



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

E – mail: frcathomas@live.com ☎: 0115 922 8145 Website: www.theassumption.co.uk

PARISH DEACON: Rev. Chris Stevens (deacon@lecatholic.org.uk) ☎: 0115 808 5428)

SAFEGUARDING REPS: **Clare Newman** – (Assumption) ☎: 07812 603083

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

DIOCESAN CO-ORDINATOR: – **Rachel Campion** – ☎: 0115 953 9850

TIMES OF MASSES AND OTHER SERVICES: 14TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR: B
Fourteenth Week of Ordinary Time: 4th – 10th July 2021 (Weekday Cycle Year I / Psalter Week II)

Saturday 3rd July: <i>St Thomas, Apostle (Feast)</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 & 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>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;	<i>Holy Souls</i>	
Sunday 4th July: <i>Fourteenth Sunday of the Year: B</i>		
10:00 am: Mass;	<i>Pro Populo; People of the Parish</i>	
Monday 5th July: <i>Weekday Feria</i>		
10:00 am: Mass;	<i>Jose Luiz de Souza</i>	
Tuesday 6th July: <i>Weekday Feria</i>		
10:00 am: Mass (St Francis);	<i>John Boland RIP (Curtis)</i>	
Wednesday 7th July: <i>Weekday Feria</i>		
10:00 am: Mass;	<i>White Family (Yarwood)</i>	
Thursday 8th July: <i>Weekday Feria</i>		
NO PARISH MASS TODAY		
Friday 9th July: <i>Weekday Feria</i>		
NO PARISH MASS TODAY		
Saturday 10th July: <i>Weekday Feria</i>		
Mass;	<i>Pro Populo; People of the Parish</i>	
Sunday 11th July: <i>Fifteenth Sunday of the Year: B</i>		
10:00 am: Mass;	<i>Intentions of the Grant Family (Saville)</i>	
UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY!		
<p><i>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).</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></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 to them when I visited on 28th June 2021. They are very grateful for our continuing support and want you all to know that our Parish is in their prayers every day. You will probably be aware that the Sisters are busy raising funds towards the rebuilding of the Convent and one of the things they are doing is baking and cooking. The items below can be ordered a week before I visit and I will collect them for you when I take our gifts to them on the last Monday of every month: *Best Chocolate Fudge Cake – Crunchy Top Lemon Cake – Banana and Mixed Fruit Cake – Carrot and Pineapple Cake – Flapjacks – Rhubarb Cake – Samosa – Apple Pie – Fried Rice with Egg Curry – Pulave Rice with Egg Curry.* There is no set price but the Sisters are asking that you give a donation for the items you have requested. There will be Order Forms in church or you can phone me 07774 213712. This month orders need to be in by *Monday 19th July 2021* a week before my visit on *Monday 26th July 2021*. I do hope that you will feel you can support this venture and if you need any further information please ask me. Many thanks for your continuing support – *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*

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.**

ARE YOU CALLED?: The Vocations Team are holding their next Zoom Café on ***Monday 12th July 2021 at 7:00 pm***. This month's guest speaker is Maggie Mairura from Cafod who will be talking about how she lives her call today. If you would like to know more about Vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life and would like to meet the team please email Diane at vocationsadmin@dioceseofnottingham.uk for the Zoom link. A warm welcome awaits you.

RENEWING THE FACE OF THE EARTH: A Diocesan practical workshop for anyone interested in promoting care of Creation, on: ***Tuesday 6th 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: Ezekiel 2²⁻⁵; Psalm 122; 2 Corinthians 12⁷⁻¹⁰ and; Mark 6¹⁻⁶*)

Life handed him a lemon,
As Life sometimes will do.
His friends looked on in pity,
Assuming he was through.

They came upon him later,
Reclining in the shade
In calm contentment, drinking
A glass of lemonade.

There is a saying that, “When all you have is lemons you make lemonade.” It means that when it seems that all you have in life is adversity or hardship or setback or trouble, well then we have to make the best out of it and see what good or what benefit can come from that hardship. Every curse can then have a hidden blessing attached to it.

The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church of the Second Vatican Council, *Lumen Gentium*, reminds us that as believers we’re all called to exercise a prophetic role in our state of life, in imitation of Our Lord, it says: “*The holy people of God shares also in Christ’s prophetic office; it spreads abroad a living witness to Him, especially by means of a life of faith and charity and by offering to God a sacrifice of praise, the tribute of lips which give praise to His name.*” As today’s readings remind us, this mission is not always without difficulty, so we must try to carry it out with zeal and enthusiasm.

I think that is what St Paul had in mind and that is what he is trying to teach us in today’s Second Reading. St Paul tells us about some mysterious thorn in his flesh that has been plaguing him. In today’s Second Reading Paul reminds us that we may not feel up to the mission, due to our limitations, but Our Lord makes His power shine through our weakness. We don’t really know what this thorn in his flesh is. Scholars through the ages have speculated that maybe it was some horrible eye disease or some embarrassing or painful skin affliction. Others think that it was some emotional struggle brought on by the frustrations he was meeting in his ministry, particularly his outreach to his fellow Jews. The Church Fathers have had all sorts of opinions on what the “thorn” hindering Paul in doing his job was. St. John Chrysostom saw it as referring to the persecution and trials he suffered. St. Augustine saw it as some debilitating physical illness. St. Gregory the Great thought it might have been temptations to concupiscence. And all of these reasons are valid, even today, for discouragement, but St. Paul tells us today what Our Lord told him: you have all the help you need.

