

### Useful website addresses

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.

Mass is streamed at 9.00am every Sunday on YouTube from **St. Thomas More Church**, Knighton. You can use either of the following ways to join the Mass - Go to YouTube and search for "Saint Thomas More Leicester" and the page will appear.

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](http://www.ewtn.com)

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

[www.cbcew.org.uk/home/news-and-media/news/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/news-and-media/news/) [www.heavensroadfm.com/listen-now/](http://www.heavensroadfm.com/listen-now/)

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>

### 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><b>Mother of God</b> Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</p> <p>☎(0116) 287 5232 ✉<a href="mailto:mogparish@gmail.com">mogparish@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk">www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</a></p> <p>NRCDT- Registered Charity</p>	<p><b>Parish Priest:</b> Fr. George Thomas <a href="mailto:gchelackal@gmail.com">gchelackal@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.gchelackal.com">.com</a></p> 
<p>Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - <a href="http://www.ctk.ik.org/p_Home.ikml">www.ctk.ik.org/p_Home.ikml</a> English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - <a href="http://www.emschool.co.uk/">www.emschool.co.uk/</a></p>		
	<p><i>20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p> <p><i>16<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020</i></p> <p><i>Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i></p>	

### Please note the new mass timings:

**Saturday:** 10am English Mass  
4pm Malayalam Mass

**Sunday:** 10.30am English Mass  
4pm Malayalam Mass

Live stream Mass Monday to Friday

**Feasts of the week:** Monday, Our Lady of Knock. Friday, St. Pius X, Pope.

**Mother of God Church**  
**Our church is now open for limited liturgical services, starting on 15<sup>th</sup> August.**

Please book online to avail your seat at  
<https://massbooking.uk/parish.php?p=868>

20 family pews and 10 individual seats are available.

To book your seats, you have to register at the address above. On arrival to church, you must show your booking to the stewards, if you change your mind, please cancel the booking to give other people the opportunity to come to church.

While you are at church, kindly follow the government guidelines and diocesan directives to ensure everyone stays protected. Kindly follow the instructions from the stewards. They are there to help you. Please arrive early and occupy the appropriate seats.

## Readings and Gospel for Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August

### 1st Reading - Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6,10

Then the sanctuary of God in heaven opened and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it. Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready. Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

### Responsorial Psalm Psalm 44(45):10-12,16

**On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.**

Listen, daughter, pay careful attention: forget your nation and your ancestral home, then the king will fall in love with your beauty. **R**

He is your master now, bow down to him. **R**

The daughters of Tyre will solicit your favour with gifts. Your ancestors will be replaced by sons whom you will make lords of the whole world. **R**

### Second reading 1 Corinthians 15:20-26

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

### Gospel Luke 1:39-56

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid. Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him. He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart. He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away. He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy - according to the promise he made to our ancestors - of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants forever.' Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

**An Act of Spiritual Communion** can help us and the priests we see online celebrating Mass in empty Churches frequently encourage us to ask for Our Lord's guidance by offering prayers like this one written by St. Alphonsus Liguori in the 18th century. It seems particularly appropriate at this time.

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.

**Let's stay connected to each other! 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](mailto:contact-response@leicester.gov.uk). VAL (Voluntary Action Leicestershire) - visit <https://www.volunteerleicestershire.org.uk/> 0116 257 5050.

**Coronavirus Information for Leicestershire:**

<https://www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/coronavirusinformation.html>

**This week we pray especially for all the people of Leicester,** 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 the lockdown. Let also pray for each other.

**Pope Francis August Intentions: The Maritime World.** We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

### **Additional Information on the re-opening of our church.**

A team of volunteers have thoroughly cleaned the church. Hand sanitiser will be available for everyone to use. Face masks will be compulsory. There will be no singing, no kneeling; only standing and sitting. Mass sheets will be available which must be taken home.

