

Dear Parishioners,

Next Sunday we conclude the Church Year with the celebration of Christ, our Shepherd King. He came as our Good Shepherd and entrusted us to one another. When he will come to evaluate our life and how much it is worth in his eyes and in ours, he will ask us: Have you cared for one another, have you served, especially the poor and the weak? This is not only a matter of serving other people: it is also serving God, for the neighbour in need is no other than Christ himself. It is therefore an act of deep faith.

In a grandiose vision the Church year ends with the celebration of Christ the King, and next Sunday the Church's New Year starts with Advent. Matthew presents to us the scene of Christ our Lord coming as a king in judgment. This scene is the counterpart of the beatitudes, where the poor and the suffering were called blessed. At the judgment the Lord will ask us: "What have you done for the poor and those who weep?" Jesus shows himself here not only as close to the poor and the humble, but he is himself the gentle, the sick, the persecuted. He asks us: "Have you met me in them?" What do we answer him?

When we think of kings we think of palaces and power and pomp; we think of might and armies. But Jesus rejected all that sort of stuff. He was born in a stable for animals, he spent most of his life in a carpenter's shop; he rejected the temptations to use power, prestige or possessions to achieve his mission from the Father; in his preaching, he irritated both the civil and religious leaders of his time so much that they had him crucified on false charges. King indeed! Although when he rose from the dead a few days later it was no joke, except that it was a joke on the power who thought that they had got rid of him!




To call Christ a King may be a joke from one point of view, but he certainly was a leader who knew his priorities. His priority was the will of his Father and he rejected anything that was contrary to it.

It is not enough to acclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord and King. Our mission in life is to make his kingdom a reality among us and to bring it to those around us by our words and deeds. The way to do this is to live as he lived: for others, in love and service.

May almighty God bless you for this task,

Regards,
Fr. George Thomas, Parish Priest

Happy Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe! This is the last Sunday of the Church year which means we focus on the final and glorious things to come! It also means that next Sunday is already the First Sunday of Advent. When we say Jesus is a king, we mean a few things. First, He is our Shepherd. As our Shepherd He desires to lead us personally as a loving father would. He wants to enter our lives personally, intimately and carefully, never imposing Himself but always offering Himself as our guide.

	<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.ctlk.org/p_Home.ikml English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/</p>		
	<p>Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</p> <p>Youth Day</p> <p>22nd – 29th November 2020</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 10:00 am English Mass	Saturday 10:00 am English Mass 05:45 pm Malayalam Mass
1 st Fridays 10:00 am English Mass 05:30 pm Malayalam Mass	Sunday 10:30 am English Mass 04:00 pm Malayalam Mass

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

For funeral services please contact the parish priest

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

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".

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.



Readings and Gospel for Sunday 22nd November.

1st Reading - Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will look after and tend my sheep. As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark. I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the Lord GOD. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy, shepherding them rightly. As for you, my sheep, says the Lord GOD, I will judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats.

Responsorial Psalm - Psalms 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose. **R.**

Beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul. He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. **R.**

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. **R.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come. **R.**

2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

Gospel - Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?

When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

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

These are the two conditions to follow Jesus: listen to the Word of God and put it into practise. This is the Christian life: nothing more simple. Perhaps we have made it a bit difficult, with so many explanations that no one understands, but Christian life is like this: listening to the Word of God and practising it.

Bible Verse of the Day - Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." Luke 23:35-43

Pope Francis NOVEMBER intention: Artificial Intelligence. We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

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 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.

300 Club: 15th November: £50 Mrs F Perkins (138). £25 P Jackson (266), K Fowkes (116).

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 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. **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.

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.

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.

Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth (LACY) will be holding their Zoom Celebration for the Feast of Christ the King this Sunday evening at 6.30 p.m. We are hoping that many young people and their families will come along and share this time with us. The theme is "TOGETHER" and the uplifting Young People's Liturgy will be supported by Fr. Simon Gillespie, hosted by LACY and led by young people. We will also have a chance to hear about the work of Menphys and be able to support them, if we wish, with our suggestion of "home fundraising" - our gift for Christmas. For more information E mail LACY at paulinepayne@hotmail.com or claudiacoxon@googlemail.com. The ID for the occasion is 864 5877 0122 and the password is: 051306. **Please note that all people under the age of 18 years must be accompanied by an adult when linking in.** This will be an exciting occasion for all of us to be involved in the celebration, through prayer, readings, music and games! We look forward to seeing you!

FAITH IN FAMILIES: For the last 43 years, Faith in Families has 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*

VACANCY: St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi-Academy Trust is seeking to appoint a new Headteacher at Holy Cross Catholic Voluntary Academy, Leicester, (salary scale L15-21). To apply, please call HR on 0116 296 8164 or email pcooper@aquinas-cmat.org. To arrange a school visit please contact Elizabeth Routledge (school office) on 0116 283 3135 or email eroutledge@holy-cross.leicester.sch.uk **Closing date:** Monday 23 November 2020.

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



During Advent the Mill Hill Missionaries will help us to pause and reflect in preparation for Christmas. Each Friday you are invited to join us online to reflect on the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday. Our time of prayer will be at 10.30am each Friday and will last for about 20 minutes. Join us on:

27 November - Fr Kevin Hughes MHM

4 December - Fr Gerry Hastie MHM

11 December - Fr Dermot Byrne MHM

18 December - Fr Vincent Oates MHM

Christmas Day - Fr Anthony Chantry MHM (*this will be pre-recorded and available to view from Christmas Eve*)

Please do not worry if you cannot make every session, you are welcome to come along whenever you can. Please invite others to join us for the Advent Reflection.

They can join by going to the [Missio YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/MissioUK): [youtube.com/MissioUK](https://www.youtube.com/MissioUK). We also hope to make the videos available online to watch again or share with fellow parishioners.

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.

Networked parishes: Many parishes are finding that social media are helping people stay in touch during the second national lockdown. St Mary's in Loughborough is one of several parishes that have found a Facebook Group particularly useful. These are interactive forums where people can start written conversations and respond to others members' posts. Members can share messages, news and requests for prayer or help. Read more about how it has helped St Mary's [here](#). [Networked Parish](#) is our simple introduction to cost-free online technologies which parishes are likely to find useful. Perhaps there is someone in your parish who could set something up? If not [contact us](#), and we may be able to fix you up with advice and coaching.

Coming up

Sunday 22 November, 2pm-3pm [Pray Without Ceasing Prayer Service for Climate Justice](#). A short service of prayer, reflection and action on climate justice with CAFOD and friends from around the world. World leaders should have been gathering now for COP26, the crucial UN climate conference that has now been postponed until November 2021. The worship will mark the original date, and reflect on our role in pushing for more ambitious climate action in the coming year. [Register here](#).

Mondays from 30 November, 7.45pm-9.00pm. [Introducing Laudato Si'](#) You are invited to an Advent series of online talks on *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' encyclical on care the Earth our common home. The series opens with Paul Bodenham on *Reading Laudato Si' with heart, head and hands*, and closes with Sr Margaret Atkins OSA from Boarbank Hall in Lancaster Diocese.

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.