

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

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.

Collect Prayer

**Almighty ever-living God,
 who, when Christ had been baptized
 in the River Jordan
 and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,
 solemnly declared him your beloved Son,**

**grant that your children by adoption,
 reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,
 may always be well pleasing to you.**

**Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever.
 Amen**

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|  | <p>Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</p> <p>(0116) 287 5232 ✉mogparish@gmail.com www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</p> <p><i>NRC DT- Registered Charity</i></p> | <p>Parish Priest: Fr. George Thomas gchelackal@gmail.com</p>  |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Our Schools:</p> <p>Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - www.ctk.ik.org/p_Home.ikml English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/</p> | | |
|  | <p style="text-align: center;">The Baptism of the Lord</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10th – 17th January 2021</p> | |

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|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday 10.01 | 10.30am 4pm | English Mass Malayalam Mass |
| Monday 11.01 | No Service | |
| Tuesday 12.01 | 10am | Holy Mass |
| Wednesday 13.01 | 6pm | Holy Mass |
| Thursday 14.01 | 10am | Holy Mass |
| Friday 15.01 | 10am | Holy Mass |
| Saturday 16.01 | 10am | Holy Mass |
| Sunday 17.01 | 10.30am 4pm | English Mass Malayalam Mass |

Words of the Holy Father

This Feast of the Baptism of Jesus reminds us of our own Baptism. We too were reborn in Baptism. In Baptism the Holy Spirit came down to remain within us. This is why it is important to know the date of our Baptism. We know our date of birth, but we do not always know the date of our Baptism. And celebrate the date of your Baptism in your heart, every year.

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 10th January 2021

1st Reading - Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Thus says the LORD: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. a bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching. I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

Responsorial Psalm - Psalms 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Give to the LORD, you sons of God, give to the LORD glory and praise, Give to the LORD the glory due his name; adore the LORD in holy attire. R.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters, the LORD, over vast waters. The voice of the LORD is mighty; the voice of the LORD is majestic. R.

The God of glory thunders, and in his temple all say, "Glory!" The LORD is enthroned above the flood; the LORD is enthroned as king forever. R.

2nd Reading - ACTS 10:34-38

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered in the house of Cornelius, saying: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."

Gospel - Mark 1:7-11

This is what John the Baptist 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." It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

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 Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son with you I am well pleased." **Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:7-11**

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.

6th Anniversary for Delaine Takunda Mukopfa on the 10/01/2021. May his soul continue to rest in ETERNAL peace.

300 Club: 3rd January: £50 J Scott (99). £25 N Phelan (132), J Daines (133).

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](#).

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](#)

Year of the Word & Biblical Resources

- Attached is the latest update from the Year of the Word national working group on what resources are available.
- CATHOLIC BIBLICAL ASSOCIATION: On 23rd January from 11 am until 12.30 Dom Henry Wansbrough will be presenting a live stream talk entitled 'The Adventures of a Biblical Translator'. Dom Henry is the editor of the New Jerusalem Bible and the recently published Revised New Jerusalem Bible. The event will be presented by Dr Sean Ryan, chair of the Catholic Biblical Association. The event can be accessed live by going to www.ssppilford.org.uk and will be available to download subsequently on www.whatgoodnews.org Questions for Fr Henry, and other queries, may be directed to catholicbiblicalassociation.gb@gmail.com
- Bible in a Year Podcast - the very charismatic and engaging YouTube evangelist Fr Mike Schmitz has launched a podcast reading the whole Bible in a year. It is currently the number one podcast in America. It can be found through your usual Podcast service by searching 'Thr Bible in a Year'. Alternatively you can listen online here: <https://media.ascensionpress.com/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/>

Year of St Joseph

Pope Francis declared a Year of St Joseph from the 8th December 2020 to 8th December 2021, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St Joseph being declared the Patron Saint of the Universal Church. More information here:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/year-of-st-joseph/>

I will be sharing with you shortly how we will be celebrating this as a Diocese through our Diocesan themes of Encounter, Discipleship and Missionary Discipleship.

How to be a disciple?

This four week course on Zoom will explore what it means to be a follower of Jesus and how we can grow this relationship. The COVID restrictions have hampered our social interactions but don't let them hamper your greatest friendship with Jesus. This Thursday and every Thursday at 7pm in January we will be exploring a principle of discipleship. Join us and the brilliant speaker Brendan Thompson from Catholic Voices on Zoom; even if you can only come to one session, come! Each session will focus on a principle of being a disciple and how we can grow in it.

Thursday 7th January - The Word of God - Internalising the Word

Thursday 14th January - Sacramental Life - The Art of Living Liturgically

Thursday 21st January - Christian Fellowship - Being experts in Friendship

Thursday 28th January - Prayer - The Restoration of Joy

This course is aimed at both those who would like to grow in their personal discipleship and those who want to help others grow. So please share with friends, family, fellow parishioners and your parish clergy.

Register here:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMrcuygqjwpGdNBRC5NIQ46Eu1bleEg246A>

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.