We are opening Mother of God church for worship on Saturdays and Sundays only. In these current circumstances all individuals attending mass should adhere to the rules and regulations of the government and the guidelines of Nottingham diocese. Father George would like to bring to your attention, the following instructions:

1. Individuals and families will be allowed to attend the mass only if they book through the online <https://massbooking.uk/parish.php?p=868>. To do the booking first you need to Sign up (right top corner button) and you will receive a confirmation email which you need to confirm by opening your email. If you are booking as a family please enter 1 (in Family Pews).
2. No admittance to the sacristy. If you wish to meet the parish priest, he can meet you at the altar, after the mass.
3. Confessions will be available after the mass. Please follow the directions.
4. Kindly stretch your hands to receive the Holy Eucharist and the priest will place the Eucharist to avoid direct contact.
6. If you are having symptoms of COVID-19 or having fever and cold please avoid coming for mass and make sure you cancel your booking(s). Please note that the stewards will be doing thermal scanning, on arrival.
8. Please vacate the premises immediately after the mass is over.

### **CAFOD APPEAL: Beirut explosions**

Let's pray for the people of Beirut. On 4 August two explosions ripped through Lebanon's capital, Beirut, killing over 100 people and leaving more than 4,000 injured. Rescue workers are still searching for many more missing people. Lebanon is a small country, half the size of Wales, struggling to host well over a million Syrian refugees on top of more than 400,000 Palestinian refugees already living in the country - and despite high levels of poverty and unemployment among its own population. [Support CAFOD's Beirut Explosion appeal](#)

**300 Club Results:** 9<sup>th</sup> August £50 Mrs M Taylor (10). £25 D Field (51), W Campbell (286).

**Lockdown in UK parishes: CAFOD's support:** Through our network of volunteers, young CAFOD leaders and our staff, we are keen to support, in whatever way possible, the opening up of churches. We are offering various online resources to help your parishioners and schools to pray and to engage: our online [children's liturgy](#), our programme of [online talks, prayer and Masses](#) our [Summer of Hope](#) ideas for families and parishioners to transform lockdown and cancelled summer events or things they've been missing into some fun fundraising and easy ways to brighten up lockdown [www.cafod.org.uk/coronavirus](http://www.cafod.org.uk/coronavirus)

### **Help people return to Mass**

We're building a small team of computer-using volunteers to help people who don't have internet access book for Mass in their parish church. Could you help?

As we ease out of lockdown, our churches are gradually opening up again for Mass. For some time the capacity will be reduced so that we can keep each other safe. In most cases parishes will need to take bookings in advance. Thanks to the generosity and expertise of a parishioner in the diocese, an [online booking system](#) is now available for parishes to use.

Of course not every parishioner has access to a computer, particularly our most socially-isolated and elderly parishioners. Indeed a few parishes may themselves need help, at least for a while.

If you can spare a little regular time each week, could you join, or indeed help to co-ordinate, a rota of volunteers? Volunteers would take calls from parishioners who have no other means of contact, and log them on the system, particularly for parishes without the means take computer bookings for themselves. We're setting up a single phone number which can be routed to your phone for a morning or afternoon each week.

Whether you're the volunteer co-ordinator, or are taking calls yourself, full training will be given. The Safeguarding office can help with gaining any necessary clearance for working with vulnerable people. For either role, [please email us](#) if you'd like to find out more, without obligation.

### **Churches Together in Leicestershire**

#### **A PRAYER FOR THOSE WITHIN THE LEICESTER LOCKDOWN ZONE offered by the Church Leaders of Churches Together in Leicester and Leicestershire**

Loving God, ever-present with your people through the highs and lows of life, we cry out to you for Leicester in the face of prolonged suffering and hardship as a result of lockdown. Grant us peace in our frustration; strength to our NHS and all who are called to care and help; wisdom to our city leaders; and discernment for our churches in offering the medicine of your gospel. Bless all caught in the grip of Covid-19 and comfort the grieving. In the name of the One who gives us hope, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **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.

**Thank you to all those who have changed to a standing order!  
Your support is very much appreciated**