

Dear Parishioners,

The coming of Christ has brought joy to the world. With him, there is hope. No more room for sadness and fear! Even the cross can lead to joy!  
 Christmas! The great feast of the amazing grace of God's love for humanity! The Word that is God becomes a helpless, defenceless human baby! God, who is perfection personified, whom the universe cannot contain, becomes a finite, localized, and fragile child. God who is life is born as a mortal. All this, out of God's love for us, His desire to redeem us! On this Feast of all feasts, let us listen to the great mystic, Meister Eckhart:

“Here in time we celebrate the eternal birth that God the Father bore and still bears constantly in eternity, and which is also now born in time, in human nature. St. Augustine says that this birth is happening continually. We should ask ourselves: If it doesn't happen in me, what good is that birth after all? What ultimately matters is that God's birth should happen in me.”

We remember on Christmas that his Son Jesus has become one of us. He is here as our companion in life. He lifts up the wounded, and he shows us in himself that God loves us very deeply and will never abandon us. May Christ's birth—a Merry Christmas—happen in you and me!  
 Regards,  
**Fr. George Thomas. Parish Priest**

**A Prayer to Prepare My Heart for Christ's Coming**

**Father, just as You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus, help me to clear the path in my heart, too. Show me the distractions in my life that block me from all-out worship of You this Advent.**

**Lord, I await Your coming! As I celebrate the first Advent—the first coming—I look toward the day where I will see You face to face. I imagine what it will be like. Give me a heart, Lord, that looks for Your coming on a daily basis.**

**Help me to live my life where I'm constantly seeking Your presence. My offering to You today is my righteous life for I know I am only clean because of Jesus.**

**Show me today how I need to be refined, purified, forgiven. Give me the strength to ask for forgiveness and to then change my ways.**

~Sarah Martin, from “The Awe & Wonder of Advent: Day 18”

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Our Schools:  
 Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - [www.ctk.ik.org/p\\_Home.ikml](http://www.ctk.ik.org/p_Home.ikml)  
 English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - [www.emschool.co.uk/](http://www.emschool.co.uk/)

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>20<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> December 2020</b></p>
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Monday 21.12	10am	Holy Mass
Tuesday 22.12	10am 11.30am	Holy Mass Funeral Service (Reserved)
Wednesday 23.12	4 to 6pm 6pm	Confessions Holy Mass
Thursday 24.12	5.30pm 7pm 9pm	The Nativity of the Lord English Mass The Nativity of the Lord English Mass The Nativity of the Lord Malayalam Mass
Friday 25.12 Christmas Day	10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass English Holy Mass Malayalam
Saturday 26.12	10.00am 5.45pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass
Sunday 27.12	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass
Monday 28.12	No Service	
Tuesday 29.12	10am	Ordination day of Fr. George (1987)
Wednesday 30.12	6pm	Holy Mass
Thursday 31.12	10am	Holy Mass
Friday 1.01.2021	10am 5.30pm	Holy Mass English Holy Mass Malayalam



To all Parishioners and our Supporters, a wish of a very joyful and peaceful Christmas with God's Blessings from Fr. George.



## Readings and Gospel for Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

### 1st Reading - 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?' "It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

### Responsorial Psalm - Psalms 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

**R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever; through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness. For you have said, "My kindness is established forever"; in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness. **R.**

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations." **R.**

"He shall say of me, 'You are my father, my God, the Rock, my savior.' Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm." **R.**

### 2nd Reading - Romans 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

### Gospel - Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**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

### Bible Verse of the Day - Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B

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### Words of the Holy Father

Mary's "yes" contains the "yes" of all of Salvation History. It initiates the ultimate "yes" of man and of God. May the Lord grant us the grace to take this road of men and women who have been able to say "yes".

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Congregation for Sacred Worship, speaking about the pandemic, reminds the faithful who cannot receive sacramental absolution, that 'perfect contrition, rooted in love of God who is to be loved above all things, expressed in a sincere request for forgiveness, insofar as the penitent is able to make it at that moment, and accompanied by the firm intention to go to confession as soon as is possible, obtains forgiveness of all sins, including grave sin (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church 1452). Confessions cannot be heard over the telephone. Services of General Absolution cannot be held as this involves travel and the gathering of people.

**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.

**The Family of the late James Sweeney** would like to thank you for your kind expression of sympathy in their recent sad loss. The Holy Sacrifice of Mass has been offered for your intentions.

**Mother of God First Holy Communion Programme.** Due the difficult restrictive Covid measures that would have to be in place in order to safely operate our First Holy Communion Programme this year, it has been decided that we will unfortunately not be able to offer a course this year. However, with the very good news of the vaccine "on the way" we will resume our programme later next year. So, in order to accommodate the possible higher number of children being involved with the programme, next year we will introduce **two classes** per session running the same parallel programme. These classes will be held on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Look forward to meeting you all then.

**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/>

**300 Club: 13<sup>th</sup> December:** £50 L Holloway (262). £25 M Ayorinde (42), A Turner (151).

**CAFOD's Christmas Fun Run' - A virtual event on December 27<sup>th</sup>.** 'Take to the streets in your local area on December 27<sup>th</sup> to run, walk or toddle 5km for CAFOD this Christmas.' There are loads of places where you can join this event. Please go to the [Eventbrite page](#) to sign up, or the [Facebook Event](#) to share. To fundraise, please go to [JustGiving](#). All are welcome, and if you fundraise over £100 we will send you a running vest! We look forward to sharing our stories and experiences with you online soon,

**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).

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

## Useful website addresses

**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.

**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.

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

**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.

**'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)

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

**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.

**St JOSEPH'S MASS:** on YOUTUBE St Joseph Leicester live Weekdays @10am Sunday Mass @10.30 by Father John Daly.

**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/)

### 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.