

### New lockdown restrictions.

The Government has now released [guidance](#) on how the new lockdown restrictions will operate. This reiterates the closure of places of worship for communal prayer and services, the activities that are still permitted in places of worship, as well as clarifying the exemptions to apply to weddings and civil partnerships whether in religious or other settings:

- Only wedding and civil partnership ceremonies where one party is seriously ill and is not expected to recover are permitted but are limited to 6 attendees
- Funerals of up to 30 attendees are permitted but related ceremonies such as stone setting or the scattering of ashes are limited to 15 attendees
- The maximum number of attendees in the wedding or funeral party does not include those conducting the service or ceremony
- Social distancing should be maintained by those not living together or outside of a support bubble

### A prayer for peacemakers

History can inspire or trap. Walls can protect or divide.  
Words can encourage or inflame. Power can free or destroy.  
Touch can comfort or violate. Peace can be shared or withheld.

Gracious God, on this day,  
when we remember past and present conflicts,  
we pray for the divided peoples of the world,  
that leaders, governments and each one of us

may use our resources, our opportunities and our lives  
in the service of reconciliation, for the sake of future  
generations and to the glory of your name.

Amen.

### A prayer for our faithful departed

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord;  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace.

Amen.



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Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - <a href="http://www.ctlk.org/p_Home.ikml">www.ctlk.org/p_Home.ikml</a> English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - <a href="http://www.emschool.co.uk/">www.emschool.co.uk/</a>		
 <p><b>REMEMBRANCE DAY</b> <i>Lest We Forget</i></p>	<p><b>32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b></p> <p><b>8<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> November 2020</b></p>	

**Mother of God Church, Leicester**  
**LE3 6NZ**

All public worship are **suspended** till further notice.  
**Live-streaming** of all liturgical celebrations, everyday.

Kindly note the weekly Mass timings:

Monday – Friday	Saturday
<b>10:00 am English Mass</b>	<b>10:00 am English Mass</b> <b>05:45 pm Malayalam Mass</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Fridays	Sunday
<b>10:00 am English Mass</b> <b>05:30 pm Malayalam Mass</b>	<b>10:30 am English Mass</b> <b>04:00 pm Malayalam Mass</b>

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

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

For funeral services please contact the parish priest

Holy Mass live streaming available at <http://facebook.com/gchelackal>

November is the month of the Holy Souls ...

Traditionally during the month of November the names of our deceased family and friends are held especially in our thoughts and prayers. Please place names in an envelope with your offering if you so wish and post through the letter box of the Presbytery clearly marked "Holy Souls".

## Readings and Gospel for Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

### 1st Reading - Wisdom 6:12-16

Resplendent and unfading is wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known in anticipation of their desire; Whoever watches for her at dawn shall not be disappointed, for he shall find her sitting by his gate. For taking thought of wisdom is the perfection of prudence, and whoever for her sake keeps vigil shall quickly be free from care; because she makes her own rounds, seeking those worthy of her, and graciously appears to them in the ways, and meets them with all solicitude.

### Responsorial Psalm: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water. **R.**

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory, For your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you. **R.**

Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name. As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied, and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you. **R.**

I will remember you upon my couch, and through the night-watches I will meditate on you: You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy. **R.**

### 2nd Reading - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

### Gospel - Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.'

While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

**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

What does Jesus wish to teach us with this parable? He reminds us that we must be ready to meet Him. Many times, in the Gospel, Jesus urges us to keep watch, and He also does so at the end of this narrative. He says: "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour" (v. 13). But with this parable He tells us that keeping watch does not only mean not to sleep, but to *be ready*; in fact all the virgins fall asleep before the bridegroom's arrival, but upon waking some are ready and others are not. Thus, here is the meaning of being wise and prudent: it is a matter of not waiting until the last minute of our lives to cooperate with the grace of God, but to do so as of now.