But what this thorn in the flesh for St Paul was is far less important than what he learned from it. For the Apostle tells us that he prayed so hard, he prayed for this affliction, for this thorn in his flesh to be removed. He begged the Lord in prayer three times. He begged the Lord three times to take this thorn away from him. But the Lord would not. In fact the only answer St Paul received was, “*My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.*” And Paul then concludes so beautifully and so eloquently that, as a matter of fact, what he first viewed as a curse, this mysterious thorn in the flesh, turned out actually to be a blessing; because it stopped him from becoming proud and arrogant and self – satisfied. It taught him humility and to rely only on the Lord’s grace instead of his own power. Paul made lemonade out of lemons. So, our “thorns” can make our mission even more fruitful and Our Lord will not let our mission fail because of them. We just have to keep trying and not get discouraged when it seems there are no results.

There has been a lot of study and consideration about the writings and life and teachings of St Mother Teresa of Calcutta. And it’s very interesting to find some of the conclusions of these studies. When we hear that name Mother Teresa we picture this happy smiling little nun, who was a constantly happy woman; who was daily in touch with the Lord, who lived in intimate contact with God and spoke to Him and heard Him speak to her, every single day and for whom, life was just filled with light and love and happiness. Well that’s just not true! If you read her letters and hear what her friends and companions have to say, then you will find that she had lots of hardships.

Far from being daily satisfying, her prayer for instance was more often than not terribly dry and dull. Far from being constantly alive with faith, she admits that she constantly struggled and wondered where was the Lord was in her life. She would beg the Lord for light and direction and consolation and instead she admitted that at times, all she found was darkness and confusion and agony. But she kept at it, she persevered. Daily she would make her Holy Hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Daily she would she would celebrate the Eucharist at Holy Mass with her community. Daily she would spend time offering the Prayer of the Church in the Divine Office. Never, never, would she give up, she persevered, she kept at it. And at the end of her life, she had to admit that what she considered a curse, namely that dryness in prayer, that confusion in direction and that struggle in trying to find the Lord's way, actually, was in fact a blessing. Because it kept her humble and it kept her persevering and faithful in prayer. Like St Paul the only answer she would get so often in her prayer was, "*My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.*"

A good friend of mine was Michael Ryan, whom I knew for about twenty years or so. From the day he was born, he was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, which is a particularly difficult and debilitating illness. A few times it almost took his life. And growing up he had terrible struggles and difficulties. Trying to regulate his medicine and diet and physiotherapy and, he was often restricted in what he was able to do. His schooling and education was interrupted a number of times. It was just a kind of difficult and painful and threatening life because of the cystic fibrosis. He even had two brothers who died fairly young because of this same genetic illness. Now in spite of having a double lung transplant in his late thirties, Michael died ten years ago and he was a priest in the Salford Diocese. And I know him very well because he was in the same year as me at Seminary. And most of us were in admiration of him because he was able to do this in spite of his terrible illness, it was a life – long curse. But he would be the first to admit that he had achieved all he had because of his cystic fibrosis. Because of his illness he has learned to live a very regimented and responsible life. He had learned to keep things in balance and to trust people around him, because they might be there when he needed help. He was very honest about his condition. He learned that he had to take care of himself if he was going to live up to the responsibilities of life. He would say that he knew himself pretty well and that if he didn't have cystic fibrosis his life may have taken a different direction altogether. He said me that he used to beg the Lord in prayer to take this illness away from him, but he would also say that he thanked the Lord, for what he has been able to learn from it and the blessings that had come from it.

I was reminded of Michael when I re – read today's Second Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Corinthians. He learned what Paul did, did he not, "*My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.*" Michael made lemonade of lemons.

So what do you think your thorn in the flesh is? Is it some physical torment? Is it an emotional struggle? Is it some financial worry? Is it some horrible job situation? Is it loneliness? Is it the suffering of someone close to you? Our "thorns" make our mission in life even more fruitful and Our Lord will not let our mission fail because of them. We just have to keep trying and not get discouraged when it seems there are no results.

I don't know what your thorn in the flesh is? But more important than what it is, is what we will do with it? You could, you can, pray about it and ask the Lord to take that thorn in the flesh away. I would encourage you to do that. It is not a bad idea and the Lord may indeed do it; He might answer your prayer by taking it away. Odds are though that He will answer your prayer in the same way as He answered St Paul's prayer; He's going to answer it in the same way He answered Mother Teresa's prayer and; He's going to answer it in the same way He answered my friend Michael's prayer: "*My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.*" And you will be led to yet another prayer. One of praise and humility as you proclaim with St Paul, as he did, as recorded in our Second Reading today, for it is, "*When I am weak then I am strong!*"