

[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.

Useful website addresses

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

St Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham or online @11.am

19th April Sunday-weekday 1.00pm - Divine Mercy Sunday Devotions by the Bishop@ 3.00-YouTube, or https://www.churchservices.tv/nottinghamcathedral?fbclid=IwAR3oip9dyr1x3jr2szOJZqhbOld0T4EOJXNz5dlJ6pN7a_cPhpqWom_bAu8

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.

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

Divine Mercy Prayer

Eternal God,
in whom mercy is endless
and the treasury of compassion - inexhaustible,
look kindly upon us
and increase Your mercy in us,
that in difficult moments we might not despair
nor become despondent,
but with great confidence
submit ourselves to Your holy will,
which is Love and Mercy itself.

Amen.

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



19th – 26th April 2020

Second Sunday of Easter
Divine Mercy Sunday



First Reading: 2: 42-47

Psalm: 117:2-4,13a, 14, 22-24

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Father George is offering Holy Mass from Mother of God Church Presbytery chapel through live stream during lockout days.

Monday to Saturday

09.00 a.m. Holy Mass (Malayalam)

05.30 p.m. Holy Mass (English)

Sunday

10.30 a.m. Holy Mass (English)

04.00 p.m. Holy Mass (Malayalam)

Available at <http://Facebook.com/gchelackal>

<http://motherofgodleicester.co.uk>

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

Feast of the week: Thursday, 23rd April, St George, Patron of England.

**Thursday 23rd April Celebrate the Feast of Saint George
PATRON OF ENGLAND**

O GOD, you granted to St George strength in his many torments which he sustained for our faith. We beseech You, through his intercession, to keep our faith from wavering and all doubt, so that we may serve You with a sincere heart and remain faithful unto death.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
... St George, Pray for Us ...

We know that the legend of 'George and the Dragon' is not real but helps us to understand that sometimes we need to be brave. The dragon in the story represents things that scare us or that make us worry. We don't have dragons in our lives, but we do have CORONA that really scare us AND really worry us.

Happy Feast Day to our Parish Priest Father George

Reflection on the Readings and Gospel for Sunday 19th April

From Easter to Pentecost we celebrate the presence of the risen Christ in the early Church. In our Sunday liturgy during this time, the first reading is always from the **Acts of the Apostles** where we see the Spirit at work, and the second from **1 Peter**, as it was thought that this Letter was connected to teaching about Baptism. Although today scholars are doubtful about this, 1 Peter does call on Christians to recognise their dignity as *“a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people set apart”*.

The book of **Acts** forms a bridge between the gospels and the epistles, providing the only narrative we have of the steps by which the Christian message moved from the rural world of Jesus and Palestinian Judaism to the largely urban world of Paul - and later to the Greek cities of the Roman empire. Our reading today from Acts demonstrates distinctive “marks” of the early Church that should continue to define the Church through the centuries, down to our own day: it is a community (*“ekklesia”*), called forth by the Spirit, whose characteristics are communion/fellowship (*“koinonia”*), devotion to *“the teaching of the apostles”* (*“didache”*), to *“the breaking of bread, and to the prayers”*. As we reflect on the nature of the Church today, this reading helps us understand what it should be: a communion of friends, gathered in fidelity to the apostolic teaching and the breaking of bread and care for those in need. As a local community of believers, we are called to be creative as we find ways of making this a concrete reality.

The author of **1 Peter** is intent on encouraging the community of believers to stand firm, *“even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials”*. They must look beyond present sufferings and difficulties, *“so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold”*. Likewise, the psalmist in **Psalm 117** who has also been in grave difficulties, expresses his joy at having been delivered from his enemies by God: *“The Lord is at my side; I do not fear.”* Entering the temple gates and now standing within the courts of the splendid building, he compares himself in his former abject state to a stone at first considered unfit by the builders but then made the chief cornerstone of a grand edifice. It is understandable how this psalm came to be regarded as messianic by the early Christians and is quoted often in the New Testament.

There are three particular motifs in Jesus' appearance to Thomas in our Gospel reading from **John**: the greeting of peace, which is the risen Christ's gift, casting out fear; the presence of the Holy Spirit, shown in the power to forgive sin; and the need for a faith that grows even without the tangible presence of Christ. We should draw great courage from Christ's final beatitude: *“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”* There are several echoes in this passage to John's Last Supper Discourse. Christ's gift of peace here is the fulfilment of his promise at the Last Supper: *“Peace' is my farewell to you. My 'peace' is my gift to you, and I do not give it to you as the world gives it.”* This peace is related to his promise that he would return to them, for in the Holy Spirit they have the enduring presence of Jesus. Likewise, their joy is the fulfilment of Jesus' promise at the Last Supper: *“You are sad now, but I shall see you again, and your hearts will rejoice with a joy that no one can take from you”*. In Jewish thought, peace and joy are marks of the period at the end of time when God will bring about harmony in human life and in the world. Based on this gift of peace, Jesus gives the missionary command to the apostles: *“As the Father has sent me, so do I send you”* - the paradigm of their mission is to be Jesus' relation to his Father, recalling his words at the Last Supper, *“As you sent me into the world, so I send them into the world.”* A high calling indeed, but one rooted in and sustained by the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ's enduring gift to us.





This week we pray

for several of our retired priests who have died in the last few days, including Fr. Stephen Foster, former priest of St. Mary's, and St. John Bosco. Fr. Stephen spent some of his early days at Mother of God. His funeral will take place at St. Barnabas Cathedral on 27th April with Bishop Patrick and a small group of invited people.

We also pray for Gerry Ennis who is temporarily in a nursing home where there are a few cases of Coronavirus.

We also pray for all the sick and housebound people of the parish. Let also pray for each other.

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

During morning Mass, 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.

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.

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

A Poem by Kitty O'Mara:

"And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply.
 Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows.
 And the people began to think differently. And the people healed.
 And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.
 And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed."

300 Club Results: 12th March £50 A Feeney-McGarr (241). £25 Mr C. Barkshire (52), Mr P Doherty (25).

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.

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

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.

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

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!)



Almighty God, creator of the hearth in which we live,
help us today in our search for peaceful ways to avoid wars,
to eliminate terrorism and tyranny and to establish justice
for peoples of all races and faiths.
We pray that the billions of peace-loving people of goodwill
throughout the nations, will join together in prayer and action
to bring love where there is hatred,
friendship where there is enmity,
and justice where there is oppression.
Amen.

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.