



Parish of The Annunciation, Rushcliffe

Serving the Churches of Holy Spirit, West Bridgford, Our Lady of Grace, Cotgrave, St Anne, Radcliffe-on-Trent and Bingham, St Margaret Clitherow, Keyworth

<https://parishoftheannunciationrushcliffe.co.uk>

☎ 0115 9814271 ✉ annunciation@dioceseofnottingham.uk

'It was said to those of old; but I say to you.'

Matthew 5:17-37

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year A

Dear Friends

I am grateful to let you know that I am gradually recovering and feeling much better. Thank you sincerely for your prayers, kind messages, and understanding—especially in allowing me to take time to rest and be refreshed. Your support and compassion have been a great source of strength for me.

Next week we begin the holy season of Lent, a sacred time to deepen our relationship with the Lord and prepare our hearts for Easter. In his recent message to the Roman Curia, Pope Leo XIV encourages us to embrace Lent as a time of spiritual renewal, conversion, and growth in faith. He reminds us that Lent is not simply about observance, but about allowing God's grace to transform us through prayer, fasting, and works of charity. You can read the Holy Father's reflection here:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2026-02/pope-leo-roman-curia-lent-spiritual-exercises-theme.html>

As we enter this important liturgical season, I invite each of you to reflect prayerfully on how you might prepare your heart for the joy of Easter. Lent calls us to listen more deeply to God, to turn away from what hinders our relationship with Christ, and to open ourselves more fully to His mercy and love.

Let us walk this Lenten journey together—supporting one another in prayer, encouraging each other in faith, and growing ever closer to the Lord.

With my prayers and blessings,
Peace, John.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Temporary changes to our parish schedule:

- Sunday and weekend Mass arrangements may vary depending on the availability of a supply priest. The arrangements for 22nd February 11am Masses are not yet confirmed. Mass cancellations will be necessary if we are unable to secure a supply priest for this date.

We are actively monitoring the situation and will keep you informed of any updates via email and the parish website. Thank you for your continued prayers, patience, and understanding during this time.

Rite of Election – 22 February 2026

We look forward to accompanying our catechumens and candidates to the Rite of Election at St Barnabas Cathedral on Sunday 22nd February at 3pm.

This is an important stage in their journey of faith. For the catechumens, it marks their being chosen — the "Elect" — as they prepare for Baptism at Easter. For the candidates, it is a joyful step towards full communion with the Catholic Church. This year's theme, "*Called by name*," reminds us that each person has been personally chosen and called by God. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin this final stage of preparation.

Let us pray for those who have died recently With deep sadness, we inform you of the passing of our beloved parishioner Zofia Swiderska, who passed away on the 30th January 2026. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. We also remember those whose anniversary occurs around this time. May they rest in peace.



Holy Spirit and St Anne's SVP Another generous collection for SVP last weekend which will be put to good use, thanks for your continued support. We raised: A total of £1,531 (St Anne's £693; Holy Spirit £838). We can also claim gift aid on over £500.

Our Lady of Grace and St Margaret Clitherow's SVP The SVP collections at Keyworth and Cotgrave on 8th February raised £585.73, of which £175 was with Gift Aid. Thank you all for your great generosity. The money will go to supporting those in need at home and through SVP projects overseas.

Holy Spirit ♦ **Prayers for Vocations.** Thursday evenings next to Our Lady's chapel 7 pm at Holy Spirit church.

Parish Friendship Group Next meeting for the parish Friendship Group will be at the Holy Spirit on Wednesday March 4th from 2pm.

Holy Masses and Services for 14th to 22nd February 2026

Saturday 14th February Sts Cyril, Monk and Methodius, Bishop, Patrons of Europe (Feast)	3.30 - 4.15pm Confessions; SA 4pm Rosary ; SA 4.30pm Mass; SA 6 - 6.15pm Confessions; HS 6.30pm Mass; HS	Fr John Martin (good health) Margaret Foreman RIP
Sunday 15th February Sixth Sunday of the Year	9am Mass; SA  9am Mass; SMC 11am Mass; HS  11am Mass; OLOG	Repose of the Soul of Paul Bowe RIP Fr Slawomir Hermanowicz RIP The People of The Parish Jaime Lindsay RIP
Monday 16th February Feria	9.30am Mass; SA 10am Rosary : SA	Angela Clark
Tuesday 17th February Feria	9am Rosary ; SMC 9.30am Mass; SMC	Thanksgiving for Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi
Wednesday 18th February Ash Wednesday	9am Rosary ; SMC 9am Rosary ; HS 12pm Mass; SA 4pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ; SA 7pm Mass; HS	Ross Wood Aldo Belli RIP
Thursday 19th February Lenten Feria	9.30am Service of the Word and Communion; OLOG 7pm Rosary for Vocations to Religious Life; HS 	
Friday 20th February Lenten Feria	10am Rosary ; SMC 10.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ; SMC 11am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ; SA 11.30am Rosary ; SA 12pm Mass; SA 4.30pm Rosary ; OLOG 6pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ; HS 7pm Mass; HS	Margaret Wadsworth Renata Zacco RIP
Saturday 21st February Lenten Feria	4pm Rosary ; SA 4.30pm Mass; SA 6.30pm Mass; HS	The People of the Parish Kath Spencer RIP
Sunday 22nd February First Sunday of Lent	9am Mass; SA  9am Mass; SMC 11am Mass; HS (TBC)  11am Mass; OLOG (TBC)	Patrick and Eileen Long Curtis Family Kaye McCaul RIP Mrs Sarah Smith

