

Dear Parishioners,

God is compassionate. He cannot let his people suffer. This compassion of God has become visible in the person of Christ. The Old Testament text, perhaps an elaboration on Isaiah's thoughts by a later author, promises restoration to God's people after their conversion. God will take pity on his people. He promises freedom from evil, sickness, famine, violence, and injustice, provided that people will realize their own poverty and inability to live as they should by their own powers. God will work these things in people and with people. In the New Testament, Jesus will go out to encounter us and to help us out. He sends out his Church, even today, to encounter people in their miseries and to alleviate all suffering.

**God of mercy and compassion, in your Son, Jesus Christ, you have revealed yourself as a God of people. Turn our empty hearts to you, give us eyes to see the depth of our poverty and our inability to build a better world with our own resources, and then come and build it with us through your Son and our Saviour, Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Regards, Fr. George Thomas Parish Priest

The Advent wreath, four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. In some churches, four purple candles, one for each week in Advent, are used with one larger white candle in the middle as the Christ candle. Other churches prefer three purple or blue candles with one candle being rose or pink, to represent joy. While the Advent wreath with its four candles did bring light to churches, it was not to illuminate the interior as much as to symbolize the coming of Christ. The Advent wreath began in the time of the Protestant reformer Martin Luther. During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. Others consider the lighting of the first candle to symbolize expectation, while the second symbolizes hope, the third joy and the fourth purity. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world. The order and exact wording vary among churches, but the wreath continually reminds us of whom we are called to be as followers of Jesus. (Article taken from <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/what-do-the-candles-in-our-advent-wreath-mean> with permission.)



*Prayer for the Advent Wreath*

**Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people. He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us.  
He is the Saviour of us all. O Lord,  
let your blessing come upon us as we light  
the first (purple) candle of this wreath.  
May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise of salvation.  
May He come quickly and not delay.  
We ask this in His holy name.  
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>NRCDDT- Registered Charity</p>	<p><b>Parish Priest:</b> <b>Fr. George Thomas</b> <a href="mailto:gchelackal@gmail.com">gchelackal@gmail.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><b>Second Sunday of Advent</b></p> <p><b>6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020</b></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)
Thursday – 10:00 am English Mass		10:30 am English Mass 04:00 pm Malayalam Mass
Friday – 10:00 am English Mass		

**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

**Words of the Holy Father**

John the Baptist's testimony invites us to start out again and again on our journey of faith: to start afresh from Jesus Christ, the Lamb full of mercy that the Father gave for us. Let us be surprised once again by God's choice to be on our side, to show solidarity with us sinners, and to save the world from evil by taking it on fully.

**Bible Verse of the Day – Second Sunday of Advent.** John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: a voice of one crying out in the desert, prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

## Readings and Gospel for Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

### 1st Reading - Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

### Responsorial Psalm - Psalms 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

**Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

I will hear what God proclaims; the LORD, for he proclaims peace to his people. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land. **R.** Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven. **R.**

The LORD himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps. **R.**

### 2nd Reading - 2 Peter 3:8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out. Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

### Gospel - Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**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

**Pope Francis December intention: For a life of prayer.** We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

**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.

**Applications for Autumn 2021 to Christ the King Catholic Voluntary Academy.** If you would like your child to start in Reception at Christ the King in August 2021, the closing date for first-time admissions is 15th January 2021. You will need to complete our Supplementary Form, which can be downloaded from our school website: [http://www.ckleicester.co.uk/docs/admissions/Supplementary\\_Information\\_Form.pdf](http://www.ckleicester.co.uk/docs/admissions/Supplementary_Information_Form.pdf). You can also collect a form from the school office. You will also need to apply to the Local Authority; please see the following link for further information and to apply online: <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-and-colleges/school-admissions/starting-school/>

**Billy Shearer RIP**, passed away on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November. Our deepest and sincere condolences to his family and friends. Funeral details to follow.

**300 Club: 29<sup>th</sup> November:** £50 C Fisher. £25 P Leslie (215), A Shimkin (55).

**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 for 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.

**Compass in Advent ...preparing for Christmas.** Our lives are being turned upside down at the moment due to Covid-19. Join us to reflect on some of the characters in the Christmas story whose lives were also radically changed. How is God speaking to us through these stories today? Each Friday we will focus on one set of characters. The meeting will also include a sharing of a contemporary story of vocation/call. There will be time for sharing, questions and discussion. For young adults 18-35. Fridays - 27th Nov, 4th, 11th, 18th Dec. At 7pm for one hour. Zoom link: email us on [CompassInAdvent@gmail.com](mailto:CompassInAdvent@gmail.com). For the link and for any other information. Facebook event: <https://bit.ly/CompassInAdvent>

**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:  
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: youtube.com/MissioUK](#). We also hope to make the videos available online to watch again or share with fellow parishioners.

