

Holy Week Schedule:
Online at Mother of God Church Presbytery, Leicester.

- 5/04/2020 Palm Sunday**
10.30 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass English
04.00 p.m. Palm Sunday Mass Malayalam
- 6/04/2020 Monday**
09.00 a.m. Holy Mass Malayalam
05.30 p.m. Holy Mass English
- 7/04/2020 Tuesday**
09.00 a.m. Holy Mass Malayalam
05.30 p.m. Holy Mass English
- 8/04/2020 Wednesday**
09.00 a.m. Holy Mass Malayalam
05.30 p.m. Holy Mass English
- 09/04/2020 Maundy Thursday**
09.00 a.m. Maundy Thursday service Malayalam
& 1 Hour Adoration
06.30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper English
- 10/04/2020 Good Friday**
09.00 a.m. Good Friday Service
Malayalam & Stations of the Cross.
03.00 p.m. Celebration of the Passion of the Lord English
- 11/04/2020 Holy Saturday**
09.00 a.m. Holy Mass Malayalam
06.30 p.m. The Easter Vigil English
09.00 p.m. Easter Eve Holy Mass Malayalam
- 12/4/2020 Easter Sunday**
10.30 a.m. Holy Mass English
No Malayalam Service.

Available at: <http://Facebook.com/gchelackal>
<http://motherofgodleicester.co.uk>

Fr. George Thomas Chelackal

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



5th -12th April 2020



PALM SUNDAY OF THE
LORD' Solemnity PASSION

First Reading : Matthew 21: 1-11, Isaiah 50: 4-7

Psalm: Psalms 22: 8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Matthew 26: 14 - 27: 66

Online Mass services from Mother of God Church Presbytery Leicester

Monday to Saturday Mass times
9:00 am Holy Qurbana (Malayalam)
5:30 pm Holy Mass (English)

Sunday Mass times
10:30 am Holy Mass (English)
4:00 pm Holy Qurbana (Malayalam)

[Please follow this facebook link to join the online Mass service](#)

We would like to let parishioners know, via our diocesan website and e-newsletters, details of any live-streaming Mass times and prayer in your church. St Barnabas Cathedral are live streaming Mass at 1 pm Monday-Friday and Sunday at 10 am. These services are also recorded.

A retreat service is attached for individual prayer for parishioners, which can be forwarded by email to those already on your list - downloadable at: <http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Flu/index.shtml> along with other prayer services.

Today's Bible Verse of the Day Reflections

In today's Liturgy we face quite a contrast of experiences and emotions. We begin our celebration listening to the story of Jesus being welcomed into Jerusalem with great joy and exultation! "Hosanna!" they cried out. "Hosanna in the Highest!" Jesus was treated as He should have been treated. People were excited to see Him and there was much excitement.

But this excitement quickly turned to shock and horror as we enter more deeply into today's readings. The Gospel culminates with Jesus hanging on the Cross crying out "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And with that, "Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last." At that moment the entire congregation kneels in silence as we ponder the reality of Christ's death.

How things can change in one short week. What happened to all the people who were shouting and praising Him as He entered into Jerusalem? How could they allow Him to enter into this Crucifixion and death?

The deepest answer to this question is one that we may not expect. The answer is that the Father willed it. The Father willed, by His permissive will, that so many would turn on Him, abandon Him and allow Him to be crucified. This is so very important to understand.

At any time during that first Holy Week, Jesus could have exercised His divine power and refused to embrace His Cross. But He didn't. Instead, He willingly walked through this week anticipating and embracing the suffering and rejection He received. And He didn't do so begrudgingly or even with regret. He embraced this week willingly, choosing it as His own will.

Why would He do such a thing? Why would He choose suffering and death? Because in the Father's perfect wisdom, this suffering and death was for a greater purpose. God chose to confound the wisdom of the world by using His own suffering and Crucifixion as the perfect means of our holiness. In this act, He transformed the greatest evil into the greatest good.

Now, as a result of our faith in this act, the crucifix hangs centrally in our churches and in our homes as a constant reminder that not even the greatest of evils can overcome the power, wisdom and love of God. God is more powerful than death itself and God has the final victory even when all seems lost.

Let this week give you divine hope. So often we can be tempted toward discouragement and, even worse, we can be tempted toward despair. But all is not lost for us either. Nothing can ultimately steal away our joy unless we let it. No hardship, no burden and no cross can conquer us if we remain steadfast in Christ Jesus letting Him transform all we endure in life by His glorious embrace of His own Cross.

