



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](mailto:frcathomas@live.com) ☎: 0115 922 8145 Website: [www.theassumption.co.uk](http://www.theassumption.co.uk)

PARISH DEACON: Rev. Chris Stevens ([deacon@lecatholic.org.uk](mailto: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: 25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR: B**

Twenty – Fifth Week of Ordinary Time: 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (Weekday Cycle Year I / Psalter Week I)

<u>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September:</u>	<i>Twenty – Fifth Sunday of the Year</i>	<p><i>Your Prayers are requested for those who are sick:</i> Isobel Alana Barnes, Marica Borsos, Margaret Brown, Pat Constable, Francesca Lina Craparotta, Jim &amp; Margaret Dougan, Fr Theodore Gomes, Ann Harrison, Fr Peter Harvey, Andrea Hoffman, Farzin Kazem, Breda Keaney, Bob O’ Donnell, Anne – Marie Reid, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning, John Wilcox, and Bob Wilson.</p>
<p>9:00 am: Mass; Pro Populo; People of the Parish 11:00 am: Mass (St Francis); Bob Parkhill RIP (Goodhind)</p>	<p><i>SS Andrew Kim Tae-Gon, Priest, Paul Chong Ha-Sang &amp; Companions, Martyrs (memoria)</i></p> <p><b>NO MASS TODAY</b></p>	
<u>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September:</u>	<p><i>St Matthew, Apostle &amp; Evangelist (Feast)</i></p> <p><b>NO MASS TODAY</b></p>	<p><b>HOSPITALS</b> 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>
<u>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September:</u>	<p><i>Weekday Feria</i></p> <p><b>NO MASS TODAY</b></p>	
<u>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September:</u>	<p><i>St Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest (memoria)</i></p> <p><b>NO MASS TODAY</b></p>	
<u>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September:</u>	<p><i>Our Lady of Walsingham (memoria)</i></p> <p><b>NO MASS TODAY</b></p>	
<u>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September:</u>	<p><i>Weekday Feria</i></p> <p><b>NO MASS TODAY</b></p>	
<u>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September:</u>	<p><i>Twenty – Sixth Sunday of the Year</i></p> <p>9:00 am: Mass; Intentions of Isobel Barnes 11:00 am: Mass (St Francis); Mrs Gertie Byrnes RIP (Halliday)</p>	
<p><b>UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY!</b></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). 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](mailto:frcathomas@live.com) by WEDNESDAY of each week for inclusion in the next issue.

**REQUIESCAT IN PACE:** Please remember in your prayers to pray for the repose of the soul of *Joan Williams* who died on *Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021*, aged 94 years old. Joan's body will be received into Church on *Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021* at *4:00 pm* and her Requiem Mass will take place on *Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021* at *10:00 am* followed by cremation at Bramcote Crematorium. We her and her family and friends at this sad time. May she rest in peace.

**POOR CLARES:** Many thanks to everyone who sent food and donations to the Sisters, they are so appreciative and grateful for what you all do, and they want you to know that you are in their prayers daily. The Sisters are busy fund raising because they have to rebuild the Monastery at Bulwell and one of the things they are doing is baking. The following are available to order: *Best Chocolate Fudge Cake; Banana and Mixed Fruit Cake; Crunchy Top Lemon Cake; Carrot and Pineapple Cake; Flapjack; Rhubarb Cake; Samosa; Apple Pie; Fried Rice with Egg Curry and; Pilau Rice with Egg Curry*. These need to be ordered by *Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021* for delivery the following Monday. The items are not priced but the Sisters ask that a donation is made for them. There is an order form in the Narthex or I can be contacted on 07774 213712 – thank you again for your continued support – *Diane Wilson*

**MISSIO/RED BOXES:** The Autumn edition of MISSION TODAY is available to collect from the Narthex please help yourself to a copy – it's an interesting read. If you have a Mill Hill Red Box could you bring it in to be emptied please. Many thanks – *Diane Wilson Parish MISSIO Secretary*.

**FAITH IN FAMILIES:** If anyone has a collection box for Faith in Families could you please bring it to Church as soon as possible so that it can be emptied and counted, and the monies forwarded on.

**MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING:** We are having a Macmillan Coffee Morning on *Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021*. It will be held in the Hall from *10:00 am – 12 noon*. Last year we were unable to hold the Coffee Morning due to Covid and so we are hoping to have a bumper event this year. Please make a note of the date and time and come along and support this very worthwhile cause. Cakes, helpers and any donations would be greatly appreciated.

