



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>

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‘Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish.’

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR C)

John: 21:1-14

My First Pilgrimage Experience by Clare Breffitt, Saint Margaret Clitherow, Keyworth

I first came across the opportunity to go on a pilgrimage to Rome when Fr. John Martin mentioned it during Mass one Sunday. I became interested because the trip was open to teenagers.

Eventually, the time came to begin our pilgrimage.

Our first stop in Italy was Assisi. This is where St. Francis, St. Clare, and the Blessed Carlo Acutis are from. While we were there, we saw St. Clare's body, which is covered in beeswax. This gave me mixed feelings, as she is the saint I'm named after. At first, I felt uneasy as she looked like a statue, but it was actually her preserved body. That strange feeling soon faded and was replaced by a wave of peace.

Then we visited the tomb of Carlo Acutis, which was in a small church that felt very homely. He looked like he was peacefully sleeping, maybe dreaming about the future of technology. I found this relatable, as in a way, I am part of that future he once imagined, especially when we play on our phones and iPads.

Next, we visited St. Francis's tomb, located in a large and beautifully detailed church full of gold and incredible paintings. We also had Mass in a small chapel there, led by Fr. John Martin and Fr. Neil Peoples, this was a truly beautiful experience.

After Assisi, we travelled to Rome. One of our first stops was Santa Maria Maggiore, where Pope Francis' final resting place is. There we had Mass lead by Fr John Martin and Fr Neil, right next to where Pope Francis is buried. Then on the other side is where Pope Francis used to pray to Santa Maria, after every overseas trip, and we got to go in where there was a Mass being said in Italian, and we received a blessing. *(Picture on the right: Holy Door at Santa Maria Maggiore, source Dreamstime)*



Then we went to the Basilica of St. John Lateran, where we entered through one of the four Holy Doors in Rome. From there, we rushed to the Holy Stairs of Scala Sancta where we knelt and climbed all 28 steps. I got stuck behind a slow couple, which made the pain in my knees even worse. Once we reached the top, a peaceful mini chapel with monks singing awaited us, it was so calming and spiritual after the hard climb on my knees.

(Picture on the left: Holy Door at Basilica of St. John Lateran, source: pinterest)

Next, we visited the Basilica of San Pietro in Vincoli, where we saw the chains that held St. Peter in prison in Jerusalem and also saw the relics of the crib from Bethlehem. The organ music playing in the background made the moment feel surreal.

The following day, we attended the Pope's funeral. It was an amazing, peaceful, and an emotional experience. We had the best view of St. Peter's Square, surrounded by over 200,000 mourners from all over the world, all united in honouring one man. We received the Eucharist during the service, which reminded me of the miracle of Jesus feeding the 5000. The respect shown by everyone who only clapped instead of cheering during the homily was deeply moving *(source: VATICAN MEDIA Divisione Foto)*.



Later that day, myself, Mum, Aunty Ann, and our new friend Jacqui entered St. Peter's Basilica through another Holy Door, our third in Rome. I joked that I must have saved all the souls in purgatory by now! Inside, we saw the famous Pietà, the statue of the Virgin Mary weeping over Jesus, which was breathtaking. The basilica was filled with statues, gold ceilings, and beautiful paintings. It felt even more special on the day of the Pope's funeral. *(Picture on left: Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica, source: alamy.com)*

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- Continued from previous page - The next day was the Youth Mass, filled with young people my age. It was so encouraging to see, since you don't often see many teenagers at Mass. Originally, the Youth Mass was meant to celebrate the canonisation of Carlo Acutis. It began with the Rosary, followed by Mass and even though we were at the very back of the Travertine Square, we still received the Eucharist. Receiving the Body of Christ twice in the Vatican felt like a double blessing, with waves of peace washing over me, and any stress I had disappeared.

After the Mass, Fr. John Martin treated us to a lovely meal near the Vatican. After lunch while the others went back to St. Peter's square, I, Mum, Aunty Ann, and Jacqui went to the Divine Mercy Church, where we prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 pm on Divine Mercy Sunday. It was beautiful, though I struggled a bit because of the heat and the crowds.



Later, we visited the Trevi Fountain and tossed in a coin while making a wish. Then we went to the Spanish Steps, I ran all the way up and back down just so I could say I did it!

This is just a brief overview of what we did on the pilgrimage, and I have to say I will need a week off school to recover and to process everything we did during the trip....

Thank you, Fr. John Martin for telling us all about it, and I will 100% be going on the next one when Carlo Acutis is canonised, and would definitely recommend this to the youth of our parish.

May - The Month of Mary



May is traditionally dedicated in a special way to honouring and seeking the intercession of Mary as the Mother of God and Mother of the Church. She teaches us the way of holiness and she walks ever at our side. She does not let us remain fallen and at times she takes us into her arms without judging us.

