



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



‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another’

Matthew 11:2-11

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) - YEAR A



Dear Friends,

As we continue our Advent journey together, I want to share with you a beautiful reflection from Pope Leo XIV — one that speaks powerfully to our life together as a parish community. In his recent Jubilee Audience, he reminded us that:

“To hope is to participate: this is a gift that God gives us. ... No one saves the world alone. Not even God wants to save it alone: He could, but He does not want to, because together is better.”

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-12/pope-leo-xiv-jubilee-audience-advent-hope-waiting.html>

This is more than a lovely saying — it is a call. A call to realise that hope isn't something passive or solitary. It's a gift that calls us into community, into shared responsibility and shared love.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR OUR PARISH?

Hope calls us to action. Our waiting this Advent — our hope — should lead us to engage, to serve, to reach out with love. As Pope Leo said, God involves us in His story and His dreams.

Together we build. We are not isolated individuals. Each of us — with our gifts, our prayers, our time, our care — is part of building something greater: the future of our parish, the “kingdom of God” here and now.

Your participation matters. Every one of you is needed. To hope is to participate; to participate is to build. No one can — or should — do it alone.

AN INVITATION TO YOU

As your parish priest, I invite every member of our parish to pray with me and give what you can — your time, your talent, your compassion — and let us walk together. Let us be “pilgrims of hope,” not passive waiting but active, living hope. In this Advent season, may we discover anew that to hope is to participate — and together, build our shared future.

Peace, John.

Let us pray for those who have died recently With deep sadness, we inform you of the passing of our beloved parishioner Filomena Difrancescomarino. 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.



Fr John's Schedule: Clinical appointment – Wednesday 17th December morning; Advent Mass at St Edmund Campion - Thursday 18th December morning. Support Our Lady and St Patrick's to celebrate Mass for Volunteers.- Friday 19th December evening. Church Together Carol Concert at Keyworth - Sunday 21st December evening. **Fr Evarist's Schedule:** Christmas Concert at the Becket - Monday 15th December evening. Support Advent Reconciliation at Corpus Christi Church - Wednesday 17th December evening. Church Together Carol Concert at Keyworth - Sunday 21st December evening. If you would like to check the diary or make an appointment with Fr John or Fr Evarist, please contact the Parish Office.

The first of the Papal **Advent Meditations**, given by Father Roberto Pasolini OFM Cap, Preacher to the Papal Household, is available on the Parish Website (<https://www.parishoftheannunciationrushcliffe.co.uk/news>)

Christmas Offerings to our Priests As is traditional, there is a Christmas collection to provide a gift to our Priests. If you would like to contribute to this, please put the gift in an envelope (these are available in all our churches), or you can donate through the digital donation system at Holy Spirit. If you would like to do this by bank transfer please mark the online payment as Christmas Offering. Thank you for your generosity.

Parish Office closed for Christmas Please note that we are closed from 1pm of Friday 19th December and we will resume duty on Tuesday 6th January. For any emergencies please contact the Clergy Team. Please refer to the contact details from the newsletter, or the notice board at the church or on the Parish website.

Newsletter Update During Office Closure The newsletters will be preprinted before the office closure. If you have any inserts to include, please send them to Ceci Li or the Parish Office by Wednesday 17th December. Thank you for your cooperation.

Holy Masses and Services for 13th to 21st December 2025

Saturday 13th December St Lucy, virgin and martyr	11am Requiem Mass of Remembrance; HS 4.30pm Mass; SA 6.30pm Mass; HS	For the repose of the souls of all who lost their lives in the tragic fire in Hong Kong Mrs Ann Dalton RIP The Duffy Family and the Grant Family
Sunday 14th December Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)	9am Mass; SA  9am Mass; SMC 11am Mass; HS  11am Mass; OLOG	Bob Beves RIP Ernest Raynor RIP For those affected by the fire in Hong Kong The People of the Parish
Monday 15th December Advent Feria	9.30am Mass; SA	Mary Jose RIP
Tuesday 16th December Advent Feria	9.30am Mass; SMC	Repose of the Soul of Una Karai RIP
Wednesday 17th December Advent Feria	9.30am Mass; HS	Stevenson and Inger Family; Regan family and Hartley Family
Thursday 18th December Advent Feria	No Mass	
Friday 19th December Advent Feria	12pm Mass; SA 7.30pm Mass; HS	Barry and Monica Hough RIP Madeleine Cox RIP
Saturday 20th December Advent Feria	3.30 - 4.15pm Confessions; SA 4.30pm Mass; SA 6pm - 6.15pm Confessions 6.30pm Mass; HS	The People of the Parish Noel Bradshaw RIP
Sunday 21st December Fourth Sunday of Advent	9am Mass; SA  9am Mass; SMC 11am Mass; HS  11am Mass; OLOG	Angela Beves Michael Ferrar RIP Denise RIP Repose of the Soul of Margaret Simpson RIP

