



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: 16TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR: B

Sixteenth Week of Ordinary Time: 18th – 24th July 2021 (Weekday Cycle Year I / Psalter Week IV)

Saturday 17th July:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	<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 & Margaret Dougan, Fr Theodore Gomes, Ann Harrison, Fr Peter Harvey, Andrea Hoffman, Farzin Kazem, Breedia Keaney, Anne – Marie Reid, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning, John Wilcox and Bob Wilson.</p>
Mass;	<i>Special Intention</i>	
Sunday 18th July:	<i>Sixteenth Sunday of the Year: B</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	<i>Pro Populo; People of the Parish</i>	
Monday 19th July:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	<i>Eileen Curtis RIP</i>	
Tuesday 20th July:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am: Mass (St Francis);	<i>Holy Souls</i>	
Wednesday 21st July:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	<i>Phyllis Bennett RIP (Anniversary) (Karen)</i>	
Thursday 22nd July:	<i>St Mary Magdalene, (Feast)</i>	
Mass;	<i>Private Intention</i>	
Friday 23rd July:	<i>St Bridget of Sweden, Religious, Patron of Europe (Feast)</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	<i>Derek Naylor RIP (2nd Anniversary) (Sue)</i>	
Saturday 24th July:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass;	<i>Special Intention</i>	
Sunday 25th July:	<i>Seventeenth Sunday of the Year: B</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	<i>John & Anne Gardiner (50th Wedding Anniversary)</i>	
UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY!		
<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>		

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.

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***

STATEMENT FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ENGLAND: “On 19th July, the current legislative powers which assist the mitigations against the Covid – 19 virus transmission will be rescinded by HM Government. Nevertheless, there will be an encouragement to personal and corporate responsibility in this area; as the Prime Minister said in his most recent statement ‘The pandemic is not over.’ Even without this legislation in place, the Church in England and Wales will be adopting a cautious approach to capacity and activity within our buildings, especially at corporate acts of worship.

We are mindful of the certain fact that the Covid – 19 virus is still circulating in society. Vaccines provide genuine protection against the worst effects of the virus, yet we recognise the legitimate fear on the part of some who otherwise desire to gather for Holy Mass. It is our continuing judgement, therefore, that it is not possible at the present time for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday thus fulfilling their duty to God.

It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021. In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church.

In April, following our Plenary Assembly, we offered a reflection on the experience of the extraordinary long months of the pandemic. It was titled *The Day of the Lord*. We also began to look at the way forward. We spoke about the important invitation to restore the Sunday Mass to its rightful centrality in our lives. We asked for a rekindling in our hearts of a yearning for the Real Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist, as our response to the total, sacrificial love that Jesus has for us. We said: ‘The Eucharist should be the cause of our deepest joy, our highest manner of offering thanks to God and for seeking his mercy and love. We need to make it the foundation stone of our lives.’

May this continue to be our striving during these coming months as we journey back to the full celebration of our Sunday Mass and our renewed observance of *The Day of the Lord.*”

Guidance offered to the Dioceses of England and Wales as the country moves into Step 4 (19th July 2021) of the Government Covid – 19 Response Roadmap published in February 2021 and, bearing in mind that this date has been delayed by 5 weeks as the Government wanted to ensure that a greater proportion of the public had received the vaccine before moving to this point, it is important to reiterate that as Step 4 is reached, the general principles of continuing to create a safe environment in places of worship and their ancillary buildings are not abandoned. Indeed, the way forward must be a collective endeavour of all involved in the daily life of the Church in England and Wales. Recognition of the presence of the virus in the population means that certain preventative practices will still be required and this is important to ensure that Diocesan trustees are seen to be discharging their Health and Safety duties. The Health and Safety Executive have issued new guidance for employers and for organisations and this makes clear that a duty to keep premises safe continues beyond the removal of any Covid – 19 legislation. Indeed, the Government has stated that changes moving forward would be on a risk – based approach for all organisations with the responsibility to ensure appropriate measures to safeguard public health. Although any measures adopted locally will not have the “rule of law,” there is a strong emphasis on common sense and risk averse activities to continue to mitigate against the transmission of the virus which is still prevalent in society.

