

CAFOD Lent Appeal

Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support. Donate online at cafod.org.uk/lent or by using a CAFOD envelope.

You can also give via text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10*. *Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message you'll be opting in to hear more about CAFOD's work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460. For more information, please see CAFOD's Privacy Policy: cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice

Friday 19 February, and every Friday during Lent -11am -Stations of the Cross

This Lent, we will walk through the Stations of the Cross online in a prayerful journey of transformation in solidarity with people living in poverty around the world. Join us as we meditate on Christ's journey to the cross, following themes of justice, poverty, mercy, friendship and hope. [Register to join us.](#)

Family Fast Day is on Friday 26 February 2021.

This Lent in lockdown, you and your parish can help transform lives! Abdella has to walk ten hours a day to find water to keep his family alive. By sharing [Abdella's story](#) with your parish at livestream Masses, in the e-bulletin and via social media, you can raise life-changing funds.

CAFOD <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Walk-for-Water>

The Pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving

Saint Augustine described "Prayer, fasting and almsgiving" as the Pillars of Lent. The role of any pillar is to support, from the soft pillar we rest our head on each night to the pillars of the buildings we live and work in; they all support something. Pillars of Lent support our way of living the Gospel. The ideals of prayer, fasting and almsgiving support us on our whole Christian journey rather than are something we inflict on ourselves for just forty days of the year. Jesus summed up the pillars of discipleship -

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Prayer) "You shall love your neighbour (almsgiving) as yourself (fasting)" Matt 22:37,39. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving remind us to put our relationships right again (conversion).

Prayer places us into right relationship with God

Fasting places us into right relationship with our self (our body)

Almsgiving places us into right relationship with others (almsgiving)

LENTEN PRAYER

Almighty and Everlasting God, You have given the human race Jesus Christ our Saviour as a model of humility. He fulfilled Your will by becoming man and giving His life on the Cross. Help us to bear witness to You by following His example of suffering and make us worthy to share in His Resurrection. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.

	<p>Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</p> <p>☎(0116) 287 5232 ✉mogparish@gmail.com www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>NRCDT- Registered Charity</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Parish Priest: Fr. George Thomas gchelackal@gmail.com</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
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Our Schools:
 Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - www.ckk.org/p_Home.ikml
 English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/

	<p>First Sunday of Lent 21st -28th February 2021</p> <p>Word for the Week: Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.</p>
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Sunday 21.02	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass
Monday 22.02	No Service	
Tuesday 23.02	10am	Holy Mass
Wednesday 24.02	6pm	Holy Mass
Thursday 25.02	10am	Holy Mass
Friday 26.02 Family Fast Day	10am	Holy Mass
Saturday 27.02	10am 5.45pm	Holy Mass Malayalam Mass
Sunday 28.02	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass

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

Bible Verse of the day - First Sunday of Lent Year

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards, he was hungry. Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-15, Luke 4:1-13

Today's Bible Verse of the Day Reflection: Is temptation good? Certainly it's not a sin to be tempted. Otherwise our Lord could never have been tempted Himself. But He was. And so are we. As we enter into the first full week of Lent, we are given the opportunity to ponder the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert.

Pope Francis February Intention- Universal intention - Violence against women . We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

Gospel Readings for Sunday 21st February 2021.

1st Reading - Genesis 9:8-15

God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you: all the birds, and the various tame and wild animals that were with you and came out of the ark. I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth." God added: "This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come, of the covenant between me and you and every living creature with you: I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the covenant I have made between me and you and all living beings, so that the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings."

Responsorial Psalm - Psalms 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9.

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths, Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior. R.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD, and your love are from of old. In your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O LORD. R.

Good and upright is the LORD, thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice, and he teaches the humble his way. R.

