



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: 18TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR: B
Eighteenth Week of Ordinary Time: 1st – 7th August 2021 (Weekday Cycle Year I / Psalter Week II)

<u>Saturday 31st July:</u>	<u>Weekday Feria</u>	<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, Breda Keaney, Anne – Marie Reid, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning, John Wilcox and Bob Wilson.</p>
Mass;	Holy Souls	
<u>Sunday 1st August:</u>	<u>Eighteenth Sunday of the Year: B</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	John Cummins RIP	
<u>Monday 2nd August:</u>	<u>Weekday Feria</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Joan Lynch RIP (Stone)	
<u>Tuesday 3rd August:</u>	<u>Weekday Feria</u>	
10:00 am: Mass (St Francis);	Joe Hickey RIP (Curtis)	
<u>Wednesday 4th August:</u>	<u>St John Vianney, Priest (memoria)</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Bella Lyons RIP & Claire Sheridan RIP	
<u>Thursday 5th August:</u>	<u>Weekday Feria</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;	Holy Souls	
<u>Friday 6th August:</u>	<u>The Transfiguration of the Lord (Feast)</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Audrey Adamson RIP (Breame)	
<u>Saturday 7th August:</u>	<u>Weekday Feria</u>	
Mass;	Private Intention	
<u>Sunday 8th August:</u>	<u>Nineteenth 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 to parishioners for the gifts and donations they received from you when I visited on 26th July. They are continuing to work hard with their fund raising for the new building and one of the things they are doing is baking and on Monday I collected the first orders for our Parish. The following are cakes and other things that can be ordered from them: BEST CHOCOLATE FUDGE CAKE – CRUNCHY TOP LEMON CAKE – BANANA AND MIXED FRUIT CAKE – CARROT AND PINEAPPLE CAKE – FLAPJACK – RHUBARB CAKE – SAMOSA – APPLE PIE – FRIED RICE WITH EGG CURRY – PILAU RICE WITH EGG CURRY. These need to be ordered by *Monday 23rd August 2021* for collection on *Monday 30th August 2021*. There is no set price for the above but the Sisters request that you give a donation towards their fund raising. Please either phone your order to me on 07774 213712 or use the form on the notice board in the church. – *Diane Wilson*

CATHOLIC DIARIES FOR 2022: can be purchased, but to order only, this year. Orders must be placed by *August 29th 2021* to ensure supply, as far as possible, in November / December. The supplier is offering only the hardback version in black, red or blue at £ 3.00. If you would like one, please put your order on the list in the narthex. – *Helen Sinclair*

GUIDANCE FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ENGLAND: Based on the guidance which has been given by the Catholic Bishops' Conference for England and Wales (CBCEW), I would like to highlight the following points:

1. **Prevailing Local Conditions:** All places of worship are asked to consider the prevailing local conditions for the virus. Special consideration should be given to rates at which people are being vaccinated in the locality, the prevalence of new variants of the virus, the local rates of hospital admissions and any local public health advice. In most of our Diocesan geographical area cases are on the rise. And vaccination uptakes in some city areas are very low, especially those areas with a diverse ethnic mix. An overview of data (but often a week behind) can be seen here: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/cases?areaType=region&areaName=East%20Midlands> you can use the options on the side to swap between cases, healthcare, vaccination & deaths and use the filters at the top (Cases in ...) to swap to Regions or Local Authority areas.
2. **Mitigations:** It is important to mitigate against the risks of virus transmission. Although the vaccine rollout programme is very successful to date, over 85% of adults having had one dose and 64% two doses, the risk of transmission is still live and there are enough people not protected by vaccination to result in significant hospitalisations. However, HM Government has clearly stated that the progression from infection to hospitalisation and ultimately to deaths has been appreciably reduced through the vaccine programme. Most people admitted to hospital currently are only partially vaccinated or not vaccinated at all and communities should continue to encourage people to participate in the vaccination programme. Mask wearing will still help protect others as vaccination does not stop you passing it on, it just reduces the transmissions. Hands, Face, Space, Ventilate is still key. General cleaning, along with Covid cleaning, will continue and we will continue to provide hand sanitiser at entrances and exits and face coverings are still strongly recommended to be worn by those in Church.
3. **Social Distancing and Capacity:** While legal requirements ended on 19th July 2021, isolating from close contacts does not. If there is no distancing and a subsequent positive case then people could be advised to isolate. (Changes based on vaccinations do not come in until 16th August 2021). We have been advised to consider increasing capacity slowly so that people can adjust and consider the infection rate in our area in making a decision. The Mass Booking website will still be running over the summer and this this will be used for managing capacity.

4. **Celebration of Holy Mass:** The following is recommended for the celebration of Holy Mass from the 19th July 2021 within the churches and communities in England and Wales. At this time, it is not recommended that Holy Water stoups are refilled. Should people wish to receive Holy Water, it is recommended they speak to the Parish Priest. Ministers for the celebration of Holy Mass can be deployed such as servers and readers. It is recommended that the physical Sign of Peace remain suspended as it is not an integral part of the Mass and its omission will help to reduce physical contact between people during the celebration. Holy Communion will continue to be under one kind and the ministers will continue to sanitise their hands beforehand and wear a face covering whilst distributing. Holy Communion is recommended to be distributed in the hand.

5. **Other Sacraments: *Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals*;** There is no restriction on the number of people that can attend Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals in the Church. Marriages in the form of a Nuptial Mass should observe the recommendations for the Celebration of Holy Mass. Those within a Marriage Service outside of Mass should apply the usual norms. There is no restriction on the number of people that can attend Funerals in the Church. Funerals in the form of a Requiem Mass will also observe the recommendations for the Celebration of Holy Mass. For all Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals, however, the safe capacity of the Church, within the guidelines of safe distancing for those from different households will be observed. ***Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation*;** Please speak to me if you wish to go to Confession. ***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.

If you would like further clarification please speak to me.

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.**

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: B.

(*READINGS: Exodus 16^{2-4, 12-15}; Psalm 77^{3-4, 23-25, 54}; Ephesians 4^{17, 20-24} and; John 6²⁴⁻³⁵*)

“I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.”

It would be true to say we live in an age of convenience. Fast food, ready meals, instant credit, the “buy now pay later” philosophy. The bright capital M on the skyline symbolises not manna from heaven, but “*McDonald’s*.” In one sense we are not much different from the crowds who were following Our Lord in today’s Gospel. The crowds are once again searching for Jesus. On the day following the miraculous multiplication of the loaves and fishes Our Lord once again had an eager audience. The people had obviously been impressed with what had happened on the previous day and they are on the hunt for Jesus once again. They think that Jesus can supply them with what they want and can fulfil all their material needs. But the deeper meaning – it’s spiritual significance – escapes them completely. They don’t seem understand what He is talking about. They fail to realise that Jesus is the sign of God’s presence in their midst. And Jesus reprimands them for their lack of vision: “*You are not looking for me because you have seen the signs, but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat.*” They were seeking Jesus for worldly motives, not spiritual ones. But this hunger for food was the starting – point for Jesus to begin His teaching about the deeper hunger all of us have for something more than physical sustenance.

Jesus tells His hungry pursuers that they are following Him because they have enjoyed the food that satisfies their physical need: they should work He says, “*for the food that endures to eternal life.*” The work which earns this food is to believe in the one God has sent. The Galileans promptly ask Jesus for a sign to aid their belief in Him – a sign like the manna their fathers ate in the desert. When Jesus points out that it was God and not Moses, who supplied the manna, He declares Himself to be superior to Moses. Not even Moses had the audacity to claim that he himself gave them food which never perishes; which lasts unto eternal life. But Jesus promises much more than Moses. Moses promised a kingdom, a land of milk and honey, earthly peace and earthly goods. In contrast, Christ promised a food which would never perish, but would last forever. To emphasise the point still further, Jesus declares that He Himself is the bread of life; the bread come down from heaven. Whoever believes in Him will never be hungry.

