

**Fourth Sunday of Advent.**

The Advent wreath, four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God.

During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. Others consider the lighting of the first candle to symbolize expectation, while the second symbolizes hope, the third joy and the fourth purity. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world.

The order and exact wording vary among churches, but the wreath continually reminds us of whom we are called to be as followers of Jesus.



**Prayer for the Advent**

*Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
ever faithful to your promises and ever close to your Church:  
the earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming and  
looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time.*

*Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us  
from feeling the joy and hope which  
His presence will bestow, for he is Lord forever and ever.*

*Amen.*

	<p><b>Mother of God Greencoat Road LE3 6NZ Leicester</b></p> <p><b>☎(0116) 287 5232</b> ✉<a href="mailto:mogparish@gmail.com">mogparish@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk">www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</a></p> <p><i>NRCDT- Registered Charity</i></p>	<p><b>Clergy:</b> <b>Fr. Gabriel Offor</b> <b>Dn Joseph S.</b></p> 
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**24<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Sunday 24.12	10am 11.30am	Phillis Byrne Tom Joseph	2 Sam 7:1-5.8-12.14.16 Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38
Monday 25.12	10am 11.30am	Eamon O'Brien RIP Micheal Doherty's int.	Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18
Tue 26.12	10am	Roselyn Tom	Acts 6:8-10,7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22
Wed 27.12	10am	Tom Reap RIP	1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:2-8
Thu 28.12	10am	Una Shearer RIP	1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Mt 2:13-18
Friday 29.12	10am	Tom Reape RIP & Brendan Marrian RIP	1 Jn 2:3-11 Lk 2:22-35
Sat 30.12	10am	Shaiby Joseph's Intentions	1 Jn 2:12-17 Lk 2:36-40
Sunday 31.12	10am 11.30am	Pat O'Connor RIP Una Shearer RIP	Gen 15:1-6.21:1-3 Heb 11:8.11-12.17-19 Lk 2:22-40

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 1 hour each day before weekly Mass  
Sacrament of Reconciliation after Mass on Saturday, or whenever required.**

**Feasts of the week:**

- Tue, St Stephen, The First Martyr.
- Wed, St John, Apostle and Evangelist.
- Thu, The Holy Innocents, martyrs.
- Fri, St Thomas Becket, bishop and martyr.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve:

Carol Service at 7pm  
Vigil Mass at 7.30pm  
Vigil Mass (Malayalam) 9pm  
10am and 11.30am

Christmas Day Mass:

Please Note: The collection at all Christmas Masses will be your offering to Fr. Gabriel. Please use your Gift Aid Envelope.

The Induction Mass for Father Gabriel will be on Friday January 26th at 7pm. The Ceremony of Induction is an occasion when a new Parish Priest is formally presented to the parish in a liturgical context. The ceremony is so arranged to remind priest and people of their responsibility together before God to serve Christ in his Church.

Patrick O'Connor RIP, passed away on 7th December. His funeral was celebrated at Mother of God on Friday 22nd December at 10am. Our sincere and deepest condolences to his wife Margaret, his children, family and friends.

Pilgrimage to Lisieux- April 9th - 12th 2018. Full Board £300 sharing. £320 single room with En Suite facilities. Travel by Coach and and Ferry. Follow in the footsteps of St. Therese of Lisieux. Guided tour of the museum also included. Full guided pilgrimage by a Guide from the Pilgrim Centre in Lisieux. For more information & a booking form please contact Fr. John McCay at jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk or on 07853068189. Also a Pilgrimage to Lourdes & Nevers in June. If you would like to find out more, contact Fr John McCay on 0115 981 0320 Email [jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk) See details in church porch.

VACANCY: "St Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Stamford: has a vacancy for a permanent full-time head teacher commencing 1 September 2018. Full details are available from EPM, the school's HR providers, at [headship@EPM.co.uk](mailto:headship@EPM.co.uk). Visits to the school can be arranged by contacting Mrs Sue Bray, School Business Manager, on 01780 762094. The closing date for applications is noon Monday 22nd January 2018 with interviews being held on Friday 26th January."



Thank you so much to all who have donated throughout the year.

Christmas Appeal 2017.

Please support the local charity Action Homeless, who have many hostels around the city, including one for abused women and their children. Public expenditure cuts make it very difficult for them to find money for basic toiletries such as soap, toothpaste, shower gels etc. Please help if you can by also leaving items such as chocolates, biscuits etc. under the table in the church porch. Thank you for your support

Parish Hall Bookings. For any enquiries on how to book the Hall, please contact 07527829413 or email [moghallbooking@gmail.com](mailto:moghallbooking@gmail.com)



Please keep in your prayers all the sick and housebound people of the parish. If you know of anyone who would like a visit from Father Gabriel, please let him know.

Financial details: Loose Plate £322.61. Envelopes £494.25. Second Collection £181.27. Thank you very much for your kind donations.

300 Club: 17 December £50 Mrs L Brooks (247). £25 M-F McKay (65), S Donlan (31).

Thought for the week: Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift of God, that is why we call it the present. Bill Keane

Pope Francis December Intentions: The Elderly.

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

CAFOD World Gift - The true spirit of Christmas giving. Choosing a world gift is a great way to rediscover what it really means to share the love, peace and joy of Christmas. Catalogue available at the back of the Church.



To all Parishioners and our Supporters, a wish of a very joyful and peaceful Christmas with God's Blessings from Fr. Gabriel.

