



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: 13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR: B**

**Thirteenth Week of Ordinary Time: 27<sup>th</sup> June – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021 (Weekday Cycle Year I / Psalter Week I)**

<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June:</b>	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	<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 &amp; 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> <p><b>HOSPITALS</b></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	
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June:</b>	<i>Twelfth Sunday of the Year: B</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Pro Populo; People of the Parish	
<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June:</b>	<i>St Irenaeus Bishop &amp; Martyr (mem)</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Mr Paddy Byrnes RIP (Halliday)	
<b>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June:</b>	<i>SS Peter &amp; Paul, Apostles (Solemnity)</i>	
10:00 am: Mass (St Francis);	Deceased Members of the Keane Family (Harvey)	
<b>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June:</b>	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	John Boland RIP (Solloway)	
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July:</b>	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass;	Special Intention	
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July:</b>	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Tony Saville RIP (Anne)	
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July:</b>	<i>St Thomas, Apostle (Feast)</i>	
Mass;	Holy Souls	
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July:</b>	<i>Fourteenth Sunday of the Year: B</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Pro Populo; People of the Parish	
<b>UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY!</b>		
<p><b>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).</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p>		

Items for the newsletter can be given to Fr Christopher or e – mailed to [frcathomas@live.com](mailto: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 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021**. Many thanks – *Diane Wilson*

**MISSION – 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 MISSION Secretary*

**THE FRIENDS OF ENGLISH MARTYRS'** who raise funds to support English Martyrs' School are taking part in the Big PTA Summer Raffle. This year we've had to be creative with fundraising and this online raffle is a great way for all in our community to support the school. Purchasing a ticket gives you the chance to win up to **£ 5, 000** and 50% of all sales through our link go directly to the FEM, funding activities and resources in school. This is a national initiative and tickets are limited so please share with friends and family and buy early. For more information visit: <https://www.bigptaraffle.co.uk/support/english-martyrs-rcp-school-ng10>

**CELEBRATION OF MASS:** *Following the recent delay in the easing of COVID restrictions there is unfortunately no real significant change regarding our Churches. The public Celebration of Mass will therefore, 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. **TO HELP THE STEWARDS PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARRIVE FOR MASS IN GOOD TIME BEFORE MASS BEGINS.**

**RENEWING THE FACE OF THE EARTH:** A Diocesan practical workshop for anyone interested in promoting care of Creation, on: **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021, 7:00 – 8:30pm**. When it comes to action on climate change, every Parish is part of the ‘race to net – zero.’ Would you like to help our Parish, Diocese and the wider Church in taking up the environmental challenges of our time? Caritas is seeking to develop a network of Parish Representatives to help promote care for the environment across the Diocese. Join this conversational workshop on Zoom to explore what being a Parish Eco – Representative could mean and, opportunities coming up this Autumn to enable the parish to ‘Preach the Good News to all Creation.’ Bookings must be made in advance: visit <https://bit.ly/renewtheearth> to register.

## *Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: B.*

*(READINGS: Wisdom 1<sup>13-15</sup>, 2<sup>23-24</sup>; Psalm 29<sup>2, 4-6, 11-13</sup>; 2 Corinthians 8<sup>7, 9, 13-15</sup> and; Mark 5<sup>21-43</sup>)*

In today's secularized world, we don't often talk about the devil. And when we do, it is usually to make a joke. But Jesus didn't make jokes about the devil. In fact, the Bible tells us that undoing the devil's work was the primary reason Jesus came to earth in the first place: in the First Letter of St John we are told, "This was the purpose of the appearing of the Son of God, to undo the work of the devil."

Today's First Reading explains why the devil is so important for human history: "it was the devil's envy that brought death into the world." This happened in the Garden of Eden, with Original Sin. When our first parents let themselves be deceived by the devil, stopped trusting in God and disobeyed God's commands. The original harmony that God had built into creation was shattered. Evil, death and suffering flooded the world. And ever since then, human history, both of the human race and of every individual, has been a battleground between those destructive forces of evil, sin and selfishness and the redeeming power of God's grace. This is the truth, revealed by Christ and fairly obvious to anyone who takes an honest look at the world.

But if it is true and obvious, why does today's secularized world shy away from talking about it? Part of the answer is simple: if we admit the reality of the devil and Original Sin, we are also admitting the fact that we, as fallen human beings, are in need of a Saviour. Someone stronger than evil and death who can come and redeem us. But admitting our need for a Saviour takes humility and humility can really scares us! We much prefer to see ourselves as self – sufficient, heroic, successful and capable of taking care of ourselves, thank you very much. But unless we are humble, admitting that we are not God, that we need God, then God's grace will not be able to touch and transform our lives, because God is too respectful of our freedom to force down the door of our hearts.