#### **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**

**Heaven's Road Catholic Online Radio** [www.heavensroadfm.com](http://www.heavensroadfm.com). An excellent Catholic radio broadcasting 24/7 from St John's Seminary, Guildford. Has traditional prayers, including Rosary, Angelus and prayers for the sick, plus lots of feature programmes and music. Also has many links on the website to podcasts etc, and about 40 live audio-visual Masses a day from webcams in UK and Ireland. If anyone has a spare shilling to give away, the Radio is reliant upon donations - a very worthwhile cause. [Donate here](#)

**A selection of Advent and Christmas** music recorded and produced by the team at NDCYS. You're invited to join us at 8pm on Wednesdays through Advent as we explore the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love [Subscribe for free at YouTube and turn on notifications](#). Perfect for your Parish, School or home, available to download from [ndcys.com/resources](http://ndcys.com/resources).

#### **Catechist Networks- Online First Holy Communion & Children's Liturgy**

We are offering 2 one hour networking sessions for catechists in the Diocese of Nottingham looking at online catechesis with children. The first will be for catechists who lead Children's Liturgy on Tuesday 8th December and the second will be for catechists for First Holy Communion on Thursday 10th December. Both meetings will be an opportunity for catechists from around the diocese to meet together to discuss this important ministry and share best practise. We will have input from the Assumption Parish in Beeston, Nottingham, who have kept Children's Liturgy going each Sunday since March. While St George's Parish in Derby will share how they kept their First Holy Communion catechesis going through lockdown. Managing to help 67 children make their First Holy Communion when the Churches reopened. Both meetings will have input from Clare McKenzie, the Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator who will share input information for online ministry and answer any question you have. Booking information: Children's Liturgy Catechists – Tues 8th December – 7pm – Register Here. First Holy Communion Catechists – Thurs 10th December – 7pm – Register Here

**Mary's Meal.** As we enter Advent and approach the end of a challenging year for us all, we want to thank you for your faithful support of Mary's Meals at this time. Our founder Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow has recorded [a special message](#) for parishioners. We hope you will continue to spread the word about our beautiful mission by sharing this short film during your services, on your website or on social media. Please [get in touch](#) if you need this film in another format or if you'd like to arrange a virtual talk from one of our volunteers to update the parish about our work. And as many of us prepare for a very different Christmas celebration, we invite your congregation to set a place for a loved one at our [virtual Christmas table](#). Thanks to our new match funding campaign [Double The Love](#), donations will go even further. Give until 31 January 2021 and public donations will be doubled by the UK government, up to £2 million - meaning we can reach even more hungry children in Liberia with life-changing school meals. We wish you and your congregation peace and blessings this Advent and Christmas.

The Diocese of Nottingham is inviting you to join others from across the diocese in preparing for and celebrating Christmas.

**Praying with Our Lady through Advent.** We invite you to pray one extra Hail Mary each day in Advent, asking for Our Lady's prayers to help all of us as a diocese, open our hearts and minds to welcome Jesus afresh this Christmas. She was the first person to welcome Him into her life and her intercession can help us to draw closer to Him and feel His presence with us anew this Christmas. Every other day you will be able to watch people from our diocese pray the Hail Mary in different languages on the diocesan social media sites, search for Diocese of Nottingham or Bishop Patrick McKinney on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

**Living Advent Podcast.** Living Advent is a weekly podcast series throughout Advent exploring the virtues of Hope, Love, Joy & Peace with people from across the diocese and how we can live them out. We speak to a young husband and father, a musician, a retired social worker and a police officer. You can find it on your usual podcast service by searching 'Living Advent Podcast' or visit [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/podcasts](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/podcasts) for links on how to stream or download it.

**Diocesan Carol Service.** Carol services are a wonderful family tradition of our Advent and Christmas celebrations, and often are a great opportunity to invite those who are not regular Churchgoers to connect with our parish or chaplaincy community. This can be quite challenging to do this year so we are offering a virtual diocesan carol service. We will celebrate a short online carol service on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm** on Bishop Patrick's YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/BishopPatrickMckinney>) with readings, music, prayers and reflections. Please join us as a family and invite others to join us too. After the service grab a mince pie, something warm to drink and join us on zoom for our family Christmas Quiz (6:45pm-7:15pm). The link and access code will be given out during the service.

**'Being a disciple web series'.** January is a time when we try and work at being a better person, why not explore how we can be a grow as a disciple of Jesus? On the 4 Thursdays of January we will explore a different aspect of what it means to be a Catholic disciple with Brendan Thompson the CEO of Catholic Voices in a web series on Zoom. Catholic Voices are an international organisation that shares the Good News in the global media. This will be a great foundation for parishes, chaplaincies and individuals to explore how we can support each other in growing as Catholic disciples. Register for the series here: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMrCuygqjwpGdNBRC5NIQ46Eu1bleEg246A> For information on how to access things on zoom visit: [https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/information/diocesan-commissions/01\\_commission-adult-formation/using-zoom](https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/information/diocesan-commissions/01_commission-adult-formation/using-zoom)

### 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.