Rosary Monday 10am SA; Tuesday 9am SMC; Wednesday 9am HS; 9am SMC; Thursday 7pm HS; Friday 10am SMC, 11.30am SA, 3pm OLOG;

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Wednesday 4pm 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.

Holy Spirit ♦ **Holy Spirit Bookshop** - Christmas cards, 2026 Catholic diaries, calendars and much more. Please come and have a look. ♦ **Prayers for Vocations.** Thursday evenings next to Our Lady's chapel 7 pm at Holy Spirit church, (except on Christmas day). ♦ **Flower Team's Greenery Appeal – We Need Your Help!**

1 - Appeal for greenery for swag and wreath making on the 20th Dec in preparation for decorating our church for Christmas. We need evergreens e.g. Holly, Ivy, Eucalyptus Conifer and Spruce, Please leave in the narthex, buckets provided, from the 18th up to 10 am on the 20th.

2 - FLOWERS for Christmas. If you would like to donate flowers in memory of a loved one please donate any RED flowers e.g. ROSES, CARNATIONS, Spray CARNATIONS, poinsettia plant and place in buckets in narthex from 23rd Dec up till 9.30 am on 24th Dec. Thank you from the Flower team at Holy Spirit church .



♦ **A Heartfelt Thank You from Our Local Church Group** With heartfelt gratitude, we thank the 12 dedicated volunteers who came on 6 December and during last week's weekdays to help clean our church as one family. Their joyful teamwork and initiative truly shone—many even offered to return to finish additional cleaning and repair small defects. After completing the work, we shared a lovely chat together. One member reflected that we need time to heal our wound but we cannot complain about the misfortunes we encounter, for we know how deeply Jesus loves us—He suffered great pain and sacrificed himself for our sake. Faith gives us strength. We look forward to our next big cleaning during Lent. As we cleanse our church, may God also cleanse our hearts—renewing our spirits and deepening our connection to Him.

THANK YOU!



Christmas Quiz Copies of our Christmas Quiz set by Dick Francis in aid of Emmanuel House are back in all our Churches this weekend (please check in your narthex). This is the ideal stocking filler for family, friends, work colleagues and neighbours. Entry fee is a minimum of £2. Details of closing date and Dick's email address can be found on your copy. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and has for many years enabled Emmanuel House to make a significant difference to the well being of others - a really worthy cause! Thank you Dick and Quizzers.

Celebrate the seasons of Advent and Christmas - Schedule of Masses

Christmas Eve Masses - Wednesday 24th December

Christmas Family Masses

- ◆ St Anne - 3.30pm Carols, 4pm Mass
- ◆ Holy Spirit - 4pm, 6.30pm
- ◆ Our Lady of Grace - 6pm Carols, 6.30pm Mass

Carols and Midnight Mass

- ◆ Holy Spirit - 11.30pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Masses - Thursday 25th December

Holy Spirit; St Anne; St Margaret Clitherow - 10.30am

To support our priests during the busy Christmas season and to ensure their wellbeing — especially with Christmas Day falling in the middle of the week — there will be a temporary adjustment to the weekday Mass schedule as follows:

Weekday Masses (Post-Christmas): From Thursday, 26 December 2025, to Wednesday, 7 January 2026, weekday Masses will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m.

These changes have been thoughtfully made to care for our priests and to support them during this joyful yet demanding time. We kindly ask for your understanding and cooperation.

Important Notes:

- **Holy Spirit** - No morning Mass on Wednesday 24th December and no refreshments after 11am Mass on Wednesday 31st December
- **St Anne** - No Adoration at St Anne on Wednesday 24th December.

The information is also on the parish website and on the notice boards at each church. For any enquiries, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.