### Mother of God First Holy Communion Programme 2020-2021

Application forms will be available from Father George. Children who are in school year 3 or older are invited to enrol. All children must be baptised, if they **do not** attend a Catholic school we will need to see their baptismal certificate. As of yet we are not sure how our programme is going to be organised this year, due to the measures we will have to put in place because of Covid 19. You can return your completed application forms to Father George. Thank you.

**This week we continue to pray especially for all the people of Leicester, and for all the places that are in lockdown,** for all the sick and housebound people of the parish. Let also pray for each other.



If you have a Missio Red Box that needs emptying, please take it to the Presbytery or contact Maila Taylor on 01162872150 and it will be collected. Thank you.

**300 Club 1<sup>st</sup> November:** £50 M Spedding (282). £25 J Wood (160), Ms M Pidcock (29).

**Francis Caus Charity - Christmas Boxes for the Elderly:** At this time of year, preparations for the Annual Christmas Lunch all usually well advanced. Obviously, this year this event will not be taking place. Likewise, the annual Christmas Lunch at Blessed Sacrament Church will have to be cancelled. We are very aware of the painful isolation being felt by many people at this time, especially our elderly parishioners. As a token of support, we would like to reach out to our elderly parishioners by providing a "Christmas Box". Please contact the St Peter's parish office, phone 0116 285 8795, if you would like to receive a box or would like to suggest somebody who might benefit from this initiative, no later than 26 November. We are likely also to need a number of volunteers to help deliver some of these Christmas Boxes. Please contact the parish office if you are able to help. The Francis Caus Charity was established by a former Parish Priest of St Peter's with a view to supporting elderly Catholics in need in the West Leicester area.

### West Leicester Catholic 300 Club:

Many thanks to all 300 Club members for their support over the last year, especially those who have maintained payments even through these difficult times. The parish dividend of £2700 from the scheme was particularly welcome this year. For those who pay monthly we propose to issue envelopes again for collection from homes in early December.

**The Grand Prize Draw took place on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize - £1,000 Sr S Perks (187).**

**2<sup>nd</sup> prize - £500 P Cusack (214),**

**3<sup>rd</sup> prize - £100 B Hickinbotham (39).**

**£50 S Pinto (273).**

**£25 prizes S Riley (168), Mr T Knott (13).**

**Your Parish Representatives on the 300 Club Committee are** John Gray Tel. 0116 2312862 and Ted Cook Tel. 07500470435.

**Not a member?** Please contact us for a membership form and a unique number will be allocated to you. Subscription is £5 per month.

**Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth (LACY)** are planning to celebrate the Feast of Christ the Universal King on 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 6.30pm. National Youth Sunday. This year the theme is "TOGETHER" and it would be great if as many young people as possible would like to join us via Zoom for an uplifting Young People's Liturgy, supported by Fr. Simon Gillespie, hosted by LACY and led by young people. Our challenge for Christmas is to raise some funds for "Menphys" and all information regarding this will be given out at our Christ the King Celebration with suggestions for "fundraising from home". "TOGETHER" we can share Faith and Fun" and as we follow Jesus know that "He is the greatest King of all!" Want to get involved? E mail LACY at [paulinepayne@hotmail.com](mailto:paulinepayne@hotmail.com) or [claudiacoxon@googlemail.com](mailto:claudiacoxon@googlemail.com) for more information. See also our publicity poster attached and nearer the time an ID and password will be sent out to you for linking into our Zoom get together. **Please note that all people under the age of 18 years must be accompanied by an adult when linking in.**

### FAITH IN FAMILIES

For the last 43 years, Faith in Families have provided struggling families across the East Midlands with hampers of toys and food for Christmas. These families have experienced difficult times and have been referred via the charity's School Social Work Service. Without such support these families will have nothing; children will have no presents to open on Christmas Day. The aim of Faith in Families' Christmas Appeal is to ensure that these families don't go without each year. This year their aim is to provide 100 families across the region with a £100 voucher for a local supermarket. [Visit their website](#) to find out ways in which you can help a family under pressure this Christmas. *Faith in Families is a member of the Caritas Social Action Network*

