

**PARISH MEETING:** Thanks to all who attended the parish open meeting on Thursday evening. It was a lively meeting and people gave honest and detailed responses to the questions 'What's good about this parish?' and 'What could be better?' All responses were recorded and prioritised and will be written up for an insert in the parish newsletter next week. The next stage is for the PPC to analyse the meeting output and frame some actions that can be discussed at a second meeting in a couple of weeks time. We are going to need volunteers to drive forward new initiatives in this Year of Mercy. Watch this space!

**FATHER JOE MULLEN I.C.:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr. Joe Mullen who died on 15<sup>th</sup> January: May he rest in peace. There will be a memorial Requiem Mass for him here at St Mary's at 7pm on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February**.

**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be no Masses here from **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February** inclusive; all the priests will be in Ireland for a meeting

**CONFESSIONS** can be made at Mount St Bernard's Abbey every day during the Year of Mercy, from 2.30 to 3pm.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS' RENEWAL DAYS:** **9<sup>th</sup> April** at Ratcliffe, and **30<sup>th</sup> April** at St Joseph's. Ministers not on the email list should collect their letters from the Repository counter.

**SPUC: (The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children)** - SPUC Nottingham branch is holding a **40 Days for Life** campaign between the **10<sup>th</sup> February to 20<sup>th</sup> March** on the campus of the Queen's Medical Centre. The web page with information about times, place and the overall purpose is: [www.40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/Nottingham](http://www.40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/Nottingham). People can even sign up for certain time slots during each day to help with cover and to support the campaign. A launch meeting will be held on **5<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm** in the McGuinness room, which is part of the Cathedral hall, St Barnabas' Cathedral Nottingham NG1 5AE. This is best accessed from North Circus Street. For further details please contact Greg on 07921587901.

**PLEASE PRAY for those who have recently died:** Pat Cookson, Sr Marie Aloyz Reilly and Fr. Joe Mullen I.C. **May they rest in peace**

**for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Mary Jones, Bernard Hudson, Giuseppina Russo, Olive Keeping, Tony Benincasa, Francis McHugh, Maurice Keetley, Eliza Aldiss, Adelaide Taylor, Paul Rose, Gladys Orton, Marta Rebacz, Patrick Doyle and Anna King.

LAST WEEK'S FINANCE	
First collection: £ 623	St. Patrick's Missionary Society: £ 545
Standing orders: £ 603	<i>Thank you</i>



## St. Mary's Catholic Church

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Served by the Rosminians:

Fr Philip Sainter, Parish Priest; Fr Paul Gillham, Assistant Priest

In community: Fr Charles Sormany and Fr Simon Giles

## Newsletter for Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016

### FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Psalter Week 4

## THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

On Tuesday this week we will celebrate the feast of **Candlemas** or the **Presentation of the Lord in the Temple**. Traditionally it marks the end of the feasts included in the Christmas cycle of the Liturgy. We recall Mary and Joseph bringing Jesus to the Temple forty days after His birth, according to the requirements of the Law; and Mary submits herself to the rite of purification, which of course, she didn't need. However, the Liturgy celebrates primarily the entrance of the Infant Jesus into the Temple "to present Him to the Lord" and His meeting with the old man Simeon. Simeon also makes the prophecy about the sufferings Mary will have to endure and he pronounces the *Nunc dimittis* (Lord, now let your servant depart in peace) which we say every day in the Divine Office at Compline (prayers said before retiring for the night).

At the beginning of the Mass on this day, candles are distributed, blessed and carried lit in procession which is a symbolic presentation of the truth Simeon proclaims, that Jesus is "the light to lighten the Gentiles." The candles are held lit during the Gospel and during the Eucharistic Prayer. The lighted candle is also a symbol of the Christian life, of the faith and grace which should shine in our souls.

Jesus, while being taken to the Temple, although He is God, offers Himself to the Father as the Divine Victim for sin who will die on the cross for the sins of the world. One could say that His presentation in the Temple is like the Offertory of the Mass, which will then be consummated on Calvary. Candlemas is a beautiful feast, full of meaning and symbols.

