



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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‘Your brother was dead, and is alive.’

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Message from Fr John

Dear friends,

I was recently at a ‘Road Show’ with Bishop Patrick, accompanied by the Chairs of our Parish Mission Group, Trevor Ryan, Saint Margaret Clitherow Finance, Tony Peterson, Saint Anne’s Cecilia Cheng (Parish Finance) Cecilia Lee (Faith Formation Co-ordinator) Holy Spirit and Daniel Cunningham, (Parish Mission Group Member) Our Lady of Grace. Bishop Patrick is going around our diocese sharing his vision of how he sees the future of his diocese in the next 5 -10 years. And he wanted us to both hear and see ‘The Story So Far’. I invite you to take a look at the data below. This will give you a picture of how things have changed over the years.

Statistics shared in the ‘The Story So Far’ shared by the Bishop Patrick in the Roadshow, 2025

<u>In 1985</u>	<u>In 2015</u>	<u>In 2021</u> (at the end of the official phase of Covid)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mass attendance in our diocese was 50,391• We had 145 active priests• We had 158 churches in which Sunday Mass was celebrated• We had 24 students for the priesthood in major seminaries, 2 in pre-seminary and 8 in Junior Seminary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mass attendance was 29,848 (a reduction of 41%)• We had 92 active priests (a reduction of 37%)• We had 156 churches in which Sunday Mass was celebrated (a reduction of just 1%)• We had 8 students in Major Seminary, 1 in pre-seminary, no Junior Seminary now exists, and 13 training for the Permanent Diaconate which has proved to be a very helpful ministry across the diocese.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mass attendance in October 2020 was 17,468 (a reduction of 65% since 1985)• We had 85 active priests (a reduction of 41% from 1985)• We had 140 churches in which Sunday Mass was celebrated (a reduction of 11% since 1985)• We had 1 student in Major Seminary and 1 in pre-Seminary (a reduction of 94% since 1985) and 3 training for the Permanent Diaconate (a reduction of 77% since 2015)

Diocesan direction: It is envisaged that our total of 108 parishes in 2022 will by Pentecost 2026, and after ongoing careful consultation, be reduced to **54 parishes, including 11 stand-alone parishes**. The stand-alone parishes, means churches, that are isolated and not within reach of another church.

You as Parishioners, have been on a journey over the last five years. Moving from your individual churches and communities to building a New Parish Community of the Annunciation Rushcliffe, what a journey that has and continues to be. I joined this community and have journeyed with you from 1st September 2022. I want you to know how encouraged and impressed I have been by your deaddiction and commitment to both your faith first and foremost and secondly to the Mission of the GOSPEL! You truly are awe-inspiring, from the oldest to the youngest member of the parish, you bring joy, you light up peoples faces, you reach out to the ends of the earth and the list is endless.

We as a parish are and will continue to face the challenges of being a member of our beautiful church, with all its challenges and difficulties. Let us, remember, united we stand divided we fall. Take courage from the challenges that do and will come our way. May the scripture passage Everything Has a Season from the book of Ecclesiastes 3:1-9, enable us to see the mind and hand of God in everything!

~ To be continue in next page ~

Parish Finances

Friends, I truly dislike asking for money but when I have had the cheek to ask you for your financial help to support others you have responded extremely generously. And I am deeply grateful for that help, by your generosity you have made the lives of others that little bit easier and all I can say is a humble 'Thank You'.

I am reaching out to you now, for the good of our Parish, as you would all expect over the past three years the costs of running the Parish have increased. Our Parish is not immune from the rises in energy costs, staff costs, travel, housekeeping, just like yourselves. In those three years, inflation (RPI) has risen 22%.

During the same period our income, which over 90% is collections from parishioners has remained relatively constant. The largest part of collections over 75% comes from regular bank transfers from 225 parishioners from a weekend Mass attendance of 860. Of these 225 parishioners 21% do not gift aid their donation. This has resulted in an unsustainable position of an income shortfall of £1,000 a week.

Please, please do what you can to support our Parish. I am asking you friends, if you are able to make these changes as soon as possible.

- 1) To establish a regular bank transfer giving to the Parish
- 2) Please complete a Gift Aid declaration if you are a taxpayer
- 3) Review the amount you regularly donate, has it increased in the last twelve months? Are you able to give some more each donation?

I leave you with a couple of thoughts, two cups of coffee at Costa is £6:20, a Premium Seat at the Showcase Cinema is £13.

May I take this opportunity to say a big thank you for all you do for our parish.

Peace, A humble Fr John

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>

◆ The new 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.






Holy Spirit ◆ **Holy Spirit Cricket Club** would you like to get involved with the Parish cricket team? We play friendlies on weekday evenings/Sundays against other churches, work teams & clubs. We have some practice nets coming up and then lots of games planned for the summer. New players of any standard are welcome. Don't be fooled by the Club's name: parishioners from any of our four churches are most welcome, as are family & friends, including juniors aged 13+. If you would like to know more, contact David at David.Paton@nottingham.ac.uk 0795 405 4778.

St Anne ◆ **Silent Adoration Schedule Update - British Summer Time** With the start of British Summer Time this Sunday, we welcome longer evenings filled with light. Beginning Wednesday, 2nd April, our Silent Adoration will take place from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. We invite you to join us in this peaceful hour of prayer and reflection.

