

CATHOLIC LOUTH AND MABLETHORPE

S. Mary's Church

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S. Joseph's Church

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Week XXIII of Ordinary Time

Year B, Psalter Week III
(8th - 14th September 2024)

MASS TIMINGS AND INTENTIONS

Sun the 8th **SUNDAY XXIII OF THE YEAR**

18.15	<i>P. T. (intentions, & those of M.T.M)</i>	S. Mary's
9.00	<i>The People</i>	S. Mary's
11.30	<i>Pamela & Maxwell Ogden (++)</i>	S. Joseph's

Mon the 9th **S. Peter Claver**

Tue the 10th **Feria** S. Joseph's

Wed the 11th **Feria**
10.00 *In honour of S. Joseph* S. Mary's

Thu the 12th **Most Holy Name of Mary**
10.00 *Fr Kevin (intentions)* S. Joseph's

Fri the 13th **S. John Chrysostom**
10.00 *Peace in the Holy Land* S. Mary's
15.00 *Divine Mercy chaplet* S. Mary's

Sat the 14th **EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**
10.00 *Propagation of the Catholic faith* S. Mary's
followed by the Holy Rosary & Confessions S. Mary's
18.15 *Frederick Weir (+)* S. Mary's

Sun the 15th **SUNDAY XXIV OF THE YEAR**
9.00 *Edwin Wrigley (+)* S. Mary's
11.30 *Fr. Jim Lynch (intentions)* S. Joseph's

SECOND COLLECTION

This Sunday: 7th/8th Sept: Catholic Education Service

Next Sunday: 14th /15th Sept: Evangelii Gaudium Day

NOTICES

- **Talking Philosophy and Theology Combined: a Carmelite Perspective** Zoom meetings are being held on first and third Wednesday evenings at 8.00pm, and second and fourth Thursday afternoons at 1.00pm.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Those who are ill

S. Mary's: Pat Tiger, Sylvia Saxby, Fr. Kevin Athaide, John Dean, Susie Watchorn, Patricia Kerr, Peter Endean, Lea Small, Shirley Kirkham, Paddy Shillington, Margaret & Robert Gwynne, Kevin Keeley, Mary Norburn, Judith Brook, Sally Shillington, Catherine Keeley, Pam Stephens, Diane Benton, Patricia & Spencer Harvey.
S. Joseph's: Fr. James Lynch, Joseph Wilson, Laura Guest, Odessa Louise-Therese, John Thompson, Shaun Hewson, Winnie Copp, Owen Jenkinson, Thecla Domici.

Those who have died recently (++)

S. Mary's: Edwin Wrigley, Elizabeth Melling, Christopher John Adlard, Ann Lavarack, Edward Noble, Kerry Ashby, Jim Ellison, Thomas Gallagher, Rev Dom Adrian Convery OSB, Stephen Curley, Richard Crean, Roger Norburn, Ann Selby, Anthony Stanford Taylor. **S. Joseph's:** Brenda Smith, Joyce Kerswell, Pamela Ogden, Larry Walsh, John Gallagher, Margaret Mountain, Madeleine Owens, William Smith, Irene Bray, Joan Gowling, Patrick Geoghegan.

Those with anniversaries this week (++)

Charles Cummings, Michael Lintham, James Vincent Halligan, Clare Anne Tate, John Musson, Ruth Fitzgerald.

- **What is CAFOD?** The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) is the official overseas aid agency for the Catholic Church in England and Wales. It started in 1960, when a group of Catholic mothers were inspired by the Holy Spirit to support mothers and babies affected by a crisis in Dominica. Watch out for more background information about CAFOD in the lead-up to the Harvest Fast Day, 4th October.

- **Is God calling me to be a priest?** If so, please contact Father Neil Peoples, Vocations Director, at vocations@nottinghamdiocese.uk to book a place at the next discernment meeting taking place at Cathedral Hall, Nottingham at 10.30am on Saturday 5th October.