Today's Gospel passage illustrates this perfectly. Jesus performs two really amazing miracles and in both cases, the key that released the power of His grace was humility. Jairus, the synagogue official was humble: he knew that saving his daughter was something beyond his own powers. This is clearly demonstrated by how he approaches Jesus. When he made his way into the Lord's presence, he wasn't aloof, sceptical and argumentative, like so many of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Instead, St Mark tells us that he "fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him." The synagogue official was an important person in the city. He was used to being in charge, used to having the right answers and helping other people solve their problems. But faced with the mortal sickness of his child, Jairus remembered that there was a higher power in the universe than him. So, he humbled himself before the Lord and the Lord, "went with him," to work a miracle.

The woman with the haemorrhage was humble too; her sickness had made her so. She was not a powerful leader in society. In fact, her sickness made her an outcast. She was "unclean," according to the Law of Moses. And she was risking her very life by fighting her way through the crowd, touching all those people and making them unclean too. Where did she get the strength to overcome those obstacles? From her humility. For twelve years she had been seeking a solution to her chronic, humiliating and debilitating health issue, paying for all the latest technology and all the most highly recommended doctors. And so she discovered the vast limits of human ingenuity and turned instead to the limitless mercy of a much higher power. She risked everything just to touch a tassel of the Lord's cloak; and strength far beyond her limited human powers flowed out from Him and healed her. The humility of these two unforgettable Gospel characters opened their hearts to faith in Jesus Christ. And that faith unleashed God's saving power into their lives. God's saving power healed their hopelessness, strengthened their weakness and enlightened their darkness.

This Gospel today teaches us that humility is the source of true strength. The humble person is strong in the same way that a shipwrecked person is strong. After a shipwreck, you will cling with all your might to a piece of wood that will keep you afloat. You will not let it go no matter what, because you know that without it, you will drown. That is humility. It is a true recognition of our dependence on the Cross of Christ to save us from spiritual shipwreck and that recognition inspires us with unbreakable courage.

Humility is the only door through which God's grace can reach our hearts and set us on the path of true happiness. This leaves us, logically speaking, with a question: What can we do to increase our humility? St Paul gives us one possibility in today's Second Reading. In this Letter, he is encouraging the Christians in the prosperous Greek city of Corinth to be generous in helping the Christians in Jerusalem, who are suffering from a severe economic downturn. He points out that sharing with others the gifts we have received from God's providence is one way we can follow Christ more closely. Jesus, in fact, was the first one who took the privileges He had received from the Father and surrendered them by becoming a man in the Incarnation. And by lowering Himself in that way, He made it possible for us to share in those privileges, to become real children of God. This is what St Paul is referring to when he writes: "He was rich, but he became poor for your sake, to make you rich out of his poverty." Christ, the eternal, divine Son of God, coming down from heaven and raising us up to share in His divinity is the perfect model of humility. We can follow His example by reaching out to others just as He has reached out to us. Visiting the sick and imprisoned, feeding the hungry, praying for sinners, encouraging the discouraged, comforting the troubled, inviting sinners to repent. By gracious or grace filled actions like these we reproduce in our souls the humility that Christ taught us. And doing that opens the door for His transforming grace to come and make us into the wise, joyful, courageous and fruitful saints that we were created to be.

Christ is our Saviour; only He can redeem us from the sinfulness, the instability and the weakness that plagues our lives in this fallen world. But how do we receive this redemption? Jairus walked up to Him and knelt in front of Him, because Jesus was passing right through his town. The woman with the haemorrhage pressed through the crowds and activated God's power in her life by touching Christ's cloak. But what about us? Jesus has ascended into heaven; how can we touch His cloak? We can do so if we approach the Sacraments with faith. The Sacraments were instituted by Jesus Himself, given to the Church precisely for this purpose, so that we would not have to wonder if God is still at work in our lives. When we kneel before the priest in the confessional and open our hearts to God's mercy, we are like Jairus kneeling before Christ in Galilee. When we touch the Body and Blood of Jesus under the appearances of bread and wine in the Eucharist, we are like the woman with the haemorrhage: Christ's divine strength flows into our weak, wounded and fallen lives. The same Jesus of the Gospels is still at work through the Sacraments, still present and active in history, still healing, giving life and strengthening those who believe in Him. But we must approach them with humble faith. Many people in the crowd touched Jesus' cloak that day; St Mark tells us specifically that the crowd were pressing all around Him. And yet, only one woman accessed Christ's healing power, because her humility unlocked her faith. Today, let us offer ourselves to Him humbly, full of faith in His omnipotent goodness, so that His grace can work new wonders in us.