

[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?](https://www.churchservices.tv/nottinghamcathedral?fbclid=IwAR3oip9dyr1x3jr2szOJZqhbOId0T4EOJXNz5dLJ6pN7a_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/

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

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



Fifth Sunday of Easter

10th -17th May 2020

I Am The Way, The Truth And The Life

First Reading: Acts 6:1-7.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19.

Second Reading: First Peter 2:4-9.

Gospel: John 14:1-12.

Father George is offering Holy Mass from Mother of God Church Presbytery chapel through live stream during lockdown days. Available at <http://Facebook.com/gchelackal> <http://motherofgodleicester.co.uk>

MONTH OF MAY 2020

Monday to Saturday: 08.45 a.m. : Adoration starts, Rosary, Benediction,
followed by Holy Mass (Malayalam)
05.30 p.m. Holy Mass (English)

Sunday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Mass (English)
03.30 p.m. Adoration starts, Rosary, Benediction
Followed by Holy Mass (Malayalam)

Pope Francis May Intentions: For Deacons. We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

Feasts of the week: Wednesday, Our Lady of Fatima.

Readings and Gospel for Sunday 10th May

First reading Acts 6:1-7

As the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table.

Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them.

The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm Psalms 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19.

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

- Exult, you just, in the LORD; praise from the upright is fitting. Give thanks to the LORD on the harp; with the ten-stringed lyre chant his praises.
- Upright is the word of the LORD, and all his works are trustworthy. He loves justice and right; of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full.
- See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him, upon those who hope for his kindness, to deliver them from death and preserve them in spite of famine.

Second Reading: First Peter 2:4-9.

Beloved: Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

For it says in Scripture: Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame.

Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith: The stone that the builders rejected, has become the cornerstone, and A stone that will make people stumble, and a rock that will make them fall. They stumble by disobeying the word, as is their destiny.

You are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises" of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

The Gospel: John 14:1-12.

"Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.

Where I am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works.

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father."

Spiritual Communion

Jesus, Lord, today we cannot receive you in Holy Communion. Please come into our hearts that we love and serve you and one another, and be united in holy communion.

This week we continue to pray

For all the sick and housebound people of the parish. We also pray for our NHS Staff, the cleaners, the supermarket workers and all the people who are supplying us with food during this period. All the people who are keeping the country going during this lockdown.

Let also pray for each other.

We also pray for **Bill Wakefield RIP** who died recently and for **Gerry Ennis RIP** who also died last week. Our deepest and sincere condolences to their family and friends.

300 Club Results: 3rd May £50 H Patecka (210). £25 T Vu (149), Mrs R McCormick (15).

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

Christian Aid Week Sunday 10th May - Saturday 16th May. 'Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all.' Christian Aid Week has gone online. Information about prayer, events and fundraising can be found at: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week> Sunday 10th May 11am live-streamed Christian Aid Week service with Dr Rowan Williams on Facebook and Film for Christian Aid Week 2020: Link to Florence's story (YouTube). You can pledge your donation online at www.christianaid.org.uk.

LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO THE FAITHFUL FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this "family" aspect, also from a spiritual point of view. For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow. I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone. Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020 Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist

First Prayer: O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith. "Protectress of the Roman people", you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For He took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. **Amen.** We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

Second Prayer "We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God". In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection. Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply.

Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone. Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

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Safeguarding Training Online

The Catholic Church offers **FREE Safeguarding Training with a certificate on completion that evidences training towards Continuous Professional development (CPD) provided by EduCare. EduCare is an independent organisation offering high quality online safeguarding training.**

We all have a role to play in safeguarding children, young people or adults who may be at risk and it is for this reason that the Catholic Church in England and Wales has worked with EduCare to bring you an e-learning package that will raise awareness throughout the Catholic Community in our countries. The e-learning package is part of the Church's commitment to safeguarding, and is available to all members of the Catholic community free of charge.

