



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

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

TIMES OF MASSES AND OTHER SERVICES: 12TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR: B

Twelfth Week of Ordinary Time: 20th – 26th June 2021 (Weekday Cycle Year I / Psalter Week IV)

Saturday 19th June:	<u>Weekday Feria</u>	<p><i>Your Prayers are requested for those who are sick:</i></p> <p>Audrey Adamson, Isobel Alana Barnes, Marica Borsos, 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;	Special Intention	
Sunday 20th June:	<u>Twelfth Sunday of the Year: B</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Paul Fitzgerald RIP	
Monday 21st June:	<u>St Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious (mem)</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	30 th Anniversary of Patricia & João	
Tuesday 22nd June:	<u>SS John Fisher & Thomas More, Martyrs (Feast)</u>	
10:00 am: Mass (St Francis);	Private Intention	
Wednesday 23rd June:	<u>Weekday Feria</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Vicky & Alan Roberts (RIP) (Solloway)	
Thursday 24th June:	<u>The Nativity of St John the Baptist (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>
Mass;	Private Intention	
Friday 25th June:	<u>Weekday Feria</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Deceased Members of the Mannion Family (Dixon)	
Saturday 26th June:	<u>Weekday Feria</u>	
Mass;	Holy Souls	
Sunday 27th June:	<u>Thirteenth Sunday of the Year: B</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Pro Populo; People of the Parish	
<p>UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY!</p>		
<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.

POOR CLARES: The Sisters send their sincere thanks for the gifts and donations I took them in May. I am sure that many of you will have seen in the local media that they are facing a huge challenge which is why our continued support is so very important to them. There are many problems with the structure, age and general state of repair of their present building and so the decision has been made to demolish the old convent building and completely rebuild. This is a massive undertaking and the cost could well be into seven figures. The Sisters have the money from the sale of the Convent in Wales but there is a substantial shortfall and so they have started to raise funds for the new Convent including a virtual pilgrimage to Walsingham which many people have sponsored. Thanks again to you all for continuing to support the sisters it is very much appreciated and if you can suggest any fundraising we can do in the Parish please get in touch. My next visit to the Sisters is **Monday 28th June 2021**. Many thanks – *Diane Wilson*

MISSIO – RED BOX: The Summer issue of MISSION TODAY is available in the Narthex please feel free to take a copy – it is an interesting read. If you have a Red Box that needs to be emptied please could you give it to me or Father Christopher or contact me on the number on the label underneath the red box. Thanks for your continued support which is very important during the pandemic when fund raising has been so difficult: *Diane Wilson - Parish MISSIO Secretary*

CELEBRATION OF MASS: *The public Celebration of Mass will continue as before for the time being.*

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.

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time: B.

(READINGS: Job 38^{1, 8-11}; Psalm 106^{23-26, 28-32}; 2 Corinthians 5¹⁴⁻¹⁷ and; Mark 4³⁵⁻⁴¹)

Today we have a Gospel story, which could almost be a metaphor for life, where Jesus calmed a storm on the Sea of Galilee. Now this brief miracle must have made a deep and unforgettable impression upon the disciples. It confirmed their faith and prepared them for the harder, more testing battles which lay ahead. The sight of the perfectly calm sea, subject to the voice of Our Lord must have been engraved upon their hearts and minds. Years afterwards these men would pray and the memory of this scene would bring peace to them as they underwent all the trials Our Lord had forewarned them of.

We remember on another occasion, on the way to Jerusalem, Jesus had told them that what the prophets had foretold about the Son of Man was about to be fulfilled, “For He will be delivered into the hands of the Gentiles and, will be mocked and shamefully treated and spat upon; they will scourge Him and kill Him and on the third day He will rise.” And at the same time He warns them that they too will go through terrible times of persecution and slander, “A disciple is not above His teacher, nor a servant above His master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they malign those of His household?”

Jesus wants to convince those first disciples and, us too, that there is no compromise possible, between Him and His doctrine, on the one hand and, the world as a kingdom of sin on the other. He reminds them not to be surprised to be treated in this way, “Know that if the world hates you, it is because that it hated me before you.” And so as St Gregory the Great says, “The hostility of the wicked echoes like praise for our way of life, because it shows insofar as we annoy those who do not love God, that there is at least some righteousness in us. Nobody can please God and the enemies of God at the same time.” And so if we are faithful there will be winds and storms. But Jesus will say once more, “Quiet now! Be calm!”

At the very beginning of the Church the Apostles gathered abundant fruit as they preached the Gospel. But at the same time they had to suffer threats, insults and persecutions. They were not concerned about whether opinion was favourable or hostile towards them. They were only concerned to make Christ known to all people; to take the fruits of the Resurrection and Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit to the ends of the earth. They preached the doctrine and teachings of Jesus Christ, which in purely human terms, constituted a scandal for some and sheer madness to others. But this doctrine entered all environments, transforming people and customs.

