



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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DIOCESAN CO - ORDINATOR: – **Appointment Pending** – ☎: 0115 953 9850

TIMES OF MASSES AND OTHER SERVICES: SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: B
Seventh Week of Eastertide: 16th – 22nd May 2021 (Weekday Cycle Year I / Psalter Week III)

Saturday 15th May:	<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, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning and John Wilcox.</p>
Mass;	Holy Souls	
Sunday 16th May:	<u>Seventh Sunday of Easter</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Deceased Clergy of the Parish (Foundation Mass)	
Monday 17th May:	<u>Easter Feria</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Mrs Martha Whitmore RIP (Foundation Mass)	
Tuesday 18th May:	<u>Easter Feria</u>	
10:00 am: Mass (St Francis);	Margaret Turton RIP (Rainford)	
Wednesday 19th May:	<u>Easter Feria</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Lizzie McCartney RIP (11 th Anniv) (Kay & Family)	
Thursday 20th May:	<u>Easter Feria</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	
Friday 21st May:	<u>Easter Feria</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Health & Well – Being of Friends (Stephens)	
Saturday 22nd May:	<u>Easter Feria</u>	
Mass;	Pro Populo; People of the Parish	
Sunday 23rd May:	<u>Pentecost Sunday (Solemnity)</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	In Thanksgiving (6 th Wedding Anniversary Joe & Izzy Hopkins)	

**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: 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: New envelopes are now available from the back of Church. If you haven't already done so, please collect your box of envelopes, which begin from the first weekend in June. 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 Communion 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 Communion, 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>.

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

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.

Seventh Sunday of Easter: B.

(READINGS: Acts 1^{15-17, 20-26}; Psalm 102^{1-2, 11-12, 19-20}; 1 John 4¹¹⁻¹⁶ and; John 17¹¹⁻¹⁹)

In today's world, democracy is considered to be the fairest form of political arrangement. The idea being that democracy gives everyone a voice in the decisions of how a country should be ruled. Democracy is meant to prevent dictatorships. Democracy is not based on the idea that everyone is so wise and good that they should be given a hand in government, but rather on the idea that no single human being is wise enough and good enough to hold all the authority in his hands. And that is true, because all of us are flawed and wounded by sin, Original Sin and personal sin.

But the Church is not a democracy. It is a hierarchy with Jesus Christ at the top; He is our King and Eternal Ruler. And He is not flawed and wounded by sin. In fact, He is all – wise, all – powerful and all – good, because He is God. As members of the Church, we are His followers, not His constituents or electorate.

So, how does He lead us? How has He chosen to exercise His ruling authority over this Sacred Kingdom, His One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church? That is one thing which today's Readings make clear and it is important for us to understand it, so that we can live it to the full.

When Jesus Ascended into heaven, He did not leave us the Bible and He did not leave us, in the first place, the Holy Spirit. Rather, He left us the Church, the body of believers gathered under the leadership of His hand – picked Apostles. Later, while this Church was gathered in prayer during Pentecost, Jesus sent the gift of the Holy Spirit, who became the Church's supernatural soul and guide. Later still, as this same Church was growing and spreading, always under the leadership of the Apostles, it gathered the inspired writings that eventually came to form the Bible. This Church, with a hierarchical structure that Christ Himself instituted, became an extension in time and space of Christ's own presence. And this was Our Lord's plan from the very beginning. As he says in today's Gospel, just as the Father sent Jesus into the world to redeem it, so Jesus sends His Apostles into the world, to build up the Church and, in that way spread the Gospel of redemption.

We can think of it as St Paul did, using the analogy of a body. Jesus is the Head of the Church; the Holy Spirit is the heart and the Apostles are the arteries that God uses to spread His divine life to us; the Church's many limbs and organs. And as this body grew, so the arteries grew, through the Ordination of Bishops. In today's First Reading, we see St Peter and the other Apostles choosing St Matthias to take the place of Judas, who had abandoned his apostolic ministry in the Church. This shows us clearly that the Apostles, carrying out Christ's instructions, understood this hierarchical structure as an essential part of the Church from the very beginning.

It was not invented later on by power – hungry emperors. It was not merely an after – thought added on for convenience. In His wisdom and love, Jesus chose to rule His Kingdom through representatives who would pass on His teaching and administer His Sacraments. Every week when we pray the Creed, we proclaim our belief in a Church that is “One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic.” The only reason we can say that the Church is apostolic is because there is an unbroken line of Ordinations linking our Bishops today all the way back to the Apostles. The only reason we can say that our Church is One, that is, united in its doctrine, worship, and organisation, is because the Bishop of Rome today, the Pope, is continuing to perform the same service of unity performed by the first Bishop of Rome, St Peter. This is how Jesus built His Church and this is how the Church continues to grow and fulfil its mission in the world.

Only when we understand and appreciate this plan of God over the Church can we live in a healthy way two essential Catholic virtues that go against the grain of our modern culture: reverence and obedience. We should view and treat our Bishops and especially the Pope, with reverence. If the Prime Minister sent a messenger to our house, bringing a personal message from the Prime Minister himself, how would we treat that messenger? We would treat them with respect and with a certain natural reverence, because he represents the leader of our country. The messenger might be kind, intelligent, strong and wise or, he might be mean, ugly, and weak. But in either case, we treat them with respect and reverence, because of the office which they hold. Our Bishops are Christ's messengers. They have been entrusted in a special way with preserving and handing on Our Lord's

teaching and the Sacraments. And Christ is the highest authority not only of our country, but of our universe. But He is more than just an authority – He is our Creator and our Saviour! How much more do His Bishops deserve our faith – filled respect and reverence, not because of their personality or intelligence, but because of who they represent.

The Pope and the Bishops in communion with Him also deserve our obedience. Christ promised that the gates of hell will not be victorious over His Church. This means that if we stay united to Him through obedience to the official teachings of Church in faith and morals, we will be victorious over sin, evil and death. This obedience is not blind. In the first place, it does not extend to every detail of life; it includes our life of faith and our fundamental moral behaviour. And in the second place, if an individual Bishop or Priest happened to go down the same path which Judas did and tried to lead us astray, we would no longer give them our obedience. And we can recognise when that is the case, simply by knowing the faith of our Catechism and keeping up with the official teachings of the Popes. And if we come across a teaching which is hard for us to understand or accept, we need to take some time to study it, by reading good, Catholic explanations and by speaking with faithful Catholic theologians and priests.

The Church is God's greatest gift to us and to the world, because it keeps us in constant contact with Him. In a sense, it is how He makes Himself visible to us. It helps us to "remain in His love," as today's Second Reading puts it. Today, let us thank God for making us members of His Church, for giving us a sure guide through the confusion, trouble, noise and darkness of this fallen world. And let us renew our commitment to stay close to Him by seeing and treating His representatives with faith – filled reverence and obedience.