2nd Reading - 1 Peter 3:18-22

Beloved: Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit. In it he also went to preach to the spirits in prison, who had once been disobedient while God patiently waited in the days of Noah during the building of the ark, in which a few persons, eight in all, were saved through water. This prefigured baptism, which saves you now. It is not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

Verse Before The Gospel - Matthew 4:4B

⁴One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Gospel - Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

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

Words of the Holy Father

On this First Sunday of Lent, the Gospel recalls the themes of temptation, conversion and the Good News. Mark the Evangelist writes: "The Spirit immediately drove Jesus out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan" (cf. Mk 1:12-13). Jesus goes into the desert to prepare Himself for His mission in the world. For us too, Lent is a time of spiritual "contest", of spiritual struggle: we are called to confront the Evil One through prayer in order to be able, with God's help, to overcome him in our daily life. We know that evil unfortunately is at work in our existence and around us, where there is violence, rejection of the other, closure, war, injustice. These are all works of the Evil One. Immediately following the temptations in the desert, Jesus begins to preach the Gospel, that is, the Good News. And this Good News demands our conversion – every single day – and the Church invites us to pray for this. In fact, we are never sufficiently orientated towards God and we must continually direct our minds and our hearts towards Him.

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.

Listening with Love. 'Listening with Love' is a resource inviting people to reflect on the impact of abuse. Although we're releasing this material for Lent 2021, it can be used at any time. It is a seven session resource rooted in Scripture, listening and conversation. The survivors identified the themes and decided that, in conversations, the voice of the survivor could be heard. [Read More](#)

300 Club 7th February: £50 R Fernandes (218). £25 P Fernandez (244), M Ayorinde (42).

300 Club Dividend - A big thank you to all members of the 300 Club for their generosity, especially at this particular time. The 300 Club committee is pleased to announce the year ending October 2020 dividend totals £7,800 - to be split equally between our parishes of Mother of God, Blessed Sacrament and St Peter's - and cheques are now being prepared for £2,600 for each parish. For the current year, subscriptions remain at £5 per month per membership and numbers are available at the moment. Prizes are £50 x 1 and £25 x 2 per week, £100 x 1 per quarter, and £1,000 x 1 plus £surprise bonus at each year ending October. If you would like to join this valuable fund-raising for our parishes, please contact the Parish Office. The Mother of God Representatives are Ted Cook and John Gray.



Join our Team Laudato Si'!

This edition of *Grapevine* lists lots of events, and there's one in particular that's shaping up to make a big difference here in the diocese. In this critical year for the future of our planet, the Global Catholic Climate Movement is inviting you to train as a Laudato Si' Animator, bringing Pope Francis' 'green' encyclical to life in our parishes and schools.

As a Laudato Si' Animator here in the Diocese of Nottingham, you'd be part of something that's both bigger and closer to home. We're developing a diocesan environmental strategy - and your skills as an animator would be of great value, as we launch our journey to net-zero carbon.

Even better, we've just had news that CAFOD have awarded us a grant to support this work. It will enable six 'Pioneer Parishes' to step forward and lead the way. Could yours be one of them? Whether as a Laudato Si' Animator in your own right, or as part of a Pioneer Parish, with your innovation and your leadership, we're going to make a difference. We'll tell you more as the details come together, but meanwhile, let us know if you'd like to be part of the action! **Paul** (Programme Leader for Social Action)

In this issue

Here: Now: Us: drop into our open evening on 22 February
Remember those caught up in human trafficking
Walk for Water with CAFOD
Workshops for young adults with Faith Justice
Training in Grief and Loss
Job vacancy: Faith Action Nottingham
Bring Laudato Si' to life in our diocese

Sign up to receive Grapevine direct [click here](#)

Nottingham Diocese Grapevine 18 <https://us8.campaignarchive.com/?u=8660f054ac5b3dc3f5fec2801&id=cec9a3eae4>

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.

Useful website addresses

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/

Saint Thomas More Leicester

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrZu39_vJOmpf5OcVR4INiQ/
Press the "Subscribe" button.