



*THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF
OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION
FOSTER AVENUE,
BEESTON,
NOTTINGHAM, NG9 1AE*

Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocese Trustees Company No. 7151646 Charity No. 1134449
PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Christopher A Thomas, Presbytery, 25 Foster Avenue

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TIMES OF MASSES AND OTHER SERVICES: Week Commencing 4th December 2016

Second Sunday of Advent: Year A.

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT: 4th – 11th December 2016 (Weekday Cycle I / Psalter Week 2)

Saturday 3rd December: <u>St Francis Xavier, Priest (memoria)</u>	<i>PARISH FINANCES</i>	
10:00 am: Mass; Pro Populo; People of the Parish 10:45 am: Confessions	26 th / 27 th November 2016	
Saturday 3rd December: <u>Second Sunday of Advent; Year A</u>	Envelopes:	
5:00 pm: Confessions	Loose Plate:	
5:30 pm: Mass; Deceased Members of the Dixon Family	Standing Orders:	
Sunday 4th December: <u>Second Sunday of Advent; Year A</u>	<u>TOTAL:</u>	
9:00 am: Mass; Edward Corrigan RIP	Chad:	
Monday 5th December: <u>Advent Feria</u>	Intercare:	
9:00 am: Mass; Private Intention	SVP:	
Tuesday 6th December: <u>St Nicholas, Bishop (memoria)</u>	<i>Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the Parish.</i>	
12:30 pm: Confessions 1:00 pm: Mass; Brian Hoey RIP	Second Collection Next Weekend for the Poor and Needy Parishes	
Wednesday 7th December: <u>St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor (memoria)</u>	<u>HALL HEATING</u>	
9:00 am: Service of the Word and Holy Communion	The good news is that the Central Heating in the Parish Hall has now been fixed and the Hall once again has heating. Unfortunately, the not so good news is that this work made it necessary to install a new Boiler at a cost of just over £ 2,600. 00. On the plus side, the boiler does have a seven year warranty!	
Thursday 8th December: <u>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of the Diocese (Solemnity)</u>		
9:00 am: Mass; Special Intention		
Friday 9th December: <u>Advent Feria</u>		
12:30 pm: Confessions 1:00 pm: Mass; Eddie Reilly RIP (Elizabeth)		
Saturday 10th December: <u>Advent Feria</u>	<i>Your Prayers are requested for those who are sick:</i> Isobel Alana Barnes, Meg Bailey, Marica Borsos, Pat Constable, Rosetta Coronata, David Fox, Audrey Mc Coy, Bernadette Retallick, Mary Staley and John Webster.	
10:00 am: Mass; Pro Populo; People of the Parish 10:45 am: Confessions		
Saturday 10th December: <u>Third (Gaudete) Sunday of Advent</u>		
5:00 pm: Confessions 5:30 pm: Mass; Kathleen Noonan RIP (Twomey)		
Sunday 11th December: <u>Third (Gaudete) Sunday of Advent</u>		
9:00 am: Mass; John Myatt RIP (Choir)		

Items for the newsletter can be given to Fr Christopher or e – mailed to frcathomas@live.com by Thursday of each week for inclusion in the next issue

ROTAS:	5.30 pm	9.00 am
Welcomers:		M Cookson & S Neely
Next Week:		M Simpson & L Newbold
Readers:	M Cummins	N Wilson
Next Week:	M Sully	S Yarwood
Offertory:	M & G Sawicki	R & N Wilson
Next Week:	M & A Simmons	M Castor & Volunteer
Coffee:	M Calladine & L Wittam	Next Week: J Powell & M Calladine
Cashiers:	J Brennan	Next Week: N Mason
Flowers:	NO FLOWERS	Next Week: NO FLOWERS
Cleaning:	Team Powell	Next Week: Team Newbold
Brasses:	M Castor	Next Week: K Bennett

POOR CLARES: the Sisters send their thanks for all the donations received from our Parish this week and they want you to know that our Parish is very special to them and always in their prayers. I shall be visiting the Convent again during the week leading up to Christmas to ensure that the sisters have our donations for their Christmas celebrations. Many thanks for your continued support. – *Diane Wilson*.

FAIR TRADE SALE: The next Fair Trade Sale is **THIS** weekend 3rd/4th December 2016 and there will be some Christmas crafts and goods for sale as well as the usual items. This is the last Fair Trade Sale of 2016 and a final chance to help Mary's Meals this year. Information about Mary's Meals can be found on the Fair Trade Notice board at the back of Church or you can visit the website: www.marysmeals.org.uk for further information.

