

Useful website addresses

St Barnabas Cathedral is live streaming Mass at 1 pm Monday-Friday and Sunday at 10 am. A retreat service is attached for individual prayer for parishioners, wat: <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. Go to YouTube and search for "Saint Thomas More Leicester" and the page will appear.

Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham 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/

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

Coronavirus Information for Leicestershire:

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

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.ctk.ik.org/p_Home.ikml English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/		
	<p>24th Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>13th – 20th September 2020</p>	

Mother of God Church, Leicester
LE3 6NZ, UK

In church public worship now available on all days,
Live-streaming of all liturgical celebrations everyday

Kindly note the Mass timings for ordinary days:

Weekdays	(Saturday)
Monday – No service	10:00 am English Mass 05:45 pm Malayalam Mass
Tuesday – 10:00 am English Mass	
Wednesday – 06:00 pm English Mass	(Sunday) 10:30 am English Mass 04:00 pm Malayalam Mass
Thursday – 10:00 am English Mass	
Friday – 10:00 am English Mass	

Live <http://Facebook.com/gchelackal>
<http://motherofgodleicester.co.uk>

Confessions are available after Mass

Please book online and reserve your seats for Masses
<https://massbooking.uk/parish.php?p=868>
20 family pews and 15 individual seats are available.

Fr. George Thomas,
Parish Priest,
Mother of God Church

Pope Francis September Intentions: Respect for the Planet's Resources
We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.

Feasts of the week:

Monday: Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Tuesday: Our Lady of Sorrows.

Readings and Gospel for Sunday 13th August.

1st Reading - Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:9

It seems particularly appropriate at this time. Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 102(103):1-4,9-12

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **R**

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion.

R His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry forever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. **R**

For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. **R**

2nd Reading - Romans 14:7-9

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life: it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel - Matthew 18:21-35

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. 'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time" he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me" he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you.

"But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

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

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.

Words of the Holy Father

From the time of our Baptism, God has forgiven us, releasing us from an intractable debt: original sin. But that is the first time. Then, with boundless mercy, he forgives us all our faults as soon as we show even the least sign of repentance. This is how God is: merciful. When we are tempted to close our heart to those who have offended us and tell us they are sorry, let us remember our Heavenly Father's words to the wicked servant: "I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" (vv. 32-33). Anyone who has experienced the joy, peace and inner freedom which come from being forgiven should open him or herself up to the possibility of forgiving in turn.

Admissions for first time children starting school in September 2021 is now open and applications have to be made directly to the school and to the local authority. The closing date is the 15th January 2021. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions there will be no open days or tours. However, there will be a virtual tour on our website along with all Admission policy information: <http://www.ckleicester.co.uk/Admissions/>

300 Club Results: 6th September. £50 P Fernandez (244). £25 Mrs C Flanagan (14), W Campbell (286).

Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth (LACY) liturgy “A Moment with Mary” will take place via Zoom on Sunday 4th October at 4pm. We will be spending time with Mary through The Holy Rosary led by Fr. Simon Gillespie, reflections and prayers. We will be remembering too all the young people of our Diocese who are looking for our Mother Mary’s guidance, recognising that she is with us at each stage of our life, gently pointing us towards Jesus. If you would like to be involved in the liturgy by reading or offering any special messages for our young people, then contact us. For full information for Zoom, the ID and password email paulinepayne@hotmail.com. (All under 18 years of age should ask parents/guardians to be in touch and should be online with them during the celebration).

A Message from Father George

Dear Parishioners,

Gossip 'a plague more awful than Covid-19'. Pope Francis

Pope Francis says fraternal correction builds up the Church while gossip tears it down. The Pope went on to consider what happens when we choose to gossip about a member of the community, rather than follow the path of fraternal correction.

“When we see a brother or sister make a mistake or with a defect,” said Pope Francis, “the first thing we do is go tell others about it. We gossip.”

Gossip, he added, closes a person’s heart to the community and hurts the Church’s unity, since the devil is the great gossip who seeks to sow discord.

“Please, brothers and sisters, let us make an effort not to gossip,” added the Pope. “Chatter is a plague more awful than Covid!”

Pope Francis prayed that the Blessed Virgin Mary might help us make fraternal correction “a healthy practice, so that in our communities ever new fraternal relationships, founded on mutual forgiveness and above all on the invincible power of God’s mercy, may be instilled.”