Reflect, today, upon the contrast of emotions from Palm Sunday through Good Friday. Ponder the fear, confusion and despair that many would have had as they saw Jesus murdered. Reflect, also, upon this being a divine act by which the Father permitted this grave suffering so as to use it for the greatest good ever known.

The Lord gave His life freely and calls you to do the same. Reflect upon the cross in your life. Know that the Lord can use this for good, bringing forth an abundance of mercy through your free embrace as you offer it to Him as a willing sacrifice. Blessed Holy Week! Put your eyes upon the Lord's Cross as well as your own.

Prayer: Lord, when I am tempted to despair, give me hope. Help me to see your presence in all things, even in those things that are most troubling to me. May this Holy Week transform my darkest moments and weakness as I surrender all to You, my God. Jesus, I trust in You. **Amen.**

A Message from CAFOD: As we in CAFOD adjust, we have looked first and foremost to how we can sustain and serve the sense of connection that binds us as a Catholic community across England and Wales and between communities here and around the world. And for so many, it is a tremendous loss to no longer be able to attend Mass and to gather as church communities.

We are hosting a live online **children's liturgy** for families, on **Sundays at 10am**. It has proved very popular with families over the last two Sundays.

Our bidding prayer for this Sunday, Palm Sunday, is

We pray for the Church and for the world: that God may grant us the gifts of courage, compassion and wisdom as we face challenging circumstances together. Lord, in your mercy... More prayers, for liturgical use or private prayer, are available at cafod.org.uk/Pray

Year of Word Campaign - we now have opportunity to:

- a) Listen to the God who Speaks in a profoundly radical way.
 - b) Deepen our faith in God and in each other through increased Scriptural reflection.
 - c) Build on our relationships across all dioceses and create a renewed Church community together spiritually and scripturally.
 - d) Explore, learn and be more creative in the use of all digital media, reach people in new and dynamic ways, and maintain good communication with local Scripture Champions.
 - e) Enable more Catholics to listen to the God who Speaks throughout the Bible at all times and in all places, and not just in a crisis or in 2020.
- Keep well! Let us know about your live-streaming Mass times.

Inspiring quotes from Catholic Saints: Have no fear of moving into the unknown. Simply step out fearlessly knowing that I am with you, therefore no harm can befall you; all is very, very well. Do this in complete faith and confidence. **Pope John Paul II**

300 Club Results: 29th March £100 N Phelan (132). £50 R Marriman (172). £25 A Antony (7), C Cusack (208).

300 Club: Please note that the draw for the 300 Club is currently at Mother of God and will continue each weekend during the lockdown with the results included in the newsletter as usual. However it may be some weeks before cheques are issued as issuing cheques from St Peter's office is hampered by social isolation. Members who pay monthly will not be excluded from the draw if payments are in arrears during this time. Thank you for your continued support.



Please keep in your prayers all the sick and housebound people of the parish. Let also pray for each other.

Prayer to Mary during Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the
resurrection.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God.

Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial,
but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen



Thank you!

Our donations during 2019 amounted to £710.99.

A huge thank you to all who donated to MISSIO through their red boxes, and various donations. We have helped Missionaries to bring the hope of the Gospel to struggling communities throughout the world.

Pope Francis April Intentions: Freedom from Addiction. We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

Good Friday

at 12 noon on Good Friday the diocese of Nottingham are inviting everyone to join them in a shared Liturgy with the Nottingham Diocesan Youth Service praying the Stations of the Cross streamed on: www.youtube.com/NDCYSLive

Pope Francis prays for the homeless and those who suffer out of sight

During morning Mass on Thursday, Pope Francis turned his thoughts to those who are living this time of sorrow and fear, hidden in the cracks of society.

In his opening words at Mass at the Casa Santa Marta, Pope Francis said “these days of sorrow and sadness highlight so many hidden problems.

” He mentioned a photograph featured in the daily papers, which he said, touches the heart: “So many homeless people in a city, huddling in a parking lot... there are so many homeless people today.” And he invited the faithful to ask St. Teresa of Calcutta to awaken in us a sense of closeness to those who live, hidden, in the cracks of society, like the homeless whose plight is particularly evident in this moment of crisis.

Some Important Information Regarding Live Streaming of Liturgies, Sacrament of Reconciliation & Easter Duties & Holy Week During the Coronavirus Pandemic

- In the absence of your regular pastoral routines, which I know must be very frustrating, please do devote yourselves to the daily celebration of the Mass, the Office, rosary, and prayerful intercession for your parishioners. I know from feedback received that this is a great comfort and consolation to so many people throughout our diocese, as is your telephone and internet contact with them, especially the housebound and those on their own.
- Visits to homes for *in extremis* celebrations of baptism and anointing of the sick are permitted, observing the necessary hygiene and distancing regulations. The anointing should follow Bishop Mason's guidelines (see attachment) and using the Anointing of the Sick leaflet, kindly drawn up by Fr Michael Kirkham (see attachment), which is to be destroyed after each use. This ministry is considered an essential work, for which travel is justifiable.

