

degree in music - just a love of singing! Do come and see what we do on Monday evenings at 6.15pm. Use the side door to the porch. We would love to see you.

Christmas Shoeboxes for Seafarers — Stella Maris

As we do each year, our parishes will once again be supporting Stella Maris, the Catholic charity which cares for seafarers and fishers, by preparing Christmas shoeboxes. Many seafarers spend Christmas far from home and family, and these simple gifts are a practical way for us to show that they are remembered and valued. Shoeboxes are available in our churches for anyone who would like to fill one. Please do not feel that you have to provide a whole box yourself. If you can only manage one or two suitable items, please bring those instead and we will combine everyone's contributions to make up complete boxes. This has become a lovely annual act of Catholic charity and solidarity across our parishes, sharing the love of Christ with those who work far from home. Every contribution, however small, is very gratefully received.

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is a Catholic charity providing spiritual and practical support for Christians, especially those who are persecuted for their faith. Working through local Church partners, ACN supports priests, Sisters, and catechists; helps build churches; provides transport and training for seminarians; and supplies religious literature and emergency aid to those in need. ACN also advocates on behalf of oppressed Christians worldwide. Through prayer, information, and action, ACN helps to keep the Faith alive in a troubled world. ACN will be visiting our parishes again on the weekend of 7th/8th November.

Sacramental Preparation for Children

Families wishing to prepare a child for First Confession, First Holy Communion or Confirmation may begin at any time. Parents may work with their child at home using the parish material, or the parish can provide a mentor to accompany the family. Helpful catechism apps and further information are available at cathparishmje.co.uk.

The most important preparation is to attend Sunday Mass regularly and to pray together at home. Please speak to Fr. John after Mass to begin.

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. John Owens, john.owens@dioceseofnottingham.uk

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE: Hilari Chetwood: 07734 690611

SVP: 07587 355870 or email: svpwigston@hotmail.com

St. Mary's, St. John Bosco, and St. Edward's
Week 29 of Ordinary Time, Lectionary Year A, 2026
Website: cathparishmje.co.uk Phone: 07354 832195
Email: cathparishmje@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Saturday 17th October - St. Ignatius of Antioch, bishop & martyr

5:30pm Confession **St. John Bosco's**

6pm Sunday Mass **St. John Bosco's**, Rev. Patrick Nicholson RIP

Sunday 18th October - Patronal Feast of St. Edward the Confessor

9am Holy Mass **St. Edward's**, Good Health of Caelum & Allegra

Sunday 18th October - 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time

10:30am Rosary **St. Mary's**

11am Holy Mass **St. Mary's**, Hugh and Doreen Dwyer RIP

5:30pm Confession **St. Mary's**

6pm Holy Mass **St. Mary's**, All Parishioners

Wednesday 21st October

10am Holy Mass **St. Edward's**, Monica O'Donovan RIP

Thursday 22nd October

10am Holy Mass **St. Mary's**, Paul Rudkin RIP

7pm Parish Evening **St. Mary's**, Inside St. Mary's - Church Tour

Friday 23rd October (No Meat Today)

10am Holy Mass **St. John Bosco's**, Pat Ballentyne RIP

Saturday 24th October

5:30pm Confession **St. John Bosco's**

6pm Sunday Mass **St. John Bosco's**, Thanksgiving to St. Anthony

Sunday 25th October - 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time

9am Holy Mass **St. Edward's**, Abraham RIP

10:30am Rosary **St. Mary's**

11am Holy Mass **St. Mary's**, Rev. Fr. Chris Hogan RIP

5:30pm Confession **St. Mary's**

6pm Holy Mass **St. Mary's**, All Parishioners

Saints This Week

St John de Brébeuf and St Isaac Jogues were Jesuit missionaries who gave their lives bringing the Gospel to the peoples of North America. St Paul of the Cross, founder of the Passionists, taught Christians to contemplate the

immense love of God revealed in Christ's Passion. St John Paul II travelled throughout the world proclaiming Christ and repeatedly encouraged Christians: "Do not be afraid." St John of Capistrano was a Franciscan preacher and missionary, while St Anthony Mary Claret devoted himself to preaching, Confession and teaching the Catholic faith. Their lives remind us that faith is something to be known, lived and handed on.

Schools' Word of the Week — Justice

Justice means doing what is right and giving each person what they are due. It is not simply about making everything the same. It means treating people fairly, protecting those who are vulnerable, and making sure that nobody is ignored or pushed aside. Jesus teaches us to care especially for the poor, the weak, the lonely and those who are treated unfairly. The saints show us that justice needs courage: sometimes we have to speak up, share what we have, admit when something is wrong, or help someone who cannot help themselves. At home, at school and in our parish, we can practise justice by being honest, playing fairly, keeping our promises, standing up for others, sharing responsibly, and making good choices even when nobody is watching. This week, we can ask: Am I treating other people fairly?

Is there someone who needs me to stand up for them?

What can I do this week to help make things more right and fair?

Prayers at the Graves of the Faithful Departed

During November, we will gather in our local cemeteries to pray for those who have died and commend them to God's mercy.

Sunday 1 November, 2.00pm: Saffron Hill

Sunday 8 November, 2.00pm: Wigston

Sunday 15 November, 2.00pm: Blaby

Sunday 15 November, 3.00pm: Countesthorpe

Sunday 22 November, 2.00pm: Gilroes

Everyone is welcome to join us.

Called to Be Saints

Join us at St Mary's on Saturday 31 October, from 1.00pm to 3.00pm, for a joyful Catholic celebration of All Saints. There will be Catholic teaching, prayer and activities for children, young people, families and adults. We will discover inspiring saints from across the Church. Children are welcome to come dressed as their favourite saint, and each child will receive a small devotional gift. Everyone is welcome.

Church Tour — What Everything Means Thursday 22nd St. Mary's 7pm

This Thursday evening we will have a guided tour of St Mary's, looking at how the church building itself teaches the Catholic faith. We will explore the altar, tabernacle, sanctuary lamp, font, crucifix, statues, Stations of the Cross and other signs and symbols, as well as looking at some of the vestments, sacred vessels, incense and books used at Mass. We will also explain why Catholics genuflect, use holy water, light candles and make the different gestures we see in church.

It will be a practical and relaxed evening, with plenty of opportunity to ask questions and to discover the meaning behind things we may see every week but rarely stop to think about.

Thursday 22nd October, 7–8pm at St Mary's. Everyone is very welcome.

Why does the priest place a small piece of the Host in the chalice?

During the Lamb of God, the priest breaks the consecrated Host and places a small piece into the chalice. As he does so, he quietly prays: "May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it."

This small action is called the commingling. The Church explains that it signifies the unity of the Lord's Body and Blood in the work of salvation, Jesus Christ, living and glorious. The separate consecration of the bread and wine sacramentally represents Christ's sacrifice, but the Christ we receive in Holy Communion is not divided: He is the risen Lord, whole and living, truly present in the Eucharist. This is why you can receive in one kind yet receive the whole Jesus.

The breaking of the Host itself also goes back to Christ at the Last Supper and was so important to the earliest Christians that the Eucharist was known simply as "the breaking of bread." It also reminds us that although we are many, by receiving the one Bread of Life we are made one Body in Christ.

So, while it lasts only a few seconds, the gesture brings together Calvary, the Resurrection, Holy Communion and the unity of the Church just before we come forward to receive the Lord.

The choir in any church has an important role in enhancing our worship to the glory of God. Our choir at St Mary's has several important events coming up over Advent and Christmas. We would really appreciate more singers joining us, including children and young people. You do not have to have a