

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=IwAR3oip9dyr1x3jr2szOJZqhb0ld0T4EOJXNz5dLJ6pN7a_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>NRCDT- Registered Charity</p>	<p>Parish Priest: Fr. George Thomas gchelackal@gmail.com</p> 
Our Schools:		
Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - www.ckk.org/p_Home.ikml English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/		
Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914		



Sixth Sunday of Easter

17th - 24th May 2020

First Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
Responsorial Psalm: 65(66):1-7. 16. 20.
Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18
Gospel: John 14:15-21

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)

	<p>Thursday: The Ascension of the Lord. Holyday of Obligation</p> <p>With the feast of the Ascension of the Lord, we come to the end of Jesus's earthly life. For the Apostles, it has been a journey from suffering and death to the joy of the Resurrection. The Ascension is another huge step in experiencing the Lord's presence as they continue his work.</p>
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Readings and Gospel for Sunday 17th May

First Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17. Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm: Cry out with joy to God all the earth

Cry out with joy to God all the earth, O sing to the glory of his name. O renders him glorious praise. Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds'

'Before you all the earth shall bow; shall sing to you, sing to your name!' Come and see the works of God, tremendous his deeds among men.

He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river dry-shod. Let our joy then be in him; he rules for ever by his might.

Come and hear, all who fear God. I will tell what he did for my soul: Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer nor withhold his love from me.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18: Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Gospel John 14:15-21: Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.'

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

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: 10th May £50 M Goodger. £25 N Tyrell (173), C Harrold (173).

Rosmini Centre: Healing Mass and Prayer. Greetings from the Rosmini Centre House of Prayer. In these unfamiliar times of sacrifice necessary to restrain the spread of the Covid-19 virus. As with other Christian places of prayer the Rosmini Centre has been off limits since March except for the resident Rosminian community. We have continued our prayerful celebration of daily Mass and the Divine Office this period of crisis. Here at the Rosmini Centre the **Healing Mass and Rosary will be celebrated by Fr. Denys Labartette every Wednesday:** starting with Mass at 11.00am followed at 11.30 to 12.00 by the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary with Adoration/intercession. This will begin on Wednesday 20th May until the end of August. If you wish particular people to be remembered at the Mass, please email their names and these will be placed in a basket on the altar. Please send the email to rosminicentreinfo@gmail.com. Joining together in spirit all is welcome to take part in this prayer of healing and intercession while you are at home.

NDCYS (Nottingham Diocese Catholic Youth Service) have a new "You Tube" Channel, NDCYS Live! It's not just called "LIVE" for a reason. Each letter is one of four streams that give you an idea of what their channel is all about. LEARN, INSPIRE, VOCATION, ENCOUNTER! There will be new videos every week so hit subscribe and let them know what you think! Upcoming streams include 9.30am Mondays Club and 6.00pm Friday Nights Live. Have a look and be inspired by Tom Baptist the Director and all the members of The Briars Team.

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.

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

A Message from The SVP Society: Happy Easter.

Until 31 May the Church will continue to be in Easter season; Jesus is risen and appears to his Disciples. Pentecost has not yet come, so for the rest of this month we have permission to indulge in chocolate and are called to celebratory prayer. Perhaps this is a more challenging year than most to feel uplifted.

Pope Francis in 2017 admonished his most serious and solemn priests when he asked: "If you have the face of someone at a funeral, how can people believe that you are redeemed, that your sins can be forgiven?" He then went on to discuss how to "leap for joy" during the greatest of trials.

This is a difficult lesson to learn as it presumes other factors which we might build on first. It presumes we have belief and confidence in a God who walks with us; it presumes that we have an eternal source of hopefulness; and it presumes that 'joy' is an appropriate response to the present situation. St Paul to the Romans encourages us to "rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep." We are not called to have the opposite emotions to our audience, but rather to be faith-filled and responsive humans, ones who have trust, hope, joy and are willing to turn this into prayerful action. On Easter Sunday of this year Pope Francis gave a very particular address in the *urbi et orbi*. In it he recognised the vast challenges the faithful would face in everyday life. To quote from the final paragraph:

Indifference, self-centredness, division and forgetfulness are not words we want to hear at this time. We want to ban these words for ever! They seem to prevail when fear and death overwhelm us, that is, when we do not let the Lord Jesus triumph in our hearts and lives.

This has not been a time of indifference; it has been a time of great passion. This has not been a time of self-centredness, but of incredible generosity. This has not been a time of division, but instead isolation is being combated and overcome in bold and creative ways. Lockdown has not made us forgetful, but instead it has made us nostalgic, thoughtful and aspirational.

Message from The Diocese of Nottingham: Welcome to Grapevine.

In these strange times, it's more important than ever to stay in touch. That's why we're joining forces to bring you a regular newsletter which combines the best of the news from the Adult Formation Department and Justice & Peace Commission. It's the essential bulletin for missionary disciples in Nottingham Diocese. Whilst we can't meet in our parishes, or at deanery or diocesan events, we are still the Church. We've chosen the name Grapevine because even if we're socially-distanced, in Jesus the true vine we are still nourished by the same soil and ripened by the same sun. This is our first edition, so we won't be surprised if there are a few teething problems. By the time the pandemic's over, we may have got the hang of it, and may even carry on! Please let us know how you find your first issue of Grapevine and what kinds of news you're looking for, and we'll endeavour to meet your needs. Please see more details on the Cathedral website.

http://www.stbarnabascathedral.org.uk/05_download/Newsletters/355%20Grapevine.pdf

In this Issue:

Introducing the Nottingham Diocesan Internet Café
Networked Parishes: ideas for pastoral care
Caritas: join a webinar to develop parish social action
The God who Speaks: photo challenge

Parish Finances

A letter from the Diocesan Finance Secretary has been received by all parishes in the Diocese. The letter has been sensitively written, aware and empathising with many Parishioners, whose jobs may not be there for them, and the resulting consequences for many in the future. He also writes about Parish income at this time, with our Church doors closed and no public services, no Masses on Sundays, no Parish income. He is fully aware that Churches and Church property has to be maintained, that bills will have to be paid etc. etc., and all this despite no regular parish income at this time. He realises that many parishes may struggle. He has suggested that perhaps Parishioners, who are regular givers to the Church plate, either by weekly envelope or by cash directly into the Collection basket, might consider, if they are in a position to do so, of paying by direct debit from their bank account. This would ensure a continuous income for the parish on a weekly basis, and would help to alleviate the current financial income for the Parish. For those who might like to do so, or to consider that possibility.

**Our Account Name: MOTHER OF GOD LEICESTER RCP -
Account number: 01538822 - Sort code: 30-94-97.**

Please include your name as a reference so that we know where the funds have come from and what they are for. Thank you for your attention and consideration to this possibility.

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:

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|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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.

'Prayer is universal, intimate and entirely trusting in God'

In his catechesis, Pope Francis said prayer involves the most intimate mystery of our being. Christian writers have always said prayer is "born within the secrecy of our beings, in that interior place called the 'heart'." Our emotions, intelligence, and body all participate in prayer, though prayer cannot be identified with any one aspect of our being. "Every part of the human person prays," he said.

Prayer, said Pope Francis, is a yearning that takes us beyond ourselves as we seek some "other". It is an "I" in search of a "You". A Christian's prayer, he added, begins with the revelation that the "You" we seek is not shrouded in mystery. "Christianity is the religion that continually celebrates the 'manifestation' of God, His epiphany."

PRAYER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO MARY FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

"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.

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