**Alternative Christmas Presents** for your loved ones. If you're looking for unusual Christmas presents, CAFOD World Gifts could be the answer! These special gifts will delight your friends and family, and are also a great way of rediscovering what it really means to share the love, peace and joy of Christmas giving. Each charity gift you buy will make a real difference to communities living in developing countries. Prices start from £4 A happy Queen Bee <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/World-Gifts> Or Ring 0808 14 000 14

### Unlocking compassion

Just as we enter the second lockdown of the Covid-19 pandemic, today's *Grapevine* shares something which has borne fruit in the first. We'd like to tell you about the **Catholic Partnership for Covid Emergency Relief**, here in the Diocese of Nottingham - and invite you to be part of it. Even when we are confined behind closed doors, we can reach out to others. In solidarity, no-one is alone. Please get in touch if you, your parish or your organisation would like to work with others to relieve poverty and distress as this pandemic goes on. Keep safe and well. In this issue: Partners in Covid-19 emergency relief

Could you help us make grant applications?

Greater Lincoln Active Faith Network - network gathering

Together, we are Caritas: still time to book

**A charitable partnership for the pandemic.** We all know the hardship which the Coronavirus is causing. Those who were already the most vulnerable in our diocese are the hardest-hit. So in May the diocese formed the Catholic Partnership for Covid Emergency Relief, with charities across the diocese. As we enter a second national lockdown, we can be sure the challenges will be with us for many more months to come. [Visit the partnership's page on the diocesan website](#) [Find out what we've achieved so far.](#)

**Meet the founding partners.** The partnership brings together organisations with which parishes and individual Catholics have long supported - because of their Catholic heritage, or because we pray, give, and volunteer for them. Parishes can be members too - two in Leicester are founder members. Currently the partnership includes:

Agencies which serve homeless or vulnerable people:

- [Emmanuel House](#), central Nottingham, [The Friary](#), West Bridgford and the [Padley Group](#), Derby.
- [Blessed Sacrament and St Peter's parishes](#) in Leicester, whose Justice and Peace Group supports three foodbanks, including [E2 Food Hub](#)
- Two further foodbanks in Derbyshire: [Hope for Belper](#) and the [Zink Project](#) (High Peak).

In June 2020 we raised a grant of £36,102 from the **Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation** to provide emergency relief over the summer of 2020. That enabled the Diocese to help over 5,000 people at risk of hunger and homelessness in the pandemic. **We've reached over 5,000 people so far** [Download our report to find out what we have achieved so far.](#)

**CAFOD - Faith into Action: Join us on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November.** As the world looks at ways to rebuild from the pandemic, we must use this moment to tackle poverty, inequality and the climate emergency. Inspired by Pope Francis' latest encyclical Fratelli Tutti, we will be joined by theologian Sam Ewell and climate campaigners from across the world to discuss how to build a better world post-pandemic. Join our online event from 11am to 4pm to find

how you can play a part. [Register 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

As we are in the second lockdown, we're not going to stand by. We are ready to take the next step - and that is where you can help us.

### **Sign up your parish or organisation**

The ministry of charity is at the heart of who we are as the Church. We're looking to expand the partnership to meet the challenges of this next phase of the pandemic. Partners will be able to:

- Form joint projects and funding bids to Catholic donors and others
- Recruit volunteers and support in parishes around the diocese
- Harness the power of Catholic social teaching to 'heal the world'.

### **Can you help? Volunteers sought**

We are particularly seeking volunteers with specific skills:

- writing funding bids to grant making trusts
- book-keeping, budgeting and monitoring expenditure of successful projects
- co-ordinating meetings by Zoom

For a chat about what help is needed, and how you might play a part, contact [Paul Bodenham](#), Programme Leader for Social Action. Or come to a partnership meeting planned for our volunteers on **Thursday 25 November** to be held by Zoom. Get in touch if you'd like the joining details.

### **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.