Throughout May, the Rosary will be prayed in our parish churches, please refer to the notice board and parish newsletter for the details.

Prayer to the Virgin Mary for the month of May

Holy Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, we consecrate this month of May to you. Flower of hope, guide our steps towards your Son. Help us to be faithful to the Gospel, gentle in our words, strong in our faith. Through your intercession, obtain for us grace, peace and protection. May each day of this month bring us closer to your immaculate heart. Teach us to love as you do, with tenderness and mercy. Be our refuge in trials, our light in doubts, our strength in struggles. O Mary, Queen of Heaven, watch over our families, our Church and our world. Inspire in us the desire for holiness and the joy of serving with faith. Amen.

Holy Spirit ♦ Our Lady of Visitation The month of May, is a special month of devotion to Mary, it is hoped to foster family prayer and the recitation of the rosary for the intention of peace in our homes and in the world. It gives a chance for those families to come together in prayer for peace, perhaps saying the rosary together or to come to church and say the rosary. At the Holy Spirit Church, Our Lady's statue is passed from household to household. There is a list in the porch for you to sign up for whichever day of the month you would like to have the statue in your home.

Mass for the Sick and Housebound - 10th May, 1:00pm at Holy Spirit Join Fr. John and Fr. Evarist for a special Mass which includes the Sacrament of the Sick for those in need. The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is a sacred Catholic sacrament that offers spiritual strength, healing, and comfort to those facing illness. It provides grace for those experiencing physical or emotional suffering.

Fr. John and Fr. Evarist will administer the Sacrament at Holy Spirit on 10th May at 1:00pm. Following the Mass light refreshments will be available in the Social Centre. If you are able to assist with greeting or serving refreshments your support would be greatly appreciated—please contact the Parish Office for more details. All are welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!







Two-Minute Silence to Mark 80th Anniversary of VE Day On **Thursday 8 May 2025**, UK Government buildings will observe a **two-minute national silence at 12:00 noon** to commemorate the **80th anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe Day)**. We invite all parishioners to join in this moment of reflection and remembrance, honouring the courage and sacrifice of those who served during the Second World War. Whether at home, work, or in the community, please pause with the nation to pay your respects.

Calling All Readers – Experienced, New, or Aspiring! We warmly invite you to our upcoming Parish Readers Refresher Session—a welcoming space for all who currently serve, are new to reading, or feel called to be part of this ministry. This session is designed to foster collaboration, share best practices, and strengthen the spirit of unity in our community. Together, we'll reflect, learn, and grow as we continue to proclaim God's word with confidence and grace. **Workshop Details: Saturday, 17th May | 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM | St Margaret Clitherow, Keyworth** If you'd like to join—or need more information—please contact your Reader Group Leader or the Parish Office. Note: Participants under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. We look forward to seeing you there!



Holy Masses and Services for 3rd to 11th May 2025

Saturday 3rd May Sts. Philip and James	3.30-4.15pm Confessions, SA 4.30pm Mass; SA 5.30-6.15pm Confessions, HS 6.30pm Mass; HS	Catherine Kitchen RIP Mary Lyons RIP
Sunday 4th May Third Sunday of Easter	9am Mass; SA  9am Mass; SMC 11am Mass; HS  11am Mass; OLOG	In loving memory of Nora Theresa Kelly RIP, from her sister Josie Curtis Family Jim Harrington The People of the Parish
Monday 5th May Easter Feria	9.30am Mass; SA	For Dr George Clayfield RIP
Tuesday 6th May Easter Feria	9.30am Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit; SMC (praying for the Cardinals)	Angela Clark's Intention
Wednesday 7th May Easter Feria	9.30am Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit; HS (praying for the Cardinals)	Mal McNulty RIP
Thursday 8th May Easter Feria	No Mass	
Friday 9th May Easter Feria	12pm Mass; SA 7.30pm Mass; HS	In Thanksgiving for Tony In loving memory of Romuald Los
Saturday 10th May Easter Feria	1pm Mass for the Sick and Housebound 4.30pm Mass; SA 6.30pm Mass; HS	Phyllis Miles RIP Christina West RIP
Sunday 11th May Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)	9am Mass; SA  9am Mass; SMC 11am Mass; HS  11am Mass; OLOG	Thanksgiving Golden Wedding Anniversary Leigh and Aileen Birch John and Elizabeth Corcoran RIP The People of the Parish John and Elizabeth D'Arcy (Anniversary)

Rosary: Monday 10am SA; Tuesday 9am SMC; Wednesday 9am HS; 9.30am SMC; Friday 10.15am SMC, 11.30am SA; Saturday 4pm SA.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Wednesday 6pm SA; Friday 10.30am SMC, 11am SA; 6.30pm HS.

