



A huge thank you to everyone who, despite the lockdown, have kept the church going and contributed to clean, vacuum and polish the church. A big thank you also to the Church Stewards and all our Supporters.

Father George would also like to thank you for your Christmas greetings and gifts.

**To all Parishioners and our Supporters
Best wishes for a wonderful and peaceful New Year 2021**



New Year's Prayer

**God, thank you for a new year.
May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew
with a clean slate.**

**We know that you are always ready to forgive us.
Help us to be willing
to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.**

**As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values
and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness
that comes from doing what you want us to do.**

**Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past,
so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.
Amen**

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Our Schools:
Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - www.ctk.ik.org/p_Home.ikml
English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/



The Holy Family

**27th December 2020
3rd January 2021**

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
Saturday 2.01.2021	10am	Holy Mass
Sunday 3.01.2021	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass

Pope Francis January Intention for evangelization - Human fraternity
May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.



Readings and Gospel for Sunday 27th December.

1st Reading - Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother. My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins a house raised in justice to you.

Responsorial Psalm - Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favored. **R.**

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; your children like olive plants around your table. **R.**

Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD. ⁵ The LORD bless you from Zion: may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. **R.**

2nd Reading - Colossians 3:12-21

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged.

Gospel - Luke 2:22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and favour before God and man.

Matthew 2:13-23

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.

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. 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/](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-and-colleges/school-admissions/starting-school/)

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

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

Nottingham Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission, wishes you the blessings and peace of the Word made flesh, this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

Thank you for travelling with us through 2020 on the journey of missionary discipleship - and in particular, as we build our part as a diocese in the Church's global Caritas network. We started the year in a very different world. But as Pope Francis highlights below, it was already clear that we 'can't go on like this'. The pandemic has been a call to conversion - to the harsh reality which surrounds us, and to the gift of God's kingdom which is always breaking in to redeem it. Stay with us through 2021. We look forward to working with you for the regeneration of our parishes and their witness to God's love - a love which heals, restores and renews.

"Inwardly mobilised by these cries that demand of us another course...we will be able to regenerate society and not return to so-called "normality", which is an ailing normality, indeed which was ailing before the pandemic: the pandemic highlighted it! The normality to which we are called is that of the Kingdom of God, where "the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up and the poor have good news preached to them." *Pope Francis, 30 September 2020*

Events in January 2021: a quick reminder

Join us on Zoom for the following workshops. See the [last edition of Grapevine](#) for further details, and [book your place here](#).

Prepare the Future: Building post-Covid parishes of welcome, listening and hope. Thursday 7 January 2021, 2.00 - 3.30 p.m. It's looking possible that parish facilities could open to visitors in mid-2021 - but the world we are called to serve will look very different from what we knew last Christmas. This workshop builds on two previous workshops during the summer, and will stimulate your own thoughts about how your parish can offer 'social friendship' to those hurt by the events of 2020.

Diaspora and diversity in the missionary parish: Thursday 14 January 2021, 4.30 - 6pm. As our shared ministry for social justice and charity, Caritas should reflect the rich diversity of our parishes. This workshop will begin to explore and share how we can ensure that all are welcome, whether to serve or be served.

Journey in Hope - Patterns for action and contemplation: Wednesday 20 January 2021, 10 - 11.30am. Let's ensure that everything we do together with Caritas springs from a generous and reflective spirituality, and nourishes us for more. We'll take time to discern what that might look like in practice, sharing ideas and sharing prayer.

[Book here for all these events](#)

'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/tJMrCuygqjwpGdNBRC5NIQ46Eu1bleEg246>

A' For information on how to access things on zoom visit:

https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/information/diocesan-commissions/01_commission-adult-formation/using-zoom

Useful website addresses

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

<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/

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.