



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: TRINITY SUNDAY: B

Ninth Week of Ordinary Time: 30th May – 5th June 2021 (Weekday Cycle Year I / Psalter Week I)

Saturday 29th May:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	<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, John Wilcox and Bob Wilson.</p>
Mass;	Holy Souls	
Sunday 30th May:	<i>The Most Holy Trinity (Solemnity)</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Norma Brennan RIP (1 st Anniversary) (Joe)	
Monday 31st May:	<i>The Visitation of the BVM (Feast)</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Alan Roberts RIP (Taylor)	
Tuesday 1st June:	<i>St Justin, Martyr (memoria)</i>	
10:00 am: Mass (St Francis);	Kathleen Gibney RIP	
Wednesday 2nd June:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	The Burn Family (King)	
Thursday 3rd June:	<i>St Charles Lwanga & Comp. martyr of Uganda (memoria)</i>	
Mass;	Special Intention	
Friday 4th June:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Robert Dixon (Birthday Intentions)	
Saturday 5th June:	<i>St Boniface, Bishop & Martyr (memoria)</i>	
Mass;	Holy Souls	
Sunday 6th June:	<i>Corpus Christi (Solemnity)</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Pro Populo; People of the Parish	

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: 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 **THIS 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*.

PARISH FINANCES: A number of people have asked about the state of Parish Finances and the impact of caused by the Pandemic. Thanks to all who have switched to Standing Order payments the average weekly income to the Parish is about £ 400.00 and Offerings brought to Church average about £ 500.00 per month since January (although this has included multiple Collection Envelopes amassed over a period of time. Currently donations to the boiler replacement fund total £ 4250. 00 and I so am very grateful to you all for your continued generosity as the weather for busking at the moment is not favourable!!

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 will continue as before for the time being.* Despite the country moving into Step 3 (17th May) of the Government Covid – 19 Response Roadmap published in February 2021, very little has changed with regard to Places of Worship. At the moment, the regulation on social distancing still requires that a reduced capacity exists in all churches. The Roadmap states that new sectors which will reopen on 17th May are “Some large events, including conferences, theatre and concert performances and sports events. Controlled indoor events of up to 1,000 people or 50% of a venue's capacity.” This only applies to single one – off events, moderated by the Local Authority and not to regular worship in churches. We have been reminded 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.

Holy Communion will continue to be under one kind and priests will continue to wear a face covering, although it is now permitted to announce “The Body of Christ” for each communicant. Communion is to be distributed in the hand.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: The use of confessional boxes has been prohibited because of the risks of virus transmission. One of the most important aspects for the use of the confessional is the ventilation of the space between penitents. If anyone would like to go to Confession please speak to me and arrangements can be made.

Home Visits: Any Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who wish to take Holy Communion to the Sick and Housebound are asked to speak to me regarding the guidelines and regulations for this.

Mass Booking: 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 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>.



Trinity Sunday: B.

(READINGS: Deuteronomy 4^{32-34, 39-41}; Psalm 32^{4-6, 9, 18-20, 22}; Romans 8¹⁴⁻¹⁷ and; Matthew 28¹⁶⁻²⁰)

Last week we came to the climax of the Church's year at Pentecost: the descent of the Holy Spirit, the birth of the Church and the proclamation of the Gospel to the whole world. And that is a pretty hard act to follow, even for God. How could we ask for more? But in fact the feast of the Most Holy Trinity doesn't try to give us any more. Instead, it invites us to sit back and reflect on the things which happened to Jesus Christ, so that through our believing in Him, under the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we may better understand what happens to us. This Solemnity invites us to think about what sort of reality we must be involved with, if the events that launched the Church into history really occurred.

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity though is a still hard one to get excited about. It is easy to get excited about Christmas. It is easy to get excited about Easter. Somehow, we feel that we can relate to those wonderful mysteries of our faith. But the doctrine of the Trinity is not so easy to relate to. We know what it is, but we are not always so sure about what that means for us. But really, with this doctrine, God has revealed to us that He is not in infinite isolation, but infinite love; an infinite relationship of complete self – giving. The one divine nature exists fully and simultaneously in three divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we can catch a glimpse of how wonderful this doctrine really is, but even so, it can still seem abstract: something for theologians to ponder, something impractical for everyday Christians. But that is a false impression.

The Trinity is actually the most practical of all Christian doctrines, because it reveals to us the meaning of our life. We are created in God's image. And God, in the very essence of His being, is self – forgetting love. It is a harmonious relationship in which the three divine Persons are completely knowing each other and completely giving to each other. God's eternal dynamic flows from that communion of total love. And so, our happiness, since we are created in His image, will flow from the same thing. From our freely choosing to use our God – given gifts: our life, our talents, our resources – to build up those around us. This is what we are created to be and to do and only in this will we find the real happiness we long for. The meaning of life is for us to choose every day, in both the little things and the big things, to be better and better reflections of the Most Holy Trinity. Pope Benedict XVI said that, "All beings are ordered to a dynamic harmony that we call 'love.' But only in the human person, who is free and can reason, does this dynamism become spiritual, does it become responsible love, in response to God and to our neighbour, through a sincere gift of our self. It is in this love that human beings find their truth and happiness."