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



A special booklet featuring the reflections and personal sharing of our newly confirmed candidates is now available on the parish website and at the back of the church. Please feel free to take a copy and keep them in your prayers as they continue their journey of faith.

Assisted Suicide meeting, 13th May The next stage of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill that would legalise assisted suicide has been pushed back to 16th May. SPUC are organising a public meeting updating us about the Bill and what we need to do next on **Tues 13th May 7.30pm** in Nottingham Cathedral Hall. Speaking will be SPUC's national campaigns director, Alithea Williams, and Professor David Paton of Nottingham University. Please do your best to attend and invite family & friends.

Special Mass for Red Box Supporters Bishop Patrick McKinney will concelebrate a special Mass with Rev. Anthony Chantry MHM, National Director of Missio England & Wales, on **Saturday 10 May at 3 p.m.** at **St Winefride's Church, 50 Charnwood Road, Shepshed LE12 9QF**. After Mass, join us for light refreshments and an opportunity to learn more about Missio and meet fellow Red Box supporters. Please share this invitation within your parish. For more info or to RSVP, email redbox@missio.org.uk.

Growing in Faith Together The Scripture Reading at St Anne will be on the **28th April, 12th May, 19th May and 2nd June starting at 2.30pm.** (no session on 5th May and 26th May as Bank Holidays)

The Nottingham Diocesan Yearbook 2024 is now available to purchase, priced £6.00.

Upcoming Events in the Diocese of Nottingham and Nearby Parishes Visit our parish website for more details: <https://www.pariahoftheannunciationrushcliffe.co.uk/post/upcoming-events-in-the-diocese-of-nottingham-and-nearby-parishes>

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

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Office Opening Hours:

Tuesday to Friday, from 9.00am - 3.00pm

Parish Finance Administrator: Cecilia Cheung

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Faith Formation Coordinator: Ceci Li

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Parish Mission Group:

Chair - Trevor Ryan

Vice Chair - Mary MacArthur

Chair of Parish Finance - Tony Peterson

Vice Chair of Parish Finance - Simon Fong

Secretary - Denise Doyle

To contact the PMG, please email pmgsecretary.nw@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Local Church Group

HS: Helen Hopkinson; Alice Fung: ☎ holy-spiritchurch.lct@dioceseofnottingham.uk

OLOG: John Murray: ☎ john.murray.whm@ntlworld.com

St Anne: John Boland-Lee: ☎ john@bolandlee.plus.com

St Margaret Clitherow: Stewart Molyneux: ☎ stewartmolyneux71@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Team and Details:

◆ Holy Spirit West Bridgford - Penny Chau

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◆ Our Lady of Grace, Cotgrave - awaiting appointment

◆ St Anne, Radcliffe-on-Trent - Christine Marquina

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◆ St Margaret Clitherow, Keyworth - Clare Bhabra

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Safeguarding Coordinator for the Diocese:

Rachael Campion ☎ 0115 953 9849

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Hospitals If you know of anyone in hospital who would like a visit from the chaplain, please call:

QMC: 0115 9249924 (ext. 83799) **City:** 0115 9691169 (ext.837) or email: contactachaplain@nuh.nhs.uk

SACRAMENTS

Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation Programme and Faith Journey Group (RCIA), please contact Ceci Li, Faith Formation Coordinator.

Marriage: six months' notice required. Please contact the Parish Office.

Communion to the Sick and Housebound: Please contact the Parish Office.

Funerals: organised with local funeral directors, please contact the Parish Office to arrange an appointment with the Priest.

Confessions: Every first and third Saturday at Holy Spirit and St Anne before Mass or by request.

Newsletter inserts please contact Ceci Li, Faith Formation Coordinator. Please send your insert by Wednesday noon.

DONATIONS

We appreciate any donation you wish to give by cash, cheque or via online banking.

◆ **Set up a regular donation via your online banking**

Parish bank details: **Annunciation Rushcliffe RCP** **Account Number: 44603560** **Sort code: 30-96-18**

◆ **Gift Aid:** If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider to gift aid your donation, complete the Gift Aid

Declaration: <https://parishoftheannunciationrushcliffe.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Annunciation-Standing-Order-Form-1.pdf>

◆ **New! Donation Envelopes Available** They are now available at the back of the church. If you are eligible for Gift Aid, please fill in the required information on the envelope to ensure your donation can go further.

◆ The new digital donation system - DONA is up and running at Holy Spirit.

Scan the QR code or visit this website

<https://donate.mydona.com/parish-of-the-annunciation> to
make your contributions online.



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Parish Newsletter
Suggested Donation