Modules available are:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Child Protection | 2. Child Protection Refresher 2019 |
| 3. Online safety | 4. Mental Capacity |
| 5. Safeguarding Adults | 6. Safeguarding Adults Refresher |

Included in each module are links to the latest research, resources, legislation, and guidance to support your learning.

To register for EduCare online training, please email jane.black@dioceseofnottingham.uk with the following details:

- Your name
- email address
- your parish/Order/congregation
- your role

You will be registered with EduCare, who will then send you a welcome email.

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 LEICESTER RCP**

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.

A People who Hope in Christ

A Message from the Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England and Wales

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The radiance of the risen Lord shines upon us. At a time when so many shadows are cast into our lives, and upon our world, the light of the resurrection shines forever to renew and restore our hope. In the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis: *'In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side.'* (27 March 2020)

The impact of Covid-19, both nationally and internationally, has been immense. So much of what we take for granted has changed. Our health and physical interaction, our capacity to travel and gather, have all been affected. There is uncertainty in our future, especially with work and the country's economy. As we know, very sadly, large numbers of people have died because of the coronavirus, and others have been or remain seriously ill. Keyworkers, not least in the National Health Service and care sectors, are serving selflessly to sustain the life of our nation. Our hearts and prayers go out to everyone who is suffering because of Covid-19, and to all those battling to overcome its effects. May those who have died rest in peace and those who are bereaved find comfort.

When the Prime Minister announced the lockdown, this included places of worship and therefore Catholic churches. These measures were put in place to stem the general transmission of the virus. It is right that the Catholic community fulfils its role in contributing to the preservation of life and the common good of society. This must continue until the restrictions applied by the Government are lifted.

None of us would want to be in the situation in which we find ourselves. While the live-streaming of the Mass and other devotions is playing an important part in maintaining the life of faith, there is no substitute for Catholics being able to physically attend and participate in the celebration of the Mass and the other sacraments.

Our faith is expressed powerfully and beautifully though 'seeing, touching, and tasting.' We know that every bishop and every priest recognises the pain of Catholics who, at present, cannot pray in church or receive the sacraments. This weighs heavily on our hearts. We are deeply moved by the Eucharistic yearning expressed by so many members of the faithful. We thank you sincerely for your love for the Lord Jesus, present in the sacraments and supremely so in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The bishops and priests of every diocese are remembering you and your loved ones at Mass each day in our churches as we pray 'in hope of health and well-being.' We thank our priests for this faithfulness to their calling.

As the Government's restrictions are relaxed step by step, we look forward to opening our churches and resuming our liturgical, spiritual, catechetical and pastoral life step by step. This will also be of service to those beyond the Catholic Church who depend on our charitable activity and outreach through which much goodness is shared by so many volunteers from our communities.

None of us knows, as yet, how or when the lockdown will end. There is likely to be a phased return to travelling and gathering. As a church, we are now planning for this time and our discussions with the statutory public health agencies and Government representatives are ongoing. Together with Catholics across England and Wales we desire the opening of our churches and access to the sacraments. Until then, we are continuing to pray and prepare.

We want to acknowledge with gratitude the service of our fellow bishops and priests, our deacons and religious, our families and lay faithful, together with all our parish and school communities, for the wonderful ways the life of the faith is being nourished at this time, especially in the home. We also pay tribute to the Catholic organisations and networks that are working to support the vulnerable and needy.

On that first Easter day, the disciples were in lockdown and the doors were closed. In their isolation the Lord Jesus came among them and said 'Peace be with you.' May the peace of the risen Lord reign in our hearts and homes as we look forward to the day we can enter church again and gather around the altar to offer together the Sacrifice of Praise.

We unite in asking the intercession of Our Blessed Lady and assure you of our prayers and blessing.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

- ✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster
- ✠ Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool
- ✠ Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham
- ✠ George Stack, Archbishop of Cardiff
- ✠ John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark