



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: THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM

Twentieth Week of Ordinary Time: 15th – 21st August 2021 (Weekday Cycle Year I / Psalter Week IV)

Saturday 14th August:	<i>St Maximillian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr (memoria)</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, Breda Keaney, Anne – Marie Reid, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning, John Wilcox and Bob Wilson.</p>
Mass;	Special Intention	
Sunday 15th August:	<i>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Deceased Members of the Morgans Family (Harvey)	
Monday 16th August:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Maureen O' Brien RIP (Evans)	
Tuesday 17th August:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
12:00 pm: Requiem Mass (St Francis);	Kathleen Dilley RIP	
Wednesday 18th August:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Welfare of Anthony Clarke (Wilson)	
Thursday 19th August:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">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	
Friday 20th August:	<i>St Bernard, Abbot & Doctor (mem)</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Sister Nora's Intentions (Breame)	
Saturday 21st August:	<i>St Pius X, Pope (memoria)</i>	
Mass;	Pro Populo; People of the Parish	
Sunday 22nd August:	<i>Twenty – First Sunday of the Year</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Private Intention (G T - Ross)	
<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*

CAFOD; 10th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SYRIAN CONFLICT – HOW YOUR DONATIONS HAVE HELPED THE SYRIAN PEOPLE: Thanks to your donations, CAFOD has been helping people in Syria since the crisis began 10 years ago. Over 12 million people have left their homes, 5.6 million are refugees in neighbouring countries and within Syria, 13 million people need help. At the beginning, our focus was on delivering food and blankets through our local church partners. Then we started providing education, health and legal services, and helping people earn a living. Our latest projects are supporting children, lonely elderly people, helping women learn to read, and helping people restart their small businesses. We've always planned for the long term, standing alongside people who lost everything. None of this work would have been possible without your support of CAFOD. Please continue to keep the people of Syria and all those displaced and seeking refuge due to conflict in your prayers. – *Maggie Mairura Community Participation Coordinator – CAFOD Nottingham.*

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), the following points remain unchanged for the time being:

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 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.**

CIRCUMSTANCES ALLOWING IT IS HOPED THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF BOTH CHURCHES FROM THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER 2021 AND ALSO HAVE A SECOND SUNDAY MASS AVAILABLE AT ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, LONG EATON.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

(*READINGS: Apocalypse 11¹⁹, 12^{1-6, 10}; Psalm 44^{10-12, 16}; 1 Corinthians 15²⁰⁻²⁶ and; Luke 1³⁹⁻⁵⁶*)

The world's view of Mary is pretty lightweight and the Solemnity we celebrate today sheds a different light on Mary's role in the history of salvation. We can let the world's view on her influence our thinking and think she was a little more than a protected Palestinian flower whom God treated like a Jewish princess, but that does not come anywhere near close to the truth. Mary was the most perfect creature. So perfect she is living the Apocalypse now.

Today we celebrate a path that we are all called to walk: from here to eternity; from the world to Heaven. We celebrate Mary's Assumption, Body and Soul into Heaven, after her time in this world. Mary received the grace to be body and soul in Heaven along with her Son. The other just souls who have preceded us are in Heaven, but they are separated from their bodies, until the Last Day when Our Lord will raise everyone from the dead at the Last Judgment. Our Lord ascended into Heaven in glory; Our Blessed Mother was assumed into Heaven.

The First Reading today reminds us that Apocalypse and Revelation are synonymous. The apostle John had years to reflect on Mary's Assumption and in the First Reading, he tries to express her role in the Church: yesterday, today and forever. She is clad in the sun: in Revelation, those who are justified are simply clad in white, but Mary's brilliant clothing shows the graces that she had received from God are even more dazzling. The moon is under her feet: as the most perfect creature, the heavenly bodies are subjected to her, not the other way around. Crowned with twelve stars: the Queen of the Apostles and the Mother of the Church in the order of grace. Totally beyond the dragon's power: it can sweep the stars from heaven, but it cannot defeat the Mother of God or her mission to be the Mother of the Redeemer and our Mother too. When the Jewish Kingdom in this world, under Saul, then David, then Solomon fell flat, they looked forward to a Kingdom of the future. But the future Kingdom they had in mind wasn't that much different from the Kingdom they dreamed of in the here and now. Christ show us the that the "Kingdom was at hand" and, it wasn't what they expected. It was a Kingdom only seen by faith, starting here and now in this world and, only achieving its full glory in the world to come.

In today's Second Reading St. Paul reminds us that Christ was the first fruits of that definitive victory over the death that was to come. In the end, Our Lord, "*hands over the Kingdom to God and Father...For He must be king until He has put all His enemies under His feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death.*" The Assumption is God's reminder of that victory to come. Whether Mary died at the end of her time on earth is not clear, but the decay of death did not corrupt her body. Taken up body and soul into Heaven, her Son's final victory was shown in all its fullness in her. Through Mary's *fiat*, her desires for the Kingdom; which she sings for in the *Magnificat*, coincides perfectly with that reality to come. And she accepts it and strives for it with total faith.

Mary was no spared little flower. When the Kingdom took flesh in her womb she had Joseph and her family to contend with, a flight to Egypt, thirty years of silence in Nazareth, three years of seeing how many people did not accept her Son's message. Then Calvary; the Passion and Death of her Son and then her greatest commission: to be the Mother of the Apostles and Mother of the Church. She is continuing that mission right now, body and soul, from Heaven, showing us what is to come as long as we keep working and hoping.

In today's Gospel Elizabeth rejoices that her cousin had come to visit, not just because she was glad to see her kinswoman, but because Mary is aglow with accepting the invitation to become the Mother of God. John leaps in the womb at the presence of Jesus in Mary's womb. Their missions are closely linked. Elizabeth blesses Mary because she "*believed that the promises made by the Lord would be fulfilled.*" Mary was extraordinarily blessed because she believed in the Lord and, in the Assumption, we see that she believed in the Lord throughout her earthly life and beyond. Mary doesn't take credit. She glorifies the Lord with her canticle and, now she does so in eternity.

The canticle today that Mary sings is called the *Magnificat* because of its first word in Latin: *Magnificat anima mea dominum* (My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord). Some have translated *Magnificat* as “magnify,” a decision that would probably horrify any Latin scholar. But it is not completely inappropriate to describe what Mary is feeling. You use a magnifying glass to see something else more clearly. You don’t think much about the glass itself, only what you see through it. Mary too, throughout her life wants us to see more clearly the wonders and glory of God, not her own role or accomplishments.

We may ask ourselves, “Are we living the apocalypse now?” Are we focusing all our efforts on our own projects in the here and now, only to see failure after failure and despair on the horizon? Are we contenting ourselves now with petty emotions and crossed arms, hoping that in the future when Christ returns to make all things new, there will need to be no effort required on our part? Or is our personal *fiat* like that of Mary’s. Letting the Kingdom planted in our soul flower and grow through our daily struggles, failures and victories, always keeping the Kingdom which we ask to come every day in our prayer, firmly on the horizon?

Contemplating the Assumption of Mary into Heaven reminds us that suffering and trials are also gifts from God. It was not easy for Mary, but she made it. Mary’s Assumption reminds us of what awaits us if we accept suffering and trials with patience and faith, desiring to help Our Lord accomplish the work of His redemption. Let us pray today that Mary may help us to make the journey to Heaven and one day to shine there alongside her and her Son.