**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 DO NOT JUST TURN UP FOR MASS AND EXPECT TO BE ALLOWED INTO CHURCH, AS IT IS NOT FAIR TO THE STEWARDS, NOR THE OTHER PEOPLE WHO HAVE TAKEN THE TIME TO BOOK.**

***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.

***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 at 9:00 am, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays*** all at ***10:00 am*** and, at St Francis, Long Eaton on ***Sunday at 11:00 am and Tuesdays 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 AT LEAST 5 MINUTES BEFORE  
MASS BEGINS WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL.**

There is now an increased capacity for both the Assumption, Beeston and St Francis of Assisi, Long Eaton. This means that it should be easier to book a seat for Mass. (*as of Friday morning there were still plenty of free seats still available for Sunday Mass so please do try to come along*).

Masses on Sunday will be ***9:00 am at Beeston*** and ***11:00 am at Long Eaton***. This is not to say that conditions have returned to a pre – Covid situation and the above instructions still apply regarding booking for Mass. We are still being ***very cautious*** about how we continue to use our Churches and the fact that Covid has not simply gone away!

The idea at the moment is that we continue to move forward carefully and slowly to see how things develop. With this in mind we will continue to have stewards, a one – way system and hand – sanitisers at both the entrance and exits to the Church; which you are encouraged to use.

For the safety of yourselves and your fellow Parishioners I would also request and encourage you to wear a face mask when you are in Church (*exceptions apply to those with medical conditions*).

Although the need to socially distance is no longer 2 metres, I would ask that you keep a sensible space from anyone who is not in your household/bubble while you are in Church.

## *Twenty - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time: B.*

*(READINGS: Wisdom 2<sup>12, 17-20</sup>; Psalm 53<sup>3-6, 8</sup>; James 3<sup>16-4<sup>3</sup></sup> and Mark 9<sup>30-37</sup>)*

When Jesus and His apostles sit down to relax after a day of walking the hot, dusty roads of Galilee, He knows exactly what they have been talking about: success, glory and greatness. But the apostles are too embarrassed to admit it; they know that their interest in worldly success is a too self-centred to be praiseworthy. But Our Lord's response is surprising. He doesn't tell them that they shouldn't desire to succeed, to achieve and to do great things. He doesn't condemn that very normal impulse, because He knows that achieving things, making a difference in the world, is a basic need felt by every human heart. This is one of the purposes of our lives: being a sign of God's goodness by making a positive difference in the world. So, Jesus doesn't scold them or reprimand them for wanting to do something great. Instead, He tells them what true greatness really is. The great task for every Catholic isn't to achieve fame and fortune, popularity, power and worldly success. Rather, it is the exact same task that Christ Himself undertook: to serve others, to make others happy, to reach out to those who are weak and in need, like little children. Greatness in Christ's Kingdom is equated with humility, an attitude of the heart that puts the good of others before our own preferences: it is all about self-giving and not self-getting. He doesn't say to His apostles, "Don't strive to achieve great things," but He does point out where true, lasting and fulfilling greatness lies: in loving our neighbour as Christ has loved them. Jesus is the Servant-Lord; we, His faithful disciples, are called to follow in those demanding footsteps.

Humility, therefore, is probably Our Lord's favourite virtue and He showed us this by the way He lived His life. Jesus loved the simple, the meek, the unpretentious, the sincere, the humble person. He preferred not the wealthy, those from the upper classes, but the lowly maiden of Nazareth, as His own Blessed Mother. He chose not the sleek, pretentious religious leaders as His first followers, but twelve clumsy, weak and sinful apostles. He was moved not by exalted philosophical arguments or highly polished rhetoric, but simple, heartfelt, humble pleas, "Lord that I might see," "Jesus Son of David have pity on me," "Lord I am not worthy to have you under my roof, but only say the word and my servant will be healed." We should not be surprised that Jesus prized so highly the virtue of humility. After all He came to save us from the Original Sin – the sin of pride – the total opposite of humility. He Himself was humility incarnate, as He, "God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God, begotten not made consubstantial with the Father," emptied Himself; humility Incarnate. And because He was Divine, He could see into a person's heart and soul and so embrace those who were humble, who knew where they stood in the eyes of God. Those who were totally dependent upon Him and nothing without Him.

And yet as is clear from this today's Gospel, those closest to Him still didn't get the message. Our Gospel for this week picks up exactly where our Gospel for last week finished. Jesus is in Caesarea Philippi and He asks those two famous questions, "Who do people say that I am?" and "Who do you say that I am?" and having clarified who He is, the Christ and, having clarified the nature of His task, walking the way of suffering love, having done all that, Jesus leaves Caesarea Philippi with His disciples and on the way He continues to explain the nature and consequences of His mission. "The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put Him to death; and three days after He has been put to death He will rise again." There is an extraordinary summary of the whole Paschal Mystery. But the strange thing is, the disciples are almost totally indifferent to what He says. That is why the disciples are wonderful anticipations of all of us.

