

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND MASS TIMES

Confessions: Wednesday 18th December at 6.30pm.
Christmas Eve: Carol Singing at 5.30pm - Vigil Mass at 6pm
 Vigil Mass (Malayalam) at 9pm
 Carol Singing Practice: Sunday 22nd after the 10.30am Mass.

Christmas Day Mass: 10.30am
 Malayalam Christmas Mass: 4pm



A Prayer for the Advent Wreath

Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ,
 for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people.
 He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us.
 He is the Saviour of us all.

O Lord,
 let your blessing come upon us as we light
 the first (purple) candle of this wreath.
 May the wreath and its light be a sign
 of Christ's promise of salvation.
 May He come quickly and not delay.
 We ask this in His holy name.

Amen

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<p>Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - www.ctlk.org/p_Home.ikml English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/</p>		
<p>Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914</p>		



Second Sunday of Advent

8th - 15th December 2019

Sunday 8.12	10.30am 4pm	Christine Hipwell RIP - Patrick O'Connor RIP T.U. Jose Thuruthuvelil RIP- Jn Anto Jije Bday Korah Varghese, Lizy RIP	Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-9 Matthew 3:1-12
Monday 9.12	No Mass		
Tue 10.12	10am	Fanchea (Fancha)	Isaiah 40:1-11 Matthew 18:12-14
Wed 11.12	6pm	People of the Parish	Isaiah 40:25-31 Matthew 11:28-30
Thu 12.12	10am	P.A. Madanan ints	Isaiah 41:13-20 Matthew 11:11-15
Friday 13.12	10am	People of the Parish	Isaiah 48:17-19 Matthew 11:16-19
Sat 14.12	10am	People of the Parish	Sirach 48:1-4,9-11 Matthew 17:10-13
Sunday 15.12	10.30am 4pm	John Murphy ints Jacob George Thanks - Bimi Pious ints	Isaiah 35:1-6,10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

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: Monday, Immaculate Conception of the BVM. Friday, St. Lucy.
 Saturday, St. John of the Cross, Priest.

Pope Francis December Intentions: Universal - The Very Young
 That every country resolutely commits to taking the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

THE FOUR WEEKS OF ADVENT

During the first two weeks of Advent we light the first two purple candles. The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. On this day we celebrate that our waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas day is almost over. Rose is a liturgical colour that is used to signify joy, so we light the single pink candle on the third Sunday of Advent.

Then on the fourth Sunday of Advent, the final purple candle is lit to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait expectantly for the soon-coming birth of the King of Kings.

Traditionally, each of the four Advent candles have a deeper meaning which is depicted in the lovely Four Weeks of Advent Pewter Wreath:

- The 1st Sunday of Advent symbolizes Hope with the “Prophet’s Candle” reminding us that Jesus is coming.
- The 2nd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Faith with the “Bethlehem Candle” reminding us of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.
- The 3rd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Joy with the “Shepherd’s Candle” reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.
- The 4th Sunday of Advent symbolizes Peace with the “Angel’s Candle” reminding us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”

In modern day adaptations, the white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the “Christ Candle” and represents the life of Christ. The color white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior.



Encounter: Celebrating God’s Word; enriching our worshipping and spiritual community

‘The God who speaks’ initiative serves to teach us how important the scriptures are in helping us to encounter God: to hear afresh what he asks of us in our daily lives, and to share with Him our joys, sorrows and anxieties.

We are encouraged to discover, or deepen still more, a love for the Word of God in the Bible, so that we may strengthen our relationship with Christ, whom we meet there. This theme fits so well with our own diocesan emphasis on helping each other to encounter God’s love, so that we might become more and more personally convinced of the living relationship that Christ wants with each of us.

As we begin with this Season of Advent, I pray that our engagement with the daily scriptures will help us to reflect on these three great truths: Christ has come; Christ will come again in glory; and Christ is now truly present amongst us. Let us remember the first with gratitude, look forward in hope to the coming again of Christ in glory, and try our best to respond generously to our daily encounters with Christ, truly present among us. -Bishop Patrick

Matthew’s Gospel—a sample is in each parish. A suggestion is that all parishioners have a copy of this gospel book. It’s a handy size to keep in your pocket or handbag and to get out at any time. It’s also a great opportunity for people to create a relationship with Jesus through scriptures written by St Matthew and to encourage further reading of the bible. Why not order some for your parish—bought in bulk it costs £1.20 per copy! biblesociety.matthewsgospelcatholic

Charity Donations

In his Pastoral letter of last October, Bishop Patrick reminds us of how many homeless people there are in England and how we can help, not only with our prayers but also with practical things. In Leicester there are a number of hostels, which are trying to do their best with the little money they have. They rely very much on donations and need all our support to provide them with a bed for the night and food. They also need toiletries and warm items for them, such as gloves, socks, hats and perhaps, at this time of the year, when we celebrate Christmas, with a few luxury items such as biscuits and chocolates.

Please help if you can.

There will be a box in the church porch for your donations. Thank you so much.

Financial details: Loose Plate £128.09. Envelopes £311.60. Donations £120. Christmas Fayre £886. Thank you very much for your generous donations.
300 Club: 1st December £50 Mr E Nugent (19). £25 E Fernandes (218), M Devlin (154).

Thought for the week: “The environment is in us, not outside of us. The trees are our lungs, the rivers our bloodstream, and what you do to the environment, ultimately, you do to yourself.” ~ Ian Somerhalder



If You have a charity box please bring it to church to be emptied. Thank you. Also collect your free 2020 Calendar.



It will soon be Christmas! Please buy your Christmas cards, diaries, candles etc. from the Repository Stall. Also, Christian postage stamps, which are available at any major Post Offices.

We need your Help!

Volunteers are needed for cleaning of our church to join the Malayalam Community who has been doing it for the past few years every Saturday. Please contact Teresa Knott on 07877581148. Please put your name on the list in the church porch.



Broadcasting 24/7 Prayers, Reflections, Features and Music, plus Live Masses. An Online Radio station which is very inspiring if you cannot get to church.