*Fr Paul Gillham*

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

<b>Sat</b>	30 <sup>th</sup>	1730-1800 <i>Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request</i> <b>1800</b> Antonio Benincasa RIP (Anniversary)
<b>Sun</b>	31 <sup>st</sup>	<b><u>FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</u></b> <b>0900</b> Derrick Baxter RIP <i>1030-1100 Sacrament of Reconciliation + on request</i> <b>1100</b> All Parishioners 1245 Polish Mass 1600 Italian Mass
<b>Mon</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	0915 Christina Mortell (recovery)
<b>Tues</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b><u>PRESENTATION OF THE LORD - FEAST</u></b> 0915 <i>Whole School Mass in Church</i>
<b>Wed</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	0915 NO MASS (Priests in Ireland)
<b>Thurs</b>	4 <sup>th</sup>	0915 NO MASS (Priests in Ireland)
<b>Fri</b>	5 <sup>th</sup>	1730 Novena – Filipino Community 1800 NO MASS (Priests in Ireland)
<b>Sat</b>	6 <sup>th</sup>	0915 Mary Jones RIP (Anniversary) 1800 Salvatore, Annamaria & Gino Romano RIP

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

<b>Mon</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1900 History Group – Front Room 1930 Parish Pastoral Council – Church Hall
<b>Tues</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1925-2030 Scripture & Tradition Group – Library
<b>Weds</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1400-1600 Senior Citizens' Club – Church Hall
<b>Thurs</b>	4 <sup>th</sup>	1900-2100 Craft & Chat Group – Library
<b>Fri</b>	5 <sup>th</sup>	1700-2100 Filipino Community – Church Hall
<b>Sat</b>	6 <sup>th</sup>	1000-1100 All First Holy Communion Candidates – Church Hall 1000 Baptism Preparation Class by Appointment

**PLEASE PRAY for those who are sick:** Les Prentice, Danilo Salvador, Christopher Browne, John Beasley, David and Claire Potter, Joan Slevin, Mary Merwick, Ann Checketts, Johnnie Casey, Vera Hurry, Caroline Hillyer, Jamie, Mark, Stephen Coultas, Jane Moss, Brian Smith, Jean Hooper, John Newman, David Hart, Eddie Hamilton, Arthur Clarke, Katie Mercer, Hannah Bechler, Rosinah, Alan and Judith Creighton, Moyna McGlynn, Anne Hickman, John Tucker, Maria Carecci and Val Wells.

**MICHAEL SMITH**, a St Mary's parishioner, died last November from a brain tumour. He was 27. His partner, Lauren Ridley, is appealing for signatures to a petition for increased funding for brain tumour research. Currently, only around 1% of cancer research is allocated to brain cancer, which is the largest cancer killer of children and adults under the age of 40. 100,000 signatures are needed by **3<sup>rd</sup> February** for parliament to debate this underfunding. To record your signature, please go to [www.braintumourresearch.org](http://www.braintumourresearch.org).

**SOAR** (Schools, Outreach And Resources) invites you to an Interactive Prayer Space to Pray for Revival in the Loughborough area on **Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February** at St. Peters Centre, Storer Road, Loughborough. Sessions: 1pm – 2.30pm All ages; 3.30pm – 5pm Adults + teens; 7pm – 8.30pm Adults + teens. For further information please visit [www.soarproject.org.uk](http://www.soarproject.org.uk) 01509 238850.

**LOURDES 2016 PILGRIMAGE:** **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June.** Cost £420 includes insurance, coach & ferry travel and full board in Lourdes. Deposit £130. Balance required at end of March. Further details and booking forms from Vera Hurry on 01509 231282.

**WELCOME BOXES:** Please see our noticeboard for ways in which you can become involved in this project which supports people seeking sanctuary in the UK. More information can also be found on [www.upbeatcommunities.org](http://www.upbeatcommunities.org)

**BEHOLD MINISTRY:** This is human theatre where the gospel is delivered in a fresh, unique and inspirational style that you will never forget. Combining mime and preaching, Steve Murray has ministered in 18 nations in conferences, churches, schools, missions, theatres and prisons. [www.beholdministry.org](http://www.beholdministry.org).

**CRAFT AND CHAT GROUP:** Thursday's Craft Group is making a Prayer Shawl. Interested? Come and find out more! 7-9pm in the Library.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Please help to keep your church clean. Fridays from 9.30am (if there are no Masses). Friendly group. Everyone welcome. Equipment provided.

**PARISH VOICE:** The Spring Issue of St. Mary's Parish Voice magazine, now in preparation, needs any items on any subject of interest for issue 28. Articles, photos, opinions, recipes etc from **any age group** are all welcome, especially from new contributors. Please email [office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk](mailto:office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk) with subject 'Parish Voice' or deliver in an envelope marked 'Parish Voice' to the Parish Office. Copy Deadline: **Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016.**

## **YOUTH GROUP future events:-**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February** – Chocolate night - 4-6pm in school (10-14 years). (cost £2 each)

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February** – Chocolate night - older group (14-18 years). (cost £2 each)

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February** – Younger group (*half term*) £1 each

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February** – Older group. £1 each

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March** – Older group. £1 each

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March** – Younger group – school disco night and break up for Easter.