

## 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](http://cafod.org.uk/lent) or by using a CAFOD envelope.

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.

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](http://cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice)

### 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.](#)

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

## Year of St Joseph

On the 8th December 2020, Pope Francis announced that there would be a Year of St Joseph from 8th December 2020 to 8th December 2021. This was to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St Joseph being declared the Patron of the Universal Church. To join in these celebrations the Diocese has produced a Novena to St Joseph leading to his feast day 19<sup>th</sup> March. The Novena takes as its focus the different groups or causes that claim St Joseph as their Patron Saint, as well as the themes of Pope Francis' letter launching the year. The Novena can be downloaded as a whole booklet by emailing [adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk) with 'St Joseph Novena' in the subject line to receive daily emails with the prayers for that day between 10th - 18th March.

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



## Third Sunday of Lent

7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Words for the Week:

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

Sunday 7.03	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass
Monday 8.03	No Service	
Tuesday 9.03	10am	Holy Mass
Wednesday 10.03	6pm	Holy Mass
Thursday 11.03	10am	Holy Mass
Friday 12.03	10am	Holy Mass
Saturday 13.03	10am 5.45pm	Holy Mass Malayalam Mass
Sunday 14.03	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 - Third Sunday of Lent

Jesus entered the temple area and proceeded to drive out those who were selling things, saying to them, "It is written: My house shall be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves."

Luke 19:45-48, John 2:13-16, Mark 11:15-16

**Pope Francis March Intention- Sacrament of reconciliation.** Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

## Gospel Readings for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

### 1st Reading - Exodus 20:1-17

In those days, God delivered all these commandments: "I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me. You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or worship them. For I, the LORD, your God, am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their fathers' wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation; but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation on the children of those who love me and keep my commandments. "You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain. For the LORD will not leave unpunished the one who takes his name in vain. "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD, your God. No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter, or your male or female slave, or your beast, or by the alien who lives with you. In six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. "Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you.

You shall not kill.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him."

### Responsorial Psalm - Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11.

**Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul; the decree of the LORD is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple. **R.**

The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the command of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eye. **R.**

The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true, all of them just. **R.**

They are more precious than gold, than a heap of purest gold; sweeter also than syrup or honey from the comb. **R.**

### 2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Brothers and sisters: Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

### Gospel - John 2:13-25

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, Zeal for your house will consume me. At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken. While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.

**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:** It is very harmful when the Church goes astray with this manner of making the house of God a house of trade. These words help us to reject the danger of also making our soul, which is God's dwelling place, a house of trade, by living in constant search of our personal interests instead of generous and supportive love. (...) It is a common temptation to exploit good, sometimes dutiful deeds in order to cultivate private, if not entirely illicit interests. (...) This is why Jesus used "a harsh approach" that time, in order to shake us from this mortal danger.

**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.

## Bishop Patrick's Lenten Talks...

You are invited to join Bishop Patrick and people from across the diocese this Lent in reflecting on our relationship with God. To be a disciple of Jesus means to know and love him, but to also know we are known and loved by him too. Bishop Patrick will give two talks on Zoom exploring God's Love for us and how we can respond to it.

**Thursday 11th March at 7.00pm:** Knowing the Heart of God (clearing false images of God that we may carry around with us).

**Thursday 25th March at 7.00pm:** Knowing the Love of God (understanding our identity as God's sons and daughters).

Each talk will include input from Bishop Patrick, a time for questions and answers, and small group discussion. You can register for one or both talks on the diocesan website: [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk).

**Leicester at the Cross:** will this year take place on Good Friday, 2nd April at 6.00pm on YouTube. This will be an inspiring evening of worship, readings, performance and prayer with the musicians and ministers of many churches from our city and county. Subscribe to "Praying for Leicestershire" on YouTube [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbYtDeBQ\\_TriMLgvr9Ym4A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbYtDeBQ_TriMLgvr9Ym4A)

**Vacancy:** The Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Education Service is seeking to appoint a Deputy Director of Education who will provide a strategic lead in the areas of Catholic Life, Formation, Inspection, Religious Education and Collective Worship. For further information / application pack or if you wish to arrange an informal conversation with the Director of Education, please contact Julie Sweeney: [julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk](mailto:julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk) Closing date 30 March 2021.

**The Day of Prayer (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer)** this year will be different from any we have ever known. All over the world, on 5th March 2021, people will be worshipping as usual but in unusual ways. A Service has been prepared by the women of Vanatu and will be available on You Tube. Resources, Order of Service and a background feature on Vanatu are available at <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/>

**300 Club 28<sup>th</sup> February:** £50 M Flynn (74). £25 H Wilkes (157), R Kennedy (142).

## GRAPEVINE

### In this issue

Support for a telephone befriending scheme in your parish  
Prepare the Future: workshop on 18 March  
Protect vulnerable families on Universal Credit - petition  
Here: Now: Us - catch up on the Open Evening  
Make your parish a beacon for young people

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

## Watching for dawn.

With a vaccine and a roadmap, we can begin to take responsibility for the future again. We don't know what it will be like, but here are a few things we do know. Many will be poorer, and a few will be richer. The pandemic's shadow will fall longest on the young, and those in the poorest health. And we have opportunity to create a society that reflects God's Kingdom that will probably not come again in our lifetime. Everyone can play a part in taking up this invitation. Our parishes will have lost members - some to Covid