greater is the love. When we put our lives at the service of others, when we live in order to give and not to take, when we are willing to suffer so that someone else can rejoice, then we may call ourselves His disciples.

But Jesus went even further in order to make sure we would understand. He did not explain the meaning of true love just with words; He also explained it with His deeds, with His own Passion, Suffering and Death. He accepted mockery, humiliation, torture, rejection, injustice, misunderstanding, betrayal and, finally, death, not because He was too weak to resist, but to show us what love really is: self-giving, self-forgetful generosity. Jesus Christ hanging on the Cross; bearing the weight of our sins; thinking not of Himself but of the men and women He came to save, even pleading for their forgiveness up until the very end; giving without counting the cost, even without asking for something in return – this is God's idea of love. It is ours?

This idea of true love is not pie-in-the-sky; it is practical. For example, it gives us a way to see our relationships from God's perspective. From a merely human perspective, we tend to look at our relationships in terms of what we get out of them. This person is enjoyable to be around; that person rubs me the wrong way; this person is always asking me for favours...etc. But when we understand that the path to true wisdom and lasting joy is Christ-like love, self-forgetful, self-giving love, those considerations begin to take a back seat. When we are self-centred, we tend to be passive and reactive. But when we are Christ-centred, we tend to be assertive and proactive. We see relationships in terms of what we can give to them and that is much more dynamic and energizing.

Imagine starting the week by making a list of things you want to do for other people. It would change the whole tone of our week; we would be lighting lights instead of dodging shadows. This week: think of one small thing you can do to ease the burdens of your spouse; think of one small thing you can do to make your colleagues job just a little bit easier; think of one small thing you can do to bring some encouragement and joy into the lives of your parents; think of a friend or relative who is suffering or having difficulties and think of one small thing you can do to help support them. Is it really so simple? Yes! This is what self-giving looks like in real life. It is within the reach of all of us, if we are willing to step out of our comfort zones.

Jesus did it for us on the wood of the Cross, today, this week, let us promise to do it for Him on the pathway of our daily lives.

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.