The Service of the Word and Communion, Rosary and Adoration schedule may vary depending on the availability of volunteers to lead the service.

After Mass Refreshment Sunday After Mass; SA, SMC, HS, OLOG; Tuesday After Mass/Service, SMC; Wednesday After Mass/Service, HS; Thursday After Mass/Service, OLOG; Friday After Mass/Service, SA.

CAFOD Quiz night We raised £341 and we also had a really good night full of fun and laughter. Thank you so much for supporting CAFOD's causes and thank you to the wonderful social centre bar staff for giving their time to support CAFOD. **CAFOD Family Fast Day Friday 27th February** This year's Lent FFD appeal will be read out at all Masses the weekend of Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd February, FFD envelopes will also be given out at all Masses. Please take one for each family and return for the second collection the following weekend, Saturday 28th and Sunday 1st March. You can also try our new virtual envelope which allows you to make your Fast Day donation online and link it to our parish. The link is cafod.org.uk/envelope. This year's appeal focuses on the positive outcomes of CAFOD's partnership work with people in Zimbabwe, South Sudan and Bangladesh. Thank you for your ongoing support.

The West Bridgford World Day of Prayer is being hosted by the Holy Spirit Church on Friday the 6th March at 2pm, all are welcome, please support this as we are hosts. A translation into Chinese will be available. Refreshments will be provided after the service. **The Service for "The World Day of Prayer"** written by the women of Nigeria is being held at **St. Anne's church** this year, on Friday 6th March at 2pm, followed by refreshments. Everyone is most welcome to join us for this moving service giving us some insight into the challenges of everyday life in Nigeria and particularly the resilience of the women living in that country. There will be no refreshments after Mass/Service on 6th March at St. Anne's as The World Day of Prayer is being held at 2pm. All welcome!

A Message of Gratitude: Reflections from my Visit Home to Tanzania

Dear Parishioners,

It is a joy to be back with you all. Before I share the details of my journey, I want to begin by offering my deepest thanks for your prayers. Your spiritual support accompanied me every mile of the way, ensuring a safe and peaceful journey to my home village in Tanzania.

While much of my holiday was spent reconnecting with my roots, it was also a time of profound mission. I want to express my sincere gratitude for the incredible kindness and the donations you provided for the poor families in my village.

When I distributed your gifts, the joy and relief on their faces were beyond words. Please know that these families are deeply thankful; they have promised to keep you, their brothers, and sisters in the UK steadfastly in their prayers.

I also bring with me warm, heartfelt greetings from my village Parish Priest, my family and dear friends, and all the parishioners of my home parish.

During my stay, I was blessed to celebrate Mass frequently with the local community. It was moving to celebrate in the main church, but equally powerful to join the outstation congregation. In this area, the faithful currently gather to pray outside under the open sky. However, hope is on the horizon the community is currently planning to begin building a new church building there.



I also had the privilege of celebrating Mass within the private homes of several families, bringing the Eucharist directly to the heart of their domestic lives.



Education remains a priority, and I visited three local schools where I continue to support children in need. Because of your generosity, I was able to cover school fees and essential supplies for several students. I met families who, due to extreme poverty, could not afford to send their children to secondary school. I have added these children to my support list; they are now in school, equipped with new uniforms, shoes, and everything they need to succeed.



At my former primary school, I discovered a serious challenge. The children have no access to clean drinking water, relying solely on an old rainwater tank built back when I was a student there.

Finally, my journey took me across the border to Uganda to visit the parish of the late Fr. Vincent. It was a beautiful visit. I joined the current Parish Priest, Fr. Ronald, and his parishioners to celebrate a memorial Mass.