S. Mary's, Louth

- **PLEASE NOTE:** The next **parish council meeting** will take place on Thursday, 19th September at 6 PM.
- **S. Mary's Befriending Ministry:** We are starting a befriending service for those who may be feeling isolated or in need of a listening ear. Would you or someone you know in Louth & the surrounding areas benefit from a friendly visit from our team? Perhaps you've recently lost a loved one, or are going through a difficult illness, or just fancy a good old-fashioned natter over a cuppa. Please leave Ellie a message on 07800751014 and we will get in touch to arrange a visit! Your privacy is our topmost priority.
- **Safeguarding Officer:** Mr Paul Rudd, t: 075 1372 5463, e: <paul.ruddpsr@dioceseofnottingham.uk>
- **Teas & coffees:** after Mass on Wednesdays and Sundays.

S. Joseph's, Mablethorpe

- **S. Joseph's repository:** Along with the usual stock of quality cards and religious artifacts, we now have stocks of Christmas cards, both boxed sets and loose, Advent calendars, large and small and 2025 calendars, all at very attractive prices. Please feel free to take a look after Mass.
- **Teas & coffees:** Thursdays after the 10.00 Mass.

SUNDAY XXIII OF ORDINARY TIME

God made mankind innocent | Sin has destroyed mankind | God will have his vengeance

Dryness and aridity

“The "desert", in Isaiah's symbolic language, can call to mind the tragic events, difficult situations and loneliness that often mark life; the deepest desert is the human heart when it loses the capacity for listening, speaking and communicating with God and with others. Eyes then become blind because they are incapable of seeing reality; ears are closed so as not to hear the cry of those who implore help; hearts are hardened in indifference and selfishness.”

- *Holy Father Benedict XVI, his homilies*

The desperation until Christ

“...the human race throughout its many members is reckoned as one man, eaten up by varying pestilence, in the first created man; it is blinded, that is, its eye is evil; it becomes deaf, when it listens to, and dumb when it speaks, evil. And they prayed Him to lay His hand upon him, because many just men, and (p. 145) patriarchs, wished and longed for the time when the Lord should come in the flesh.” - *pseudo-Jerome*

The Physician is here

“Moved by so much suffering Christ not only allows himself to be touched by the sick, but He makes their miseries His own... on the cross Christ took upon Himself the whole weight of evil and took away the 'sin of the world,' of which illness [and disability] is only a consequence. By His passion and death on the cross, [suffering] can henceforth configure us to Him and unite us with His redemptive Passion.” - *Catechism, §1505*



Divine vengeance

It is good to take things back to the garden of Eden, because that fall of our race is so very significant, and the whole of the rest of the Bible is about recovering from that sin of pride and disobedience. The resulting weakness in our nature almost makes us victims of our base instincts, and helpless without the divine assistance. It is in this respect that the prophet Isaiah in our first reading today speaks of the vengeance of God - He created humanity to be good and has had to watch sin and death wreak havoc upon His prize creature. He has watched love be perverted, injustice triumph over justice. And so, says the prophet, retribution is coming, sin has had its day, salvation is now at hand. Isaiah with his gift of foresight can see the day of Christ, can see the astonishing miracles in the Galilee, can see above all the miracle of men and women turning back to their Creator in humility, the eyes of their unbelief opened, their ears deafened to the call of God now opened, their lameness in walking with God according to the Law and the commandments now ended, their tongues once unable to sing the praise of the Holy One now unstoppable. So, then, we may theologise the deafness of the man in the gospel story, and say that humanity for the most part is still deaf and dumb - deaf to the call of the Holy One and unable to speak well of Him, or to praise His holy Name. But there is Christ overcoming the disability and bringing healing, washing the aridity of a human soul with the water gushing forth from Himself. And so, if we are great sinners even, we take refuge in the One Who can thus make fertile the barrenness of our souls and bring forth much crop. All we can do is put our best feet forward and wait for the Holy One to come up to us and say Ephphatha. Be opened. And we shall be opened. And this is not concluded in our baptisms or following our first conversions; rather it is the work of our whole lives, both our small attempts and His working within us. So let us be constant in prayer, and active in charity. And let us ask for the assistance of our Lady and the Saints, that we may be eventually be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

“In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with Thee, dear Lord, beside me; Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.”