MISSIO: The 2017 **MISSIO** Calendar has arrived and is in the porch for Red Box holders to help themselves to. If you have a Red Box could you bring it in to be emptied ready for the year end totals and if you are a UK tax payer and have a Red Box would you let me know so that we can gift aid your donations. Many thanks – *Diane Wilson* (0115 917 6697).

BECKET CAKE SALE: A huge thank you to everyone who bought cakes and donated to our Lourdes fund – we raised over £80.00 which is a brilliant amount this early into the year. Thank you again, *Issie, Maria* and *Sara*.

THE HANDMAIDS OF SACRED HEART: wish to thank all those who have donated Postage Stamps during the past year. The Sisters continue to work in El Salvador, Democratic Republic of Congo, Vietnam, etc. Please carry on donating your Postage Stamps. – *Carol Hallam*.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: There will be a meeting for all flower arrangers in the Church Hall on **Monday 5th December 2016 at 10:00 am** to discuss the Christmas flowers. Anyone is welcome to come; we will be happy to see you!!!

RCIA PROGRAMME: Many thanks to all who continue to come along on Wednesday evenings for our continuation of the Catholicism Course by Fr Robert Barron. We will continue with the next chapter (7 of 10) on **Wednesday 14th December 2016 at 7:30 pm** in the Parish Hall. The topic for that week is entitled, "**Word Made Flesh, True Bread of Heaven: The Mystery of the Liturgy and the Eucharist.**" All are welcome and if you have missed the series so far it's still not too late to come along and join in.

CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE PARISH: Time for some festive fun! For our children (up to Year 6 years old), in the Church Hall on the afternoon of Sunday 11th December 2016, from 3:00 – 4:30 pm. Tickets are £1 for children over 3. Under 3s go free. If your child/children would like to come along, please e – mail Catherine Agius on agius89@btinternet.com. Please remember to include your children's names and ages, as well as a contact number for yourself, in the message. More details to follow. If any of the older children would like to come along and help out, we would be delighted. Please let me know. Thank you. – *Catherine Agius*.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Catholics Are Called to Be Christians who have hope.

There are two ways that we can live out our Catholic faith. We can live it passively, or we can live it personally. When we live our faith passively, we are like the Pharisees and Sadducees that came to be baptized by John in the Jordan River. They were the religious and social leaders in Israel. They were the most visible and active members of their parish. They knew what to do when they went to Church, they knew all the prayers – on the surface, they appeared to be models of religion. They placed their confidence in being "children of Abraham." In other words, culturally speaking, they were good Jews. They came from Jewish families and followed Jewish customs. But John the Baptist warns them that being cultural Jews wasn't enough. "God can raise up children of Abraham from these stones," he says. Their religion was on the surface: it didn't touch their hearts. We are constantly tempted to make the same mistake. Little by little, we can become too self – satisfied just because we come to Mass and receive the Sacraments. We can become complacent because we look like model Catholics on the outside, cultural Catholics. But our faith is about much more than that. To be Catholic is to be Christian, to be an active, dedicated, energetic follower of Jesus Christ, to have a personal friendship with Him, to know Him deeply and to love Him passionately by striving to build up his Kingdom. When we live our faith passively, we are like artificial plants: we look nice, but we bear no fruit. Today, Christ is reminding us to live our faith more personally, so that our lives can be branches of the true vine, "producing good fruit." One way to live our faith less passively and more personally has to do with a value, or a virtue, central to the season of Advent. St Paul puts the spotlight on it in the Second Reading from the Letter to the Romans. He writes that, "Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope." In other words, the history of God's saving action among us, which we turn our attention to during Advent, should stir up within us an energetic supernatural optimism – what St Paul calls "hope." Hope is the opposite of discouragement and pessimism. Hope is the confidence that no matter how dark it may get in the middle of winter, the light of Christ will never be extinguished. The devil hates hope. He loves discouragement, because it breeds cynicism and despair. He does his best to turn our attention to the shadows and darkness, to the problems and failures. Discouragement is the most paralyzing of vices. If we give in to discouragement, our faith becomes completely passive, completely impersonal. How can we beat the devil, stir up the virtue of hope, and escape from the paralysis of cynicism and discouragement? There is a simple way: stop complaining. Much is wrong in the world, the Church, and our own lives. But complaining fixes nothing and draws our attention to the darkness. To be people of Christian hope, we must learn to turn our complaints into construction projects, to never mention a problem without at the same time proposing a solution. That is how true Christians think and live, because they are personal friends of Christ the Lord, whose power and wisdom are without limit.