Sacrament of Reconciliation and Easter Duties

- In addition to the earlier guidance please note that **Confessions cannot be heard over the telephone. Services of General Absolution cannot be held** as this involves travel and the gathering of people. Requests for individual confession may be difficult to meet, given the demands of social distancing and church closures. It is deemed reasonable for a priest to refuse a request for these reasons. I recognise that people will be anxious about the fulfilling of their Easter duties. A note **explicitly dispensing people from their Easter duties is being prepared for the current extraordinary circumstances which highlights the efficacy of a perfect Act of Contrition.** I will distribute that to you as soon as I receive it. But, in the meantime I draw your attention to the Church's teaching which I would ask you to communicate to any particularly anxious parishioners.
- The recent note from the Congregation for Sacred Worship, speaking about the pandemic, reminds the faithful (this would include priests who cannot get to confession) who cannot receive sacramental absolution, that ‘perfect contrition, rooted in love of God who is to be loved above all things, expressed in a sincere request for forgiveness, insofar as the penitent is able to make it at that moment, and accompanied by the firm intention to go to confession as soon as is possible, obtains forgiveness of all sins, including grave sin (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1452).
- As it is not possible for the faithful to receive Holy Communion at this time, and into the future, **the Bishops of England and Wales have dispensed the Easter Duties for the year 2020. The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed during these emergency circumstances** of the lockdown, and for as long as they last. Please make clear to everyone that this pandemic is the serious reason why this obligation does not apply at this time. I would, however, urge all of us, clergy, religious and laity to develop ways in which we can renew and deepen still more our spiritual relationship with God.

Holy Week

The Decree from the Congregation for Divine Worship, dated 25th March 2020, has made clear that Bishops and Priests 'may celebrate the rites of Holy Week without the presence of the people, in a suitable place, avoiding concelebration and omitting the sign of peace. The faithful should be informed of the beginning times of the celebrations so that they can prayerfully unite themselves in their homes'. Live-streaming (not recorded) is encouraged.

- **Prayer resources for Holy Week for families and for personal prayer:** The *Magnificat* resource, which is being offered free to download online, is recommended as an excellent resource.

- **Palm Sunday:** In Cathedrals the second form given in the Roman Missal of the Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem is to be used; in parish churches the third form is to be used.

- **The Chrism Mass:** In England and Wales a scaled down celebration of the Chrism Mass is to take place in Cathedrals. Here in our diocese it will be streamed from St Barnabas Cathedral. A text is being drawn up to enable the clergy to be able to make a personal renewal of their priestly promises. This will be distributed to you when it is received.

- **Mass of the Lord's Supper:** This is to take place in the Cathedral and in parish churches without the presence of the people. It will be streamed from the Cathedral. The washing of feet, which is already optional, is to be omitted. At the end of the Mass the procession is also omitted and the Blessed Sacrament is kept in the Tabernacle. Streaming of Watching on Holy Thursday night: St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, was proposed as a focus for national coverage, more details when known.

- **Good Friday:** This is to take place in the Cathedral and in parish churches without the presence of the people. Special intentions, reflecting the pandemic, are being drawn up for inclusion in the Universal Prayer of Good Friday. These will be distributed when completed. The adoration of the Cross by kissing it is limited solely to the celebrant.

- **The Easter Vigil:** This is to take place in the Cathedral and in parish churches without the presence of the people. The preparation and lighting of the fire is omitted, the Paschal Candle is lit, the procession is omitted, and the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) follows. The Liturgy of the Word then takes place. For the 'Baptismal Liturgy' the Renewal of Baptismal Promises alone is necessary (Roman Missal, page 371, n.55). The Liturgy of the Eucharist then follows. An Easter Sunday Mass is to take place in the Cathedral and in parish churches without the presence of the people. Please note: those priests who have no possibility of uniting themselves to the Easter Vigil celebrated in a church are to pray the Office of Readings for Easter Sunday.

