



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

**Fifteenth Week of Ordinary Time: 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021 (Weekday Cycle Year I / Psalter Week III)**

<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July:</b>	<b><i>Weekday Feria</i></b>	<p><i>Your Prayers are requested for those who are sick:</i></p> <p>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, Breda Keaney, Anne – Marie Reid, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning, John Wilcox and Bob Wilson.</p>
<b>Mass;</b>	<i>Pro Populo; People of the Parish</i>	
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July:</b>	<b><i>Fifteenth Sunday of the Year: B</i></b>	
<b>10:00 am: Mass;</b>	<i>Intentions of the Grant Family (Saville)</i>	
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July:</b>	<b><i>Weekday Feria</i></b>	
<b>10:00 am: Mass;</b>	<i>John Boland RIP (Breame)</i>	
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July:</b>	<b><i>Weekday Feria</i></b>	
<b>10:00 am: Mass (St Francis);</b>	<i>Holy Souls</i>	
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July:</b>	<b><i>Weekday Feria</i></b>	
<b>10:00 am: Mass;</b>	<i>Private Intention (Wilson)</i>	
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July:</b>	<b><i>St Bonaventure, Bishop &amp; Doctor (mem)</i></b>	<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>
<b>Mass;</b>	<i>Private Intention</i>	
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July:</b>	<b><i>Weekday Feria</i></b>	
<b>10:00 am: Mass;</b>	<i>Joseph Kang RIP (PS)</i>	
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July:</b>	<b><i>Weekday Feria</i></b>	
<b>Mass;</b>	<i>Special Intention</i>	
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July:</b>	<b><i>Sixteenth Sunday of the Year: B</i></b>	
<b>10:00 am: Mass;</b>	<i>Pro Populo; People of the Parish</i>	
<p><b>UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY!</b></p>		
<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 to them when I visited on 28<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021** a week before my visit on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> 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*

**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. The last day to buy tickets is **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021** and the Raffle draw begins on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July. For more information visit: <https://www.bigptaraffle.co.uk/support/english-martyrs-rcp-school-ng10>

**CELEBRATION OF MASS:** *Hopefully most of the COVID restrictions will be removed on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021. However, we will still have to wait for the Bishops' of England and Wales to advise us as to how that will impact on the life of our Parishes. The public Celebration of Mass will therefore, continue as before for the time being. It is hoped that we will be able to make significant changes in the last week of July/first week of August.*

**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.**

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

*(READINGS: Amos 7<sup>12-15</sup>; Psalm 84<sup>9-14</sup>; Ephesians 1<sup>3-14</sup> and; Mark 6<sup>7-13</sup>)*

“Blessed be the God the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ.”

Most of the time when we think of the blessings God has given us what do we think of? We think of peace and health and family and job and living in a safe environment. And well we should, those are magnificent blessings for which we should daily give thanks to God. But I would suggest that we tend to overlook the spiritual blessings, the spiritual, the invisible, the blessings of the soul, that St Paul speaks about in today’s poetic Second Reading.

When you think about it, we are created by a God who passionately loves us. Who loves us so much that He wants us to spend eternity with Him. And who wants us to spend eternity with Him not just as some dream or fantasy, but that He actually showed us the way to get there, by sending His only begotten Son to be Our Lord and Saviour. We have the forgiveness of sins, we have the promise of eternal life, we have the gift of grace, we have the Church, we have the Sacraments, we have God’s mercy, we have God’s promises, we have God’s call, we have a plan for life. Those are all spiritual blessings that I’m afraid we often take for granted.

But St Paul did not take these things for granted. Twice in these verses, Paul mentions that we have been chosen by God in Christ. This is what really amazes him, for three reasons: the fact of God’s choice, the abundance of God’s choice, and the reason for God’s choice.

The simple fact that God chooses us is the first thing that amazes Paul. “It would not be so wonderful that man should choose God; the wonder is that God should choose man.” After all, what does God have to gain from choosing us; what does God gain from giving us the gifts of His grace and His very own divine life through the Sacraments? He has nothing to gain; but we have everything to gain. Because God chose to create us and then, He chose to redeem us after we had rebelled against Him, we have hope. The happiness that we long for, that we were created to enjoy, is a real possibility for us, because God hasn’t given up on us; He has chosen to stick with us. He knows our names. There is a famous story about a peasant who lived in the French town of Ars back in the 1800s. This peasant was too old to work anymore, so he would come to the church every day and sit down in the front pew. He would just sit there quietly, sometimes for hours on end. One day, the Parish Priest, who happened to be St John Vianney, asked this peasant what he was doing. The peasant said that he was praying. So then the John Vianney asked him how he prayed. The peasant glanced at him and said: “I look at the Lord, and He looks at me.” That God, our Creator, our Redeemer, the eternal, all – powerful, all – knowing Lord of the universe, who knows how sinful and rebellious we are – that He loves and cares for us so much that He wants to sit with us like that. This is the amazing fact of God’s choice.

