

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

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
 06.30p.m. The Easter Vigil English
 09.00p.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>



Easter Prayer

Gracious God,

We praise you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus.

*We praise you for the light of new life that shone
 on the first witnesses of resurrection.*

*We praise you for the light of new life that
 continues to shine in our hearts today.*

*We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
 will live in us each day;*

*and that we will be bearers
 of that light into the lives of others.*

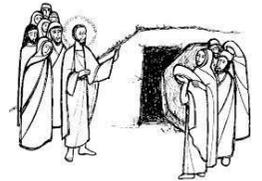
Amen.

	<p><i>Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</i></p> <p>(0116) 287 5232 <i>✉mogparish@gmail.com</i> www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</p> <p><i>NRCDT- Registered Charity</i></p>	<p><i>Parish Priest: Fr. George Thomas gchelackal@gmail.com</i></p> 
<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>		



12th April 2020

*The Lord is risen,
 Alleluia, Alleluia!*



First Reading: Acts 10:34, 37-43

Psalm: 118:1-2, 14-24

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel: John 20:1-9

Online Mass services from Mother of God Church Presbytery Leicester

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

Sunday Mass times
 10:30 am Holy Mass (English)
 4:00 pm Holy Mass (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 is 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.

Every life is a sacred gift, every person a unity of body, mind and spirit.

This great message of Easter, the affirmation that both our bodies and our souls have eternal, inestimable value, is a cherished belief of Catholic health care. The Gospel writers take great pains to depict the attention given to Jesus' body by his mother and female disciples following his death. This stands in such contrast to the cruelties inflicted upon Jesus leading to his death.

Our bodies are hugely important to God. Jesus' whole earthly life witnesses to the fundamental goodness of creation. And the goodness of the body as a part of God's creation is given highest expression, is lifted up and acclaimed in Jesus' resurrection from the dead. His bodily resurrection defies and denies the finality of death. In Jesus' resurrection, God chose to lift up and give eternal value to the whole created order. In Christ, God utters the divine exclamation once again over all creation, as at the beginning of the scriptures, "It is good!" The transformation of each of us and the whole of the physical universe into the everlasting garden of right relationships has begun (see Romans 8:19-20).

The scriptures proclaimed during the 50 days of the Easter Season invite us to affirm the resurrection of Jesus as prelude to and promise of our own resurrection – body and soul. We are invited to experience the post-resurrection appearances as did the disciples, encounters with the Lord whose risen body still bore the deep woundedness of the world in the scars of his passion. This astounding affirmation of the goodness of our broken and imperfect bodies is so needed in our world today. To the sick and suffering; the survivors of abuse; those at odds with the size, shape and other aspects of their body; to a world obsessed with an image of the perfect body, the resurrection of Jesus proclaims that it all belongs. Our body, like our soul, will be raised up in all its brokenness along with all of this longing, wounded world.

The truth is that we are knit together as body and soul. In God's design they are inseparable and have eternal value. Our bodies should be loved in the same measure that we love our souls. That love expresses itself in caring for our bodies, loving them passionately and properly, as God does.

At its best, Catholic health care serves and honours this deep connection. When we tend to the bodies of those who come to us in need, we relieve their souls. When we care for their souls, we aid the healing of their bodies. What we separate out as clinical and pastoral are a continuum of care for the whole person we touch through our unique ministry of faith-based compassion.

If we serve with this vision and conviction, we help recreate God's Garden of health and wholeness that we set out to rediscover during our Lenten retreat. And along the way we will experience the mystery of resurrection for ourselves and all those whom God holds so dear.

Mrs Eileen Dunne RIP, died on Sunday 5th April, was a parishioner at Mother of God for about twenty years until she moved to London five years ago. Her funeral will be in Enfield on 21st April but her family would like to "bring her home" for a Requiem Mass that her friends and wider family can attend after the Covid 19 crisis. Our deepest and sincere condolences to her family and friends.

A Message from CAFOD: 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.

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.

Thought for the week: "Nothing is more important than empathy for another human being's suffering. Nothing, not a career, not wealth, not intelligence, certainly not status. We have to feel for one another if we're going to survive with dignity." ~ **Audrey Hepburn**

300 Club Results: 5th March £50 J Scott (99). £25 P Jackson (266), R Hughes (231).

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

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

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.

Let's stay connected to each other!

As we face the next coming months together, staying indoors to keep safe, we must stay connected. We must keep our spirits up and support each other mentally and spiritually.

Community Help: Apologies, but we are not allowed to do anything collectively as a parish. It has been suggested by the diocese that anyone wanting to help should contact the government led initiatives in their area. Leicester City Council - Contact and Response Team if needed. Telephone 0116 454 1004 or email: contact-response@leicester.gov.uk. VAL (Voluntary Action Leicestershire) - visit <https://www.volunteerleicestershire.org.uk/> 0116 257 5050

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and long for You in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.
Prayer of St Alphonsus My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen

Bishop Patrick McKinney

A message of thanks and encouragement to the people of the Diocese of Nottingham during this time of Coronavirus and some ideas on how to live Holy Week at home due to the current restrictions on public worship. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hEnel6O3TY>. Bishop Patrick has also created a YouTube channel, so that during this time Mass and other devotions will be live-streamed from the Chapel at Bishop's House. This can be found by searching for 'Bishop Patrick McKinney' on YouTube and it will also be linked to the Bishop's Facebook and Twitter accounts. After each liturgy a video is created from the live streaming and this can also be accessed on the Bishop's YouTube account.

Sacrament of Reconciliation and Easter Duties

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.

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.

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.

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.

The Diocese of Nottingham - Holy Week Live Streaming and YouTube Videos with Links

Information for those with no internet access

Telephone

St Dominic's Community, Hinckley, Earl Shilton & Market Bosworth have put in place a broadcast system where parishioners without internet access can telephone in and hear the audio of the Mass.

The Telephone number is **0330 998 1257** quoting access code: **759822#**

The Masses will be broadcast at the times below. This does involve making a phone call, the 0330 number is NOT a premium number it is charged at the normal landline rate and may attract charges depending on your telephone arrangements. (Probably best not to use Pay as You Go mobile!)

Maundy Thursday 8 pm Mass

Good Friday 3 pm

Easter Vigil 8 pm Mass

Easter Sunday 10 am Mass

VATICAN

YouTube channel, Facebook page, Twitter and websites like catholictv.org and vaticannews.va

Pope Francis, Saint Peter's Basilica

Thursday 9th April 5 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday 10th 5 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

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

Saturday 11th April 8 pm Easter Vigil

Sunday 12th April 10 am Mass of Easter Sunday followed by the Holy Father's Easter Message and Blessing 'Urbi et Orbi'

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 **MOGPARISH@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 **MOGPARISH@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.