Fr Evarist's Holiday: 5 January – 7 February

Fr Evarist will be in Tanzania for his holiday from 5th January to 7th February. During this period, we kindly ask for your understanding and support as some adjustments to our Mass and Service schedules will be necessary.

After consultation and careful listening to feedback from the PMG and our local church groups, we have worked hard to secure supply priests so that our Sunday Mass schedule can remain stable across all churches except Sunday 25th January. We are grateful to those priests who are able to assist.

Weekday provision, however, remains more challenging. We also ask for your understanding as Fr John needs to conserve his energy during this time, and therefore the following temporary adjustments have been put in place.

From Thursday 8th January to Thursday 5th February:

- Monday 9.30am, SA - Service of Word and Communion
- Tuesday 9.30am, SMC - Mass
- Wednesday 9.30, HS - Mass
- Thursday - no Mass
- Friday Midday, SA - Mass

Important Note

- **Sunday 25th January** - We have not yet been able to secure a priest to celebrate Mass on Sunday 25th January. We are continuing to work on this, and we ask you to please check the parish website and newsletter for the latest updates.
- **Holy Spirit** - During Jan 2026, there will be no Holy Hour on Friday evenings as there will not be an evening mass, except on Friday the 2nd January 2026, when we have Mass following Holy Hour with Benediction.

Securing supply priests in January has become increasingly difficult. Several retired priests are unable to drive in the dark or have health concerns, which limits availability. Please also be aware that supply priests receive a stipend of £75 plus travel expenses for each Mass they celebrate. We are deeply appreciative of their support whenever they are able to help. Thank you for your patience, support, and understanding as we work together for the good of our parish community. Please feel free to share any feedback that may help us continue to improve.

Advent Appeal from SVP (Holy Spirit & St Anne) - Collection Weekend: 13th/14th December

SVP is launching the Advent Appeal to support homeless charities in Nottingham, including Emmanuel House, The Friary, and the London Road Hostel. Please return your filled bag to Holy Spirit Church or St Anne's Church on the collection weekend of 13th/14th December. Copies of the requested items list will be available on the Parish website and at the back of both Holy Spirit and St Anne's churches. Thank you, as always, for your generosity and compassionate support.



Upcoming Events and Job Vacancies in the Diocese of Nottingham and Nearby Parishes

Please visit our parish website for full details: <https://www.parihoftheannunciationrushcliffe.co.uk/post/upcoming-events-in-the-diocese-of-nottingham-and-nearby-parishes>.

Please visit our parish

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr John Martin ☎ 0115 9814271

☎ 07714 460526 **[FOR EMERGENCY ONLY]**

✉ john.martin@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr Evarist Kaniki ☎ 0115 9814271

☎ 07424 542925 **[FOR EMERGENCY ONLY]**

✉ evarist.kaniki@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Parish Admin: Margaret Joby 0115 9814271

annunciation@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Office Opening Hours:

Tuesday to Friday, from 9.00am - 3.00pm

Parish Finance Administrator: Cecilia Cheung

✉ cecilia.cheung@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Faith Formation Coordinator: Ceci Li

✉ ceci.li@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Parish Mission Group:

Chair - Trevor Ryan

Vice Chair - Mary MacArthur

Chair of Parish Finance - Ken Elliott Smith

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:

✉ holyspiritchurch.lct@dioceseofnottingham.uk

OLOG: Maureen Jarvis: ✉ bandmajarvis@gmail.com

St Anne: Steve McMenemy: ✉ stevemcmen@btinternet.com

St Margaret Clitherow: Stewart Molyneux:

✉ stewartmolyneux71@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Team and Details:

◆ Holy Spirit West Bridgford - Penny Chau, Victoria Ncube

✉ Penny.ChauPSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk

✉ Victoria.NcubePSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk

☎ 07513 725480

◆ Our Lady of Grace, Cotgrave - Paula Vyze

✉ Paula.VyzePSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk

◆ St Anne, Radcliffe-on-Trent - Michael Chesters, Simon Nelson

✉ Michael.ChestersPSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk

✉ Simon.NelsonPSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk

☎ 0751 372 5553

◆ St Margaret Clitherow, Keyworth - Clare Bhabra

✉ Clare.BhabraPSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk

☎ 0751 372 5415

Safeguarding Coordinator for the Diocese:

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>

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

Scan the QR code or visit this website
<https://donate.myдона.com/parish-of-the-annunciation> to
make your contributions online.