Many of the circumstances within which the Apostles had to work have changed, but others remain as they were or, have become even worse. Materialism and the excessive love of comfort and well – being, immorality and ignorance represent once again in many places the furious winds and the stormy seas. And we can add to this the temptation of many people to adapt and adjust the doctrine of Christ and to seriously deform the message of the Gospel to suit themselves. What Pope Benedict defined as, “moral relativism.”

So with all of these storms in life, this is a Gospel story with which most of us can identify. This is a beautifully simple Gospel story. And it is interesting to notice that, even though Jesus was with them, they still ran into a storm. As a matter of fact, right at the height of the storm, Jesus was sound asleep! His presence with them doesn't mean that they would never encounter difficulties; it does, however, mean that, when the difficulties do arise, all they have to do is to call on Him. This is literally true in the lives of every single one of us. He is quite aware of the storm, but He leaves it to us how we choose to deal with it. Of course, we will have problems; but we also have a solution. “Ask, and you will receive.”

Jesus must have had an extraordinary depth of peace and inner connectedness with the Father. He was in a deep sleep in the midst of a storm. He had really closed down, no doubt because of exhaustion. Now, I used to imagine Jesus lying there, with eyes closed, but He was peeping out under His eyelids to see how the apostles were dealing with the situation! Today, I think of Jesus being there with them; they have seen enough evidence of His care for them; if the storm comes, He will sleep away because by now they should know what to do. And they did know what to do. They called on Him, He woke up, calmed the storm and then began to show them that their fear came from the fact that they didn't really trust Him to care for them. From a human point of view it is hard to blame them. And yet, this is the strength of faith and trust that Jesus called for.

Fear is a fairly predominant and crippling problem in human life. But a constant word from Jesus is, "Be not afraid. Fear not." So we have to face up to our fears, bring them to Him and expect Him to take it from there. One of the greatest human fears is the fear of death. And yet, when that time comes, we just have to make that leap of faith and trust that there is Someone there to catch us.

If we are to be apostles in the midst of the world, we too must realise that some people – at times husbands or wives, parents or children or even our closest friends – will not understand us. But we will have to take heart, because it is not easy to row against the tide or go against the grain. We will have to work calmly and firmly. We cannot be deterred or allow ourselves to be deflected or led astray by the attitudes or opinions of those, who in many ways, have compromised or so identified themselves with the customs of the new paganism, that they seem unable any longer to understand the transcendent and supernatural meaning of life.

I find myself deeply and personally challenged by today's Gospel. Nothing really has changed, except that we are the people in the boat today. Considering that we have had two thousand years to reflect on Our Lord's teaching, that we know about Calvary, Easter, the Resurrection and Pentecost, something not yet known to the apostles, it surely is reasonable to ask that we should trust Him. We understand human nature and how close to the surface our fears and our anxieties can be. We still search our hearts for that faith that should be there. And we know it is not something we can generate, with gritted teeth, flexed muscles and clenched fists. But we do have the Holy Spirit and faith is one of the gifts of the Spirit. What happens, though, if I don't use it?

It is very easy to apply today's Gospel in our lives. We all encounter the high waves and we all experience being tossed around like a cork on the water. And it is a wonderful blessing to get a healthy insight into my own powerlessness. Because God's power flows into the emptiness of our powerlessness. But the first thing we all have to do is to stop trying to be God. God becomes God in my life the moment I realise that I am not God. Yet one of the reactions we encounter from people in trouble is that they are angry with God. "What is He doing? Is He really there at all? Does He really care about what is happening to us?" Once again, as in today's Gospel, Jesus appears to be asleep. But there is one thing that we must never forget: It is not possible for a human being to fall on their knees, cry out to God and not be heard. The cry that comes from the heart is most certainly answered. Sometimes, of course, the answer is 'no.' God will always give me what I ask for, unless He has something better to offer me. But our intimacy with God will give us calmness and strength and, we need this, so as to be a firm rock for many around us. We can never forget that, particularly today. As St Paul reminds us in today's Second Reading: "Even if we did once know Christ in the flesh, that is not how we know Him now. And for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here."

And so today's Gospel too should give us hope. It shows us that Jesus is always near; hidden in the heart of fear and suffering. It calls on us to have faith and to take Jesus and His words seriously; because He and He alone can give us the courage we need and the inner peace we need, which casts out the fear of this stormy voyage of life. If only we realise that the Almighty God is with us, we then have the power to dispel and deal with all fears and anxieties that come our way.