The second thing that amazed St Paul was the abundance of God’s choice. When someone offends us, we consider ourselves as magnanimous or soft – hearted if we simply refrain from taking vengeance on them. But God went far beyond just tolerating us. St Paul describes the “inheritance...of glory” that God has chosen to offer us in Christ. God has actually begun preparing a room for us in His own heavenly mansion. He has chosen us not just to squeeze us into the cheap seats of the sold – out stadium, but to sit with Him in the director’s box for all eternity.

Imagine if a criminal attempted to murder a king. His attempt fails and, he is arrested and thrown into prison, down in the depths of the dungeon. He deserves his punishment. Most likely, he would just be grateful to still be alive. Now imagine that the king turns up at the prison door, opens it and walks into the cell. He tells the prisoner that he can go free. The prisoner is overjoyed and quickly leaves the prison cell, only to see the guard lock the door again, with the king still inside. The criminal is shocked and the guard explains to him that the king took the punishment on himself so that he (the criminal) could go free and have a second chance at life. Then imagine that the grateful criminal climbs the slimy steps out of the dungeon. When he gets into the courtyard he is greeted by one of the king's officials. The official leads the criminal up to a beautiful rooftop apartment in the royal palace and gives him the key, saying: "The king has desired to give you these rooms as your own and he has also named you a royal counsellor, with a lifetime salary and access to the whole royal palace." That would be a very generous king, to do so much for a criminal who had tried to murder him. But it is only a pale reflection of what God has done for us. By our sins, we have attempted to murder God, to banish Him from our lives. And yet, through Christ's Cross He has given us much, much more than any earthly king could ever even imagine: this is the abundance of God's choice.

The third thing that amazed Paul about God's choice was its reason or purpose. He writes that we have been chosen to be "holy and spotless" in God's presence. The Greek word for "holy" is *hagios*; it means "set aside" from everyday things for a special function or mission. A church, for example is a sacred space or holy place, because it has an extraordinary role to play in the world. It is the place where the human and the divine come together through the Sacraments. It is the place where earthly life is linked with heaven. Every Christian, according to St Paul, is like that; someone with an extraordinary role to play in the world, someone who brings earth and heaven together. We are different; we have been set aside. We are not just passive wallflowers in God's Kingdom. No, He has come to dwell in our hearts and has invited us to be His warriors, His messengers, His ambassadors. We have been chosen to be holy; to be elite soldiers of Jesus Christ; the Church militant as we used to say, angels of light and wisdom in this often dark and sometimes foolish world. He didn't have to give us this mission, but He chose to, because He wanted to give our lives a meaning far beyond what we could have given it on our own. And secondly, He chose us to be "spotless," *amomos* in the Greek. This is the word used to describe the animals that were used for religious sacrifice in the Old Testament. Only the best, only the most perfect and excellent animals were offered to God, because that is what God deserves. But here St Paul is saying that God is the one who makes us "spotless." He is the one who makes us worthy of being His followers; He Himself provides what we need to become saints. It is His grace that purifies our hearts of greed, lust, laziness, dishonesty and every form of selfishness. And it is His grace that fills us with true wisdom, real joy, unbreakable courage, lasting peace and all the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This is the plan and purpose of His choice; this is why Jesus came to earth.

In the Mass and, especially through Holy Communion, Jesus renews this beautiful choice that He has made of each one of us. He comes to each one of us individually, calling us by name, pouring His royal treasure of grace into our hearts and giving us the strength we need to be His faithful followers. When He does, let us renew our choice of Him, confident that He alone is more than enough to fill all our desires for meaning, forgiveness, happiness and love. So when we pray, we should not just mumble our prayers or just say them, but let us pray them from the heart, re-affirming our belief in this amazing Lord who loves us so much that He died for our sins and let us re-affirm our commitment to live as He would have us live.