“A virus that does not recognise barriers, borders, or cultural or political distinctions must be faced with a love without barriers, borders or distinctions.” If, on the other hand, solutions to the crisis are tinged with selfishness or egoism, the Pope said, “we may perhaps emerge from the coronavirus crisis, but certainly not from the human and social crisis that the virus has brought to light and accentuated.” Instead, everyone - and Christians in particular - have a duty to work to promote the common good.

The Holy Father insisted that everyone must do their part, with no one excluded. “Thus, through our gestures, even the most humble ones, something of the image of God that we bear with us will be made visible, because God is the Trinity, God is love.”

With God’s help, Pope Francis said, “we can heal the world,” if we all work together “for the common good.”

Regards, Fr. George Thomas. Parish Priest.

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. VAL (Voluntary Action Leicestershire) - visit <https://www.volunteerleicestershire.org.uk/> 0116 257 5050.

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 and everyone who is keeping the country going during the lockdown. Let also pray for each other.

Grapevine 9

Mwari rudo - God is love God speaks in every human language - and in many other ways. In this edition of *Grapevine* we report how a parishioner in Leicester reached out to minority communities in the city, with their traditional foods to sustain body and soul. If you have any stories to tell of lockdown faith and action, let us know. It’s the Season of Creation, and we have a suggestion for you: a virtual parish film night, exploring how our faith calls us to care for the Earth. If you fix a date at our end, we can provide the Zoom account so you can watch it together. We’ve an opportunity to listen to the Church’s witness through history, as a volunteer in the diocesan Archive. And we’ve got the latest on the Year of the Word, with opportunities to hear God here and now, and in new and unexpected ways.

Paul (Programme Leader for Social Action)

Joe (Director of Adult Formation for Mission)

In this issue

Global Caring: host a parish film night for the Season of Creation

Interested in Archives? Join the team!

Distributing ethnic food parcels during Leicester lockdown

The God Who Speaks: September update

An opportunity to help parishioners in fuel poverty

Caritas is coming: 7 November - advance notice

Sign up to receive Grapevine direct to your inbox: [click here](#)

Volunteers needed in the Archive team

The Diocesan Archive Team are looking to recruit some volunteers. The Diocesan Archives are currently based in the centre of Nottingham, and the collection contains a wealth of material covering the history of the Catholic Church in the East Midlands.

The current team, Archivist Canon Anthony Dolan and Assistant John Boland-Lee, are looking for volunteers with an interest in history and with some IT skills to assist with the Archives. As part of the Archives Team, you will be undertaking general office duties including labelling, filing, sorting and cataloguing documents. Full training and support will be provided.

If you are interested, please contact [Joanna Matthews](#) for further details.

The following Churches in Leicestershire are now celebrating public Mass. However, places are limited and booking is essential either online via the Diocesan website (preferred) or by telephoning the relevant parish office.

Blessed Sacrament, Leicester	Holy Cross, Leicester*
Mother of God, New Parks	Our Lady of Good Counsel, Rushey Mead
Our Lady of Victories, Lutterworth	Our Lady of Victories, Market Harborough
Rosmini Centre, Ratcliffe	St Patrick, Leicester
St Peter, Leicester	St Pius, Narborough
St Theresa, Birstall	Sacred Heart, Leicester
Sacred Heart, Rothley	

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.
5. If you are having symptoms of COVID-19 or having a fever and cold please avoid coming to mass and make sure you cancel your booking(s). Please note that the stewards will be doing thermal scanning, on arrival.
6. Please vacate the premises immediately after the mass is over.

COVID Reflections.

Why are you worrying ? Everything is not locked down..!

Sunrise is not locked down..!
Oxygen from air is not locked down..!
Family time out not locked down..!
Responsibilities are not locked down..!
Love is not locked down..!
Friendship is not locked down..!
Meditation is not locked down..!
Creativity is not locked down..!
Prayers are not locked down..!
Hobby is not locked down..!
And finally the hopes are not locked down.
Do whatever you want to do Butat home.
Prevention is better than cure. Maintain social distancing.... Be at home.
God bless you all. With regards, **Fr. George Thomas, Parish Priest.**

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.