We spent time in prayer at Fr. Vincent's grave, honouring his memory and the bond that continues to link our communities.

Everything I was able to achieve, the school uniforms, the support for families, and the communal joy was made possible by your generosity. I simply extended the kindness you have shown me to my people at home.



Mungu awabariki sana.

Hakuna matata.

Lent Services

Ash Wednesday, 18th February

- Midday, St Anne
- 7pm, Holy Spirit

Palm Sunday, Sunday 29th March

- 9am, St Anne; St Margaret Clitherow
- 11am, Holy Spirit; Our Lady of Grace

Reconciliation

- Tuesday 3rd March 9.30am, St Margaret Clitherow, Mass followed by Reconciliation
- Wednesday 4th March 9.30am, Holy Spirit, Mass followed by Reconciliation
- Thursday 5th March **TBC**, Our Lady of Grace, Mass followed by Reconciliation
- Friday 6th March 11am, St Anne, Reconciliation followed by Midday Mass
- Friday 13th March 6pm, Holy Spirit, Reconciliation followed by Benediction with Mass

Stations of the Cross, Fridays from 27th February to 27th March

- St Anne: 27th February, 13th March, 20th, 27th, 11am Adoration, 11.30am Stations of the Cross, Midday Mass or Service of the Word and Communion
- Holy Spirit: 27th February (for Vocation), 6th March (lead by CAFOD), 20th (lead by SVP), 27th (lead by Confirmation Group), 6.15pm Stations of the Cross, 7pm Mass
- St Margaret Clitherow: 27th February, 6th March, 13th, 20th (lead by CAFOD), 27th.

The Easter Triduum & Easter Sunday Mass

Maundy Thursday, Thursday 2nd April

- 7pm, St Anne; Holy Spirit, Mass of The Lord's Supper followed by watching at the altar of repose until 10pm

Good Friday, Friday 3rd April

- 3pm, St Anne; Holy Spirit, The Passion of the Lord

The Easter Vigil, Saturday 4th April

- 8pm, St Anne; Holy Spirit (Sacraments of Initiation), Easter Vigil Mass

The Easter Sunday Mass, 5th April

- 9am, St Anne; St Margaret Clitherow
- 11am, Holy Spirit; Our Lady of Grace



Lenten Course:

Our Lady of Grace

- In partnership with other Christian Churches in Cotgrave
- Begins Ash Wednesday, 18th February
- Wednesdays, 1.30–3.00pm
- Venue: Our Lady of Grace
- Course: “Lent in Plain Sight” – exploring ten simple objects Jesus would have seen and used in the Holy Land
- To join, please contact Maureen Jarvis at bandmajarvis@gmail.com before 15th February
- All are welcome

St Margaret Clitherow

- Churches Together in Keyworth Lenten Course 2026
- Based on the award-winning film “*I, Daniel Blake*”
- Five weekly sessions with discussion, reflection, Scripture and prayer
- St Margaret Clitherow hosts the Wednesday afternoon group, beginning 25th February at 2pm
- The film will be shown in full on Thursday 19th February at 7pm at Keyworth Methodist Church (Selby Lane)
- For enquiries, please speak to Nuala, Paul or Carmel
- All are welcome



Second Collection on 21st / 22nd February: The Bishop's Charitable Purpose

Bible Sharing Group (Cantonese) A Bible sharing session for the Hong Kong community will take place on **Sunday 22 February**, from **9:30am to 10:45am**, in the **Holy Spirit Social Centre Lounge**. The session will be conducted in Cantonese. No reservation is required — all are welcome to come and join us.

The Nottingham Diocesan Yearbook 2026 is now available at the back of all churches. Copies cost £6 each.

Upcoming Events in the Diocese of Nottingham and Nearby Parishes

Please visit our parish website

(<https://www.parihoftheannunciationrushcliffe.co.uk/post/upcoming-events-in-the-diocese-of-nottingham-and-nearby-parishes>) for full details about: ♦ Pro-Life Renewal Day – Prayer, Scripture & Renewal (14th Feb) ♦ 40

Days for Life – Prayer Vigil This Lent (18th Feb–29th Mar) ♦ Respond to Our Lady's invitation, and join Bishop Patrick, in the Nottingham Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 2026. Departing from East Midlands airport on Monday 13th July, enjoy five days in Lourdes with over 200 people from across our diocese. Those with additional needs will be cared for by our health team and helpers' team. Mary invites us all to come to this holy place. More details from the tour operator: <https://www.tangney-tours.com/diocese-pilgrimages/diocese-nottingham/>