- **Religious Communities:** Please note that the context concerning concelebration is twofold: the spread of Coronavirus in religious communities and the scientific evidence that the virus can be passed through the medium of the host, shared and handled by the concelebrating priests. Priests who live in the same residence may, of course, be present together at one Mass if they so choose, observing the requirements of 'social distancing', but the Rite of Holy Communion must reflect the provisions of the Decree and the reasons for it.
- **Enclosed Communities:** The chaplain, observing the necessary hygiene and distancing conditions may celebrate Mass for enclosed communities, if that is the wish of the community. The community sacristan should prepare everything for the Mass. The chaplain should enter the sacristy and celebrate the Mass without contact with those inside the community. The celebrant should bring his own chalice and paten and host. After receiving his Communion, he should retire from the altar and a member of the community should distribute Holy Communion to the community from a separate ciborium. This should not happen for communities who have other visitors, such as care workers entering to look after elderly residents, where the risk of spreading the virus is greater.

Useful website addresses

St JOSEPH'S MASS—On YOUTUBE St Joseph Leicester live
Weekdays @10am Sunday Mass @10.30 by Father John Daly.

www.cbcew.org.uk/home/news-and-media/news/
www.heavensroadfm.com/ listen-now/

You can watch a live Mass in Ireland, Scotland, England or even from the USA. lots to choose from on www.churchservices.tv/

if you want to visit St Barnabas Nottingham Cathedral—put Nottingham in the search bar at the top of the page this webcam is switched on all day.

Mass is streamed from St. Barnabas Cathedral at 1.00pm Monday - Friday and Sunday at 10.00am.

Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham <http://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream>.

The TV channel EWTN also has a daily Mass as well as a large number of resources to keep us spiritually nourished over the coming weeks
www.ewtn.com

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html> listen to podcast Sunday gospel truth.

Information on Worldwide Telecasts Easter 2020

UPDATE

(The times noted below are for the scheduled start and conclusion of each celebration.

The actual satellite feeds will begin earlier to allow for lineup.) For the latest updates, visit [worldtelecast/Easter 2020 Celebrations](#)

5 April 2020

Palm Sunday Mass and Angelus

Saint Peter's Basilica

Altar of the Cathedra

Celebration Time

09.00 – 10.15 approximately

UTC/GMT

9 April 2020

Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper

Saint Peter's Basilica

Altar of the Cathedra

Celebration Time

16.00 – 17.00 approximately

UTC/GMT

10 April 2020

Good Friday

Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Saint Peter's Basilica

Altar of the Cathedra

Celebration Time

16.00 – 17.15 approximately

UTC/GMT

10 April 2020

Good Friday

Way of the Cross from the *Sagrato* of St. Peter's Basilica

Celebration Time

19.00 – 20.15 approximately

UTC/GMT

11 April 2020

Easter Vigil

Saint Peter's Basilica

Altar of the Cathedra

Celebration Time

19.00 – 20.30 approximately

UTC/GMT

OFFERTORY & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Some parishioners have asked how they can continue to make their offerings during the period our churches are closed. This is much appreciated; our Parish needs your continued support at this time. Coronavirus has raised some very particular financial challenges for us. Not only do we have no plate and envelope collection but we cannot hire out our parish rooms either. We must, however, continue to pay for essentials such as our priests' living expenses, the upkeep of our buildings and other ongoing costs. Of course, we realise that the current emergency is affecting many people's income and they may not be able to continue their level of offerings. If this is the case, we fully understand, and our prayers are with you. If you currently pay by standing order, this will continue as usual unless you tell your bank to change it.

If you usually give by envelope or via cash in the collection, you could now donate via your online or telephone banking. You can either make individual payments whenever you like, or you can set up a regular gift by Standing Order. This can be stopped at any time, for example, if you wish to resume giving by cash or envelope once Sunday Mass is resumed.

For the purposes of setting up a regular gift via your online banking, the parish bank details are:

Account Name: MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

Account number: 01538822

Sort code: 30-94-97

Please put your name (e.g. D SMITH) in the payment reference so we know the gift is from you. This is particularly important if we have a signed gift aid mandate from you. If you normally use numbered gift aid envelopes you should quote your envelope number as the payment reference (so D SMITH, the holder of envelope 19, would quote D SMITH ENV 19).

If you are a UK taxpayer, you also have the option of adding Gift Aid, whereby the UK government adds a further 25% to your donation. Anyone wishing to set up a new Gift Aid arrangement should contact the parish office via email (MOGP parish@gmail.com) as we are not able to process the usual paper applications at this time.

If you would like help to pay in this way, please simply email MOGP parish@gmail.com. Please provide your name and telephone number so that we can contact you.

Our parish relies on donations to stay open and provide care and support to everyone in our community. Now more than ever, please consider giving generously to support our mission and ministry. Thank you for your support.