We are all of us living in a world desperately wondering what has gone wrong with its dreams. All around us there is a preoccupation with hunger for material goods. The media and advertising assure us that the longings of the heart can be satisfied by artificial securities and the delights of a consumer society. This kind of satisfaction, however, is short – lived, because new needs are created as soon as old ones are accomplished; emptiness sets in and the search for happiness begins all over again.

And sometimes we have appetites that could easily destroy us. We hunger for the feeling of being important. We hunger for acceptance. We hunger for inappropriate relationships. We hunger for motivation. We hunger for faith. We hunger for hope and, yes, we hunger for love. But in all of this there is a deeper hunger. The hunger for God and eternal life. Every day we see people emerging from supermarkets with trolleys loaded down with food and drink. But we don’t find the bread of life in supermarkets. It is only God who gives us that bread – it is only God who can satisfy our deeper hunger. To us pilgrims on the street of life, Jesus comes with the promise, “I am the bread of life, He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in Me will never thirst.” Who today would not want to eat of this bread?

As we listen to the words of Jesus in today's Gospel we come to realise that food is but basic fodder and that if we are to really live, something more is required. There is another kind of nourishment needed by the human heart. Because there are other hungers that we need to satisfy. Deep down within each of us there is a hunger to love and be loved; to be listened to and appreciated; to be seen as we really are and; above all to know that there is meaning and an eternal value to our lives. These are the hungers of the heart and the yearnings of the spirit which Jesus wants us to be conscious of and which He alone can satisfy.

The promise that Our Lord held out to the Galileans is one that is held out to us today. It is a promise fulfilled in the Eucharist that we celebrate. If there is one thing that we should all share in today, it is that same hunger. To hunger for a love that does not disappoint; for a word that does not fade away; for food that does not fail to satisfy. In the Eucharist the tender love of God is offered to us in Word and in Sacrament. The words of today's Gospel are fulfilled in the Eucharist. St. Cyril said that in the Eucharist we, "*become flesh of His flesh and blood of His blood.*" Or put more clearly by St. Augustine when speaking about Our Lord giving Himself to us, "*I am the food of grown men. Grow, and you shall feed upon me. You will not change me into yourself, as you change ordinary food into your flesh, but you will be changed into me.*" In other words we will come to share and, do already share, in the eternal life that Christ puts before us. Our hopes can be realised and fulfilled.

Swayed as we are by material needs, we are in constant danger of losing our desire for the, "*food that endures to eternal life,*" the food that will strengthen our souls. Our Lord speaks to us and asks us, do we hunger and thirst for what He has to offer? Where do our interests and true desires rest? He calls us to work as hard to receive that bread, which He is, as we normally work for the bread which does not last. Otherwise, we will never know what we are striving for and die without realising our true potential.

The second Vatican Council emphasised this great truth when it declared that the Church, "*never ceases to partake of the bread of life and to offer it to the faithful from the one table of the Word and the Body of Christ.*"

In the gathering at Mass, we are nourished by God's Word and the Bread of Life. The Word spoken is opened up to us, the bread offered is broken for us to share. This is not something we come to look at, like a still – life or an oil – painting in an art gallery, nor is it somewhere where we come to be entertained as if it were some play or musical show. It is something we come here to do. The Eucharist is a word that flows into deed, it is an action. It is the act of sharing in the Bread of Life, participating in the life of Our Lord Himself.

So, we continue to return because we are hungry for God, because the food that physically satisfies is not enough for us; nor will it ever be. There will be times when we will wish we were somewhere else, times when what happens will leave us untouched, times when we will be distracted by a litany of worries that refuse to go away. That does not matter. Sometimes we have to be content with the act of faith that brings us here, a public admission of our need for God and the people of God. In coming we declare that we cannot fall back on our own resources: we need Our Lord, the Bread of Life to sustain us. Staying hungry for this bread means that we do indeed long for the food that endures to eternal life. And that is what Our Lord asks to remember always, "*I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.*"