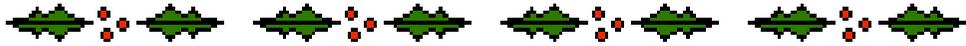


On Wednesday we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany. "The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power." With these words the Church proclaims that today's feast brings to a perfect fulfilment all the purposes of Advent. Epiphany, therefore, marks the liturgical zenith of the Advent-Christmas season".



The Solemnity of the Epiphany is celebrated either on January 6 or, according to the decision of the episcopal conference, on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. The young Messiah is revealed as the light of the nations. Yet, as the antiphon for the *Magnificat* at Second Vespers reminds us, three mysteries are encompassed in this solemnity: the adoration of the Christ Child by the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and the wedding feast at Cana. Extra candles and/or lamps may be placed around the sanctuary and in other parts of the church to honour Christ revealed as the Light of the Gentiles (*Ceremonial of Bishops*). It is customary to replace the images of the shepherds at the crib with the three Magi and their gifts.

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

	<p>Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</p> <p>☎(0116) 287 5232 ✉mogparish@gmail.com www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</p> <p>NRCDT- Registered Charity</p>	<p>Parish Priest: Fr. George Thomas gchelackal@gmail.com</p> 
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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/

	<p style="text-align: center;">Second Sunday after Nativity</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3rd – 10th January 2021</p>
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Sunday 3.01	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass
Monday 4.01	No Service	
Tuesday 5.01	10am	Holy Mass
Wednesday 6.01 Epiphany of the Lord	10.30am 5.30pm	English Holy Mass Malayalam Holy Mass
Thursday 7.01	10am	Holy Mass
Friday 8.01	10am	Holy Mass
Saturday 9.01	10am	Holy Mass
Sunday 10.01	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.

Words of the Holy Father

It is the invitation of Holy Mother Church to welcome this Word of salvation, this mystery of light. If we welcome Him, if we welcome Jesus, we will grow in the knowledge and the love of the Lord, we will learn to be merciful like Him.

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

Readings and Gospel for Sunday 3rd January 2021

Sirach 24:1-12

Wisdom praises herself, and tells of her glory in the midst of her people. In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory: "I came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and covered the earth like a mist. I dwelt in the highest heavens, and my throne was in a pillar of cloud. Alone I compassed the vault of heaven and traversed the depths of the abyss. Over waves of the sea, over all the earth, and over every people and nation I have held sway." Among all these I sought a resting place; in whose territory should I abide? "Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and my Creator chose the place for my tent. He said, 'Make your dwelling in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance.' Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be. In the holy tent I ministered before him, and so I was established in Zion. Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting place, and in Jerusalem was my domain. I took root in an honored people, in the portion of the Lord, his heritage.

Psalm 147:12-20 The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you. R

He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat. He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly. R He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes. He hurls down hail like crumbs-- who can stand before his cold? He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow. He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel. He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances. R

2nd Reading - Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Gospel John 1: (1-9), 10-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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 Epiphany of the Lord

On entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:1-12

Julia Vinod RIP, died after a long illness, she was only 14yrs old. Her funeral will take place on Friday 8th January at 1pm followed by cremation at Gilroes at 2pm. Our sincere and deepest condolences to her family and friends.

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: 13th December: £50 J Cadden (226). £25 M Hickey (205), J Day (131).

STOP PRESS!! HEAR THIS! HEAR THIS! LACY and the Uniform Groups celebrate THE EPIPHANY! On **Wednesday 6th January! 6.30 p.m.** LACY will be holding a Celebration with the Uniform Groups of St. Mary's South Wigston on the Feast of the Epiphany via Zoom! Enjoying to bring forth our prayers and actions as gifts to the child Jesus just as the Wise Men did. A special time to think about the distance that the Wise Men journeyed to find the child King! Fr. Simon Gillespie will be leading us in the celebration and a warm invitation is extended to all, especially to those who are involved in Scouting and Guiding. Invite your groups to be with us - we'd love to see you! Come and join us for this time together and share in the reflections, prayers and fun time led by our young people and their leaders. For more information contact paulinepayne@hotmail.com. The link in for Zoom is as follows: ID 875 2705 0411 and the Password: 588674.

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/tJMrcuygqjwpGdNBRC5NIQ46Eu1bleEg246A> For information on how to access things on zoom visit: 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.