What they are privately discussing is which of them is the greatest. They are utterly stuck in the way of the ego, the small self, the tiny soul. And what is so comical about this is that it anticipates all of us, the present followers of Jesus. We hear over and over again, all of our lives about the path of suffering love. That is the message, that is the Paschal Mystery. We have displayed before us constantly the image of Christ Crucified and we confess repeatedly that He is the Lord. Yet we often do the same thing that the disciples did. We yearn for power and privilege and worldly honour. How strange the path of suffering love, we affirm it abstractly, but when push comes to shove, we are not eager to walk it. And so, Jesus tries patiently once again to explain: "He took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me.'" What does, 'welcome a little child' mean if not becoming like Him, taking that little child into yourself. What Our Lord is saying is that the way of the ego, the way of grasping and gaining of climbing the ladder, filling our lives with possessions, holding off your rivals, all of that, is the path to spiritual death. And that the path to life is the path of the little child.

Now that is the image we are meant to keep in our minds. Think of Jesus crouching down, putting His arms around this little child and then proposing the child as the great model to His disciples. That is meant to be proposed to us. The disciples were still worried about pride and prerogatives and self – assertion and self – will and boasting. Still the “me” first attitude continues to reign. And so finally He takes a little child; simplicity, innocence and humility itself. He takes a little child to try to teach us one more time about the virtue of humility.

This gesture of the Lord puts us in mind of St Thérèse of Lisieux, who was also known as St Thérèse of the Child Jesus. In her autobiography the “Story of A Soul,” she described her life as a “little way of spiritual childhood.” She did not mean the path of childishness, irresponsibility or stupidity. St Thérèse herself was very shrewd, intelligent, creative and resourceful. It is not childishness, that is a kind of sentimental misconception. She meant far more profound things, that we can reflect upon, with Our Lord in mind, that unless you receive a little child in my name you cannot have the Kingdom.

Thérèse of Lisieux meant this. To walk the way of the child is to walk the path of the present moment and to walk the path of trust. Children have this extraordinary capacity to find joy in the simplest of things and the simplest of activities. How many times have parents bought their young child the most perfect Christmas or Birthday present and often the parents are more excited about how the child will react than the child themselves. And after all the anticipation and excitement, what happens? The child shows more interest and gets more enjoyment from the box and the wrapping paper the present came in than the present itself.

I remember when we were younger, and we would spend hours kicking a football round the local park until exhaustion or hunger forced us to go home. During those times we didn’t worry about the past or the future. We didn’t worry about what we didn’t have or what other people had that we didn’t have. We weren’t lost in rivalries and jealousies. We were just lost in the joy of the present moment. Enjoying what was right in front of us. Often, we get so preoccupied with what might be, what we don’t have, what other people might be thinking of us, all the plans and projects of the ego. But we fail to live radically in the present moment and find peace and contentment in the present activity.

To live in the present moment so that you can see the opportunities for love, for enjoyment and for gratitude. That is the key. Right now, right in front of me, there is an opportunity for love, there is an opportunity to enjoy, there is an opportunity to be grateful for. One of the great spiritual writers said, “You have everything you need, right now, right in front of you to be happy.” But this is so opposite to our instinct. We often think that happiness is so elusive, we often think that one day we will be happy if we get this or that or if we get the right promotion or people pay more attention to us or if I had more money or a better home, then I will be happy. In fact, that is the key to unhappiness, that living in the future or living in the past. You have everything you need, right now, right in front of you to be happy. Believe that, because right now no matter where you are, no matter what is happening to you, no matter what you have, you have the opportunity to love, to enjoy and to be grateful. The one who becomes like a little child can live happily and intensely in the now.

Another characteristic of St Thérèse is trust. St Thérèse often compared herself to a young child who simply raised her hands up hoping to be lifted up, trusting that she would find peace and security in the arms of her father. So are we she said in relation to God. We can control certain things in our environment, we can manage our lives to some degree and there is nothing wrong with that. But in the grand scheme of things, we control very little. What happens to us, how our lives unfold, the sufferings and joys we experience; very little of it can really be anticipated. But we can learn to live in radical trust.

The image that comes to mind is that of the child again. This time at the end of a long day and having to go home. The child has no idea how to get home, but he will fall asleep in the back of the family car, utterly trusting that the father will take him home. We are all spiritual children of God. Even the great contemplative Thomas Merton said, “My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.” That is true of all of us. From day to day, I don’t believe I have any idea where I am going. But I can learn to live in complete trust. Falling asleep in the back seat of the car and letting God take the wheel. Unless you welcome, unless you become like this little child, you cannot enter the Kingdom that Our Lord is talking about. Living in the present moment in gratitude, living in the present moment in trust, walking the way of the child. That is the virtue of humility.