St Margaret Clitherow ◆ **Welcome Warm Spaces** The Autumn /Winter sessions of WELCOME WARM SPACES in KEYWORTH finished on Friday. Thank you to the many volunteers from St Margaret Clitherow who willingly helped out on Fridays. Without your support Welcome Warm Spaces would not have been nearly as successful as it has been. THANK YOU! ◆ **The next meeting of St Margaret Clitherow Local Church Group** is on Wednesday 2nd April at 6.00pm. All are welcome to attend. ◆ **The Northern Leg of the Pilgrim Cross Holy Week pilgrimage to Walsingham** (<https://pilgrimcross.org.uk/>) will start from St Margaret Clitherow on Saturday 12th April. Pilgrims will be staying in the church overnight from Friday 11th April and will need food. Please sign the sheets in the narthex if you are able to help. Vegetarian and/or vegan dishes will be suitable for everyone.

Fourth Sunday of Lent - Holy Masses and Services for 29th March - 6th April 2025

Saturday 29th March Lenten Feria	6.30pm Mass; HS	Mal McNulty RIP
Sunday 30th March Fourth Sunday of Lent Laetare Sunday	10.30am Parish Feast Mass; Becket School 	The People of The Parish
Monday 31st March Lenten Feria	9.30am Mass; SA	Canon Anthony Dolan RIP
Tuesday 1st April Lenten Feria	9.30am Mass; SMC Followed by Lenten Reconciliation	Sr Beuno RIP
Wednesday 2nd April Lenten Feria	9.30am Mass; HS	Catherine Downie RIP
Thursday 3rd April Lenten Feria	No Mass	No Mass
Friday 4th April Lenten Feria	11am Lenten Reconciliation Followed by 12pm Mass; SA 7.30pm Mass; HS	Attilio Bagatti
Saturday 5th April Lenten Feria	11am <i>Baptism</i> ; HS 3.30-4.15pm Confessions; SA 4.30pm Mass; SA 5.30-6.15pm Confessions; HS 6.30pm Mass; HS	Issac Evan O'Boyle Pauline Holmes RIP Cath McNamara RIP
Sunday 6th April Fifth Sunday of Lent Passion Sunday	9am Mass; SA 9am Mass; SMC 11am Mass; HS 11am Mass; OLOG 1pm <i>Baptism</i> ; HS  	The People of The Parish Intentions of Kent and Sylvia Doyle Mary Lyons RIP Maureen McKerr RIP Rosie Aoife Pope

Rosary Tuesday 9am SMC; Wednesday 9am HS; 9.30am SMC; Friday 10.15am SMC; 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. **Toddler Group** Thursday 10am; HS (Term-time only)

Let us pray for those who have died recently: Our dear friend Damian Kildear, talented artist, traveller, raconteur, deeply faith filled passed away on the 3rd of March. Please keep him and the faithfully departed in your prayers. We also remember those whose anniversary occurs around this time. May they rest in peace.



CAFOD - Hot Cross Bun raiser Sunday 13th April after the 11am Mass, Holy Spirit social centre. There will be Hot Cross buns and drinks, Raffle, Books, Jewellery, Soaps, Fairtrade and beautiful Easter Chicks. Please come along.



Frs Dermot and Emmanuel wish to thank everyone in the parish for their warm welcome last weekend. Thanks also to those who helped them out at each of the Masses.

If you missed the chance to get a Red Box please contact your Local Secretary: ♦ Holy Spirit - Sally Smith ♦ Our Lady of Grace - Tess Foster ♦ St Anne's John Boland-Lee ♦ St Margaret Clitherow - Jack Pye See missio.com for more information and for how you can donate.



New Community Group - Growing in Faith Together Lent is a good time to do something extra to grow in faith and prayer. Please come to take part in one of the groups happening in the parish in Lent up until Holy Week. All are welcome.

- ♦ **Scripture Sharing Group:** Monday afternoons 2pm-3pm in St Anne, Radcliffe.
- ♦ **Scripture Sharing Group:** Thursday afternoons in Holy Spirit social centre, 2pm-3.30pm.
- ♦ **Learning the Divine Office:** Wednesday evening 8pm Holy Spirit Church.



DIOCESAN UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Pro-Life Chain. Each year, close to the anniversary of the implementation of the Abortion Act, SPUC holds public acts of witness around the UK to remind people of the reality and injustice of abortion. The witness is in the form of a chain of pro-lifers, standing by a road, and holding posters which indicate the reasons why we believe abortion to be unjust. The witness is silent, peaceful and legal. This year's Nottingham chain will be on Gregory Boulevard, Forest Fields, on Saturday 26th April from 10am until midday. Please join us if you are able to. For more information contact spucnottingham@gmail.com or call 07757 815 625. Unborn children are without a voice. Let's stand up and be a voice for them.

Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Service (NDCYS) invites young people aged 16-18 in full time education, who are unable to join the Diocesan Jubilee Lourdes Pilgrimage as part of a school or parish group, to join them in taking part in the Pilgrimage. Meet like-minded young people from across the diocese, be encouraged in your faith and serve others. You will be accompanied by our experienced staff and join with the youth contingent of the Lourdes pilgrimage with young people from across the diocese. For more information contact events@ndcys.com Bookings close on 1st May.

The **NDCYS** is also organising a **Lourdes Reunion** on Saturday 26th July at Saint Mary's Church, Derby DE1 3AU. Young people are invited from 1am, with Mass at 3pm, followed by refreshments for all pilgrims. For more information and to register visit ndcys.com/events-and-opportunities

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

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Parish Admin: Margaret Joby ☎ 0115 9814271

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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 Safeguarding Team and Details:

◆ Holy Spirit West Bridgford - Penny Chau

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◆ St Margaret Clitherow, Keyworth - Clare Bhabra

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Safeguarding Coordinator for the Diocese:

Rachael Campion ☎ 0115 953 9849

safeguarding@dioceseofnottingham.uk

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.