

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND MASS TIMES

**Confessions:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm.  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2-4pm.

**Carol Singing Practice:** Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> after the 10.30am Mass.

**Christmas Eve:** Carol Singing at 5.30pm - Vigil Mass at 6pm  
Vigil Mass (Malayalam) at 9pm

Christmas Day Mass: 10.30am



*A Prayer for Gaudete Sunday*

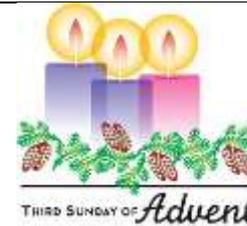
*Dear God, you know that our hearts long for the joy and gladness promised by life with you. Help us to remember that you are with us always, and that our hearts will rest only when they rest with you.*

*» Holy Spirit, guide the choices we make throughout this week. Help us endure hardship. Remind us to be patient. Stifle our tendency to complain. Help us realize how much we owe the creator for all we have and all we are.*

*» Father in heaven, we offer thanks to you for sending John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of the savior. Help us to heed the Baptist's message to repent and to renew our commitment to live in holiness.*

*» Come Lord Jesus. So often we are impatient for your coming, yet we are fearful of living our lives as one with you. Come and ease our anxiety. Come and reward our patience. Come and remove our sorrow. Our communities and our world eagerly awaits the day of your birth.*

	<p><b>Mother of God</b> Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</p> <p>☎(0116) 287 5232 ✉<a href="mailto:mogparish@gmail.com">mogparish@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk">www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</a></p> <p>NRCDT- Registered Charity</p>	<p><b>Parish Priest:</b> Fr. George Thomas <a href="mailto:gchelackal@gmail.com">gchelackal@gmail.com</a></p>
<p>Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - <a href="http://www.ctlk.org/p_Home.ikml">www.ctlk.org/p_Home.ikml</a> English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - <a href="http://www.emschool.co.uk/">www.emschool.co.uk/</a></p>		
<p>Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914</p>		



15<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019

*Gaudete Sunday*

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
Monday 16.12	No Mass		
Tue 17.12	10am	Kath Gregory Ints	Genesis 49:2,8-10 Matt 1:1-17
Wed 18.12	6pm 6.30pm	Pat O'Rourke RIP Confessions	Jeremiah 23:5-8 Matthew 1:18-24
Thu 19.12	10am	Amalia & Wladyslaw Swiatlon RIP Roselyn Tom Thanks	Judges 13:2-7,24-25 Luke 1:5-25
Friday 20.12	10am 5-8pm	People of the Parish Teenage youth & parents retreat (Malayalam)	Isaiah 7:10-14 Luke 1:26-38
Sat 21.12	9.30am 10am 2-4pm	Holy Mass (no adoration) 2 <sup>nd</sup> day retreat (Malayalam) Confessions	Song of Songs 2:8-14 Luke 1:39-45
Sunday 22.12	10.30am 2pm	Bridie O'Grady RIP 3rd day retreat (Malayalam)	Isaiah 7:10-14 Romans 1:1-17 Matthew 1:18-24

**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:** St. Peter Canisius, 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.

### Third Sunday of Advent.

Today is known as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath. "Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Saviour means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The often repeated Veni ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament. Gaudete Sunday is a joyous celebration.

**Christmas Eve Vigil Mass**, the children of the parish are invited to dress up in nativity costumes for this mass, angels, shepherds, kings, Our Lady, St Joseph...older children could dress as carol singers. We look forward to seeing you all. Thank you.



#### **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! [Biblesocietyatmatthewsgospelcatholic.com](http://Biblesocietyatmatthewsgospelcatholic.com).



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

**Pilgrimage to Lourdes and Nevers** by Coach June 13th - 20th 2020. (Pick up in Nottingham, Derby and Leicester). The cost is £595 per person. This price includes Coach and Ferry travel, overnight stay with Bed and Breakfast at the Welcome Break hotel in Orleans on the way out, full board at the Hotel Irlande in Lourdes, half board at the Kyriad Hotel in Nevers on the way back. In addition to this there's an optional excursion to Gavarnie, a Ski Resort in the Pyrenees. For more information and a booking form please contact Fr. John McCay at [jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk) or 0115 9810320

**Parish Pilgrimage to Lisieux** by Coach March 2nd - 5th 2020. Pick up in Nottingham, Derby and Leicester). The cost of the Pilgrimage is £345. We will begin our Pilgrimage with a Guided visit to the Cathedral in Lisieux and then to the Basilica dedicated to St. Therese, to the house where she grew up and to the Carmel where she lived and died. In addition to this there'll be an optional excursion to Hon Fleur. For more information and a booking form please contact Fr. John McCay at [jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk) or 0115 9810320.

### 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 £149.60. Envelopes £199.10. Donations £20. Kerala Community £6,600. Thank you very much for your generous donations.

**300 Club:** 8<sup>th</sup> December £50 A Hall (271). £25 P Fox (259), E Waldron (57).

**Thought for the week:** Caring can be learned by all human beings, can be worked into the design of every life, meeting an individual need as well as a pervasive need in society. **Mary Catherine Bateson.**

*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.