If we read the Catechism of the Catholic, we can gain more wisdom about God and the world than even the very wisest person who lived before the coming of Christ. Before the coming of Our Lord, wise and self – disciplined people learned about God from the outside – from reflecting on the beauties of creation, for example or thinking about human experience philosophically. This is what the great religious thinkers of antiquity did, like Plato and Aristotle. They dedicated themselves to looking at God from the outside. And they learned a lot. And there is a lot of truth in what they discovered, just as there would be a lot of truth if say a detective would discover about you or me if he put us under surveillance for a while. But if we were to sit down with that detective and honestly tell him everything he wanted to know about ourselves, he would make much more progress, much more quickly. And that is exactly what God has done through Jesus Christ. He wasn't satisfied with being known partially or doubtfully; which is the only way our external human efforts could lead us to Him. He wanted to let us into His heart, to fully reveal Himself to us, to show us and tell us about His nature, His very essence, His thoughts and His desires. He has given us the inside story about Himself. This story is told in the Scriptures and it is explained in the Catechism. Through our faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit enables us not just to know about God, in the same way we that know about someone through a magazine article, but to know God in the same way we know an intimate friend.

And what is the central characteristic that we discover about God? That He is dynamic, personal and involved in our lives. In short, that He is Trinity: one divine nature and three divine Persons. Thanks to the Holy Spirit, who helps us understand Our Lord's words and guides us to the whole truth, all who believe can experience the intimacy of God Himself, discovering that He is not infinite solitude but a communion of light and love; life given and received in an eternal dialogue between the Father and the Son, in the Holy Spirit. As St Augustine said God is, "The Lover, the Loved and Love."

This beautiful truth of our faith is the key for understanding God's view of our human dignity and sexuality. Popular culture more often than not misrepresents the Church's position on sexuality. It tries to convince people that the Church looks down on it or is afraid of it or considers it dirty or sinful. But this is just the opposite of the truth: popular culture is the one which belittles sexuality and our human dignity. They have turned it into a product, a commodity, something used for selling music or clothes or films or perfumes. Popular culture views sexuality as a game or a sport, without any real transcendent meaning. It encourages us to give in to every instinct, as if we were just like animals, as if sexuality had no deeper purpose than providing for our fun or amusement. But that is a degraded and degrading view of something that God Himself actually created and designed.

Human sexuality, as God designed it, is one of the most beautiful ways that we as human beings can mirror and reflect the life of the Trinity. When a husband and wife commit themselves to each other for life: mind, body and soul, they are fulfilling their vocation to mirror that kind of total self – giving love that is the essence of the Most Holy Trinity. And when they express this commitment through sexual intimacy, the mirror becomes even brighter and clearer through the new life that, if God wills, can be conceived through it. The husband, the wife, the child; the commitment, the love, the new life – this is meant to be a privileged mirror of the Trinity! That is the true meaning of human sexuality. Original sin and human selfishness have obscured that meaning. This is why it is so easy to misinterpret or abuse it, whether through sex outside marriage, infidelity, contraception, abortion, pornography or homosexual activity. These are sins not because the Church has a negative view of human sexuality, but because the Church has such a high and noble view of its real meaning and wants to protect us from the unhappiness that comes from going against that meaning. Only when we understand that we were created to reflect the life of the Trinity can we begin to grasp the true meaning not only of sexuality, but also of every other aspect of human life. So then we enhance rather than diminish our human dignity.

An old proverb says that knowledge is power. Following on from that a more recent proverb says that with great power comes great responsibility. As followers of Jesus Christ, we have been given this most precious knowledge of all: we know that the meaning of life is to mirror the Trinity through self – forgetting love. This knowledge gives us great power and great responsibility. It gives us the power to face every situation with confidence and eagerness, even situations of suffering and hardship.

We know that during life's good times as well as during life's bad times, our task remains the same: to mirror the Trinity by giving of ourselves, by building up those around us. And we can always do that, because God Himself is always helping us: "*And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of the time.*" This is why Jesus called His followers the "*salt of the earth*" and the "*light of the world.*" Our knowledge of life's true meaning makes us torches of hope burning brightly in the cold, dark chaos of a fallen world. And this knowledge also gives us great responsibility. Like the procession of the Paschal candle at the Easter Vigil, we are called to pass on the light that we have received, to spread this wonderful knowledge to everyone around us. This was Christ's final command: "*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*" Let us thank God for giving us this wonderful knowledge, let us promise to do our best to use well the great power it puts in our hands and let us ask the Lord for the grace to help us fulfil our responsibility as His messengers in the best way possible.