CELEBRATION OF MASS: *We will still have to wait for the Diocese to advise us as to how the Step 4 Guidance 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 some significant changes fairly soon.*

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.**

MESSAGE FROM CAFOD: Thank you all for supporting CAFOD. The level of support from Parishes, Schools and individuals has been incredible in our Diocese; not only through donations but using our prayer and campaign resources. Do follow the link to find some of the stories of [communities transformed by water projects](#), including a video of [Binga from Zimbabwe](#) who is delighted with a new water source – ‘I even whooped for joy.’ Thank you for helping to make these good things possible.

Across the world preparations are taking place for the ***Synod***. To help the Catholic community we are offering online sessions, open to all, with experts sharing what the Synod and Synodality is, why it is important and how Parish Communities will be taking part. You are welcome to join us live or by watching on catch up. The first session, on ***Tuesday 27th July 2021 at 7:00 pm***, will feature a conversation with ***Christopher Lamb; Rome correspondent for The Tablet***, about why Pope Francis is inviting us all to participate in the synod. [Click here to book onto the session.](#)

CAFOD also offers resources to the whole Catholic community through their website. ***FAMILY PRAYER RESOURCES FOR SUMMER:*** We will be offering a prayer focus for each week of the summer holidays with some simple ideas, designed to help parents explore faith with their children, in solidarity with our global family. They will be available from mid – July 2021 at <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources>

Resources for the [Season of Creation](#) and ***Harvest Fast Day*** (Friday 1st October 2021) will feature some of our partners' work in the Amazon and will be available from September 2021 at <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources>. Join us in praying the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary as we seek to nourish our commitment to care for the earth.

[Laudato Si' encyclical resources | CAFOD](#) – this link will take you to a range of resources for study, reflection, prayer and action.

[Livesimply award | CAFOD](#) – one of our most popular community actions; this award is given to Parishes and Communities who have taken significant steps in response to the call to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with others.

Many Catholics have been meeting with their MPs this summer in response to Pope Francis' call for a better kind of politics. Dialogue has focused on debt cancellation for the world's poorest countries, action to tackle the climate crisis and vaccine equity. Thank you if you have supported this or promoted our [petition to the Prime Minister](#). *Thank you once again* for your solidarity with our sisters and brothers in need. – *Maggie Mairura* Community Participation Coordinator – CAFOD Nottingham.

ONLINE DISCUSSION: POST LOCKDOWN PARISH EVANGELISATION AND CATECHESIS: Bishop Patrick's vision for our Diocese is that our Parishes will be places of Encounter with the love of God in the Sacraments and the Community, places where we can grow as disciples of Jesus and places where we can be filled with the Holy Spirit and be sent out as Missionary Disciples. The lockdown has really stifled opportunities to make this a reality in our Parish, so as we begin to leave lockdown, come here and share ideas how our Parishes can we can live this vision through Evangelisation and Catechesis. We will host an online meeting on *Wednesday 21st July 2021 at 7:00 pm* to hear from Parishes across the Diocese about what they hope to do to reach more people and grow in faith as lockdown comes to an end. We will also look at some resources that the we have put together as a department to help Parishes with this. Sign up here: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: B.

(READINGS: Jeremiah 23¹⁻⁶; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2¹³⁻¹⁸ and; Mark 6³⁰⁻³⁴)

There is a story told of a man who owned several hundred sheep. His servants used to take these sheep out each day for feeding and each evening when they brought them back, they found that there were always one or two missing. He asked his servants to go and look for them; but for fear of the wild beasts they didn't bother. The owner had a great love for his sheep and he wanted to save them. But he said to himself: "If I go myself to search for these sheep, they will not recognise me, as they have not seen me before. They would recognise my servants, but they will not go. So, I must become like the sheep." And so, he went out and found that some had gone astray and some had been wounded. They readily followed him, thinking that he was a sheep, like one of them. He brought them in, sat with them, fed them and provided for their every need. When he had saved all the sheep and brought them home, he took off the sheepskin. He was, after all, not a sheep, but a man! He became a sheep in order to save the lost sheep. And so, it was with God: God was not man; He became man in order to save mankind.

Today's readings present us with this beautiful image of the relationship we share with Our Lord. And perhaps this is summed up in that wonderful phrase in today's Gospel: "Jesus had pity on the crowd, because they were like sheep without a shepherd." The image is of Our Lord as the shepherd and those who follow Him as His sheep. It is not a relationship of servile obedience; because Our Lord too became like the sheep He came to shepherd. Rather it is a relationship of complete dependence upon the love and the mercy of God. The Good Shepherd is the one who's heart is moved; He has pity and concern for the poverty of His sheep. The whole message of the Gospel is seen in this action. Understandably, we might have expected Our Lord to have told them to go home, that He had done enough that day; but He did not turn His back on the situation. Their state was deplorable and He was alert to their needs. Jesus had come to seek out and save the lost: those who had no meaning or who had lost the meaning in their lives; those on the edges of society; those rejected and despised by the authorities of the day.

In the First Reading Jeremiah criticised the shepherds of Israel; the Kings over Israel, who had not provided for the people. The Kings had looked to their own personal advantage rather than caring for the people. As a result, the people had been misled. They had been scattered and wandered away from following God. They had even been put in slavery in Babylon. But Jeremiah also speaks of the hope of a future shepherd, who will gather together those who have been lost.

In the Gospel the prophecy of Jeremiah is fulfilled in action. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He shows the care He has for the sheep. He puts Himself at their disposal. Again and again Jesus is faced with demands upon His time. But He does not turn and run. Instead, He abandons His own plans and gives Himself over to this leaderless people. He gathers them together by the words of His teaching. And by the way He lives His life He draws the people towards Him.

The world we live in today is not that different from that of Our Lord's own time. We don't have to look very far to find people who have no meaning and no direction in their lives. They are leaderless. Perhaps the motivation for their lives is based upon materialism or some other worldly ideology. And when this motivation is not realised and fulfilled, there is an inevitable feeling of emptiness in their lives. There then becomes a constant struggle to fill their lives with the things of the world; which ultimately can never be fulfilling in any lasting way.

As Catholics and as Christians we believe that this hollow and this void has been filled by Our Lord Himself. Not only has He filled the void, but He has illuminated the darkness and filled our lives with hope. He has given our lives meaning. And that hope is nothing less than eternal life. As we respond to the Psalm: "The Lord is My shepherd, there is nothing I shall want." Very familiar words to us, that can so easily trip off the tongue. But the challenge of today's Readings is to accept and believe the words of that familiar and oft used Psalm.

It is a call to allow God to enter our hearts and minds, through the words of Scripture. Not only for our own good, but also to be a light to others of what we have received. Our lives, like the lives of the disciples, is one of service: service to Our Lord, to our families and to all those whom we meet in our daily lives. By virtue of our Baptismal calling, all of us have the duty and responsibility of proclaiming what we have received.

The readings today seek to remind us of what we might call the *rhythm of the Christian life*. For the Christian, life is a continuous going into the presence of God from the presence of the world and then, coming out into the presence of the world from the presence of God. It is like the rhythm of sleep and work. We cannot work unless we have time to rest; and sleep will not come unless we have worked until we are tired. But there is also the danger of constant activity. No one can work without rest. Just as no one can truly live the Christian life without giving time to God. It may be that many of the troubles we have in our lives is a result of not giving God no time to speak to us; because we do not know how to be still and listen. Perhaps we are afraid to trust in God and take Him at His word? And then we don't give God time to recharge us with spiritual energy and strength; because there is no time when we wait upon Him. But how can we expect to shoulder life's burdens if we have little or no contact with God, who is the Lord of all life? How can we do God's will without the strength and the grace which comes from Him? And how can we receive that strength and grace unless we seek in quietness and solitude the presence of God?

The Gospel speaks of the importance of finding a quiet spot in our lives, where we can be alone with Our Lord in prayer. Like Our Lord and His disciples, we need to get away at times from the routine, the mundane and the constant calls upon our time and listen for the voice of God, so that we become refreshed not only mentally and physically, but also spiritually. We take recreation with God in order to be re – created by Him. That is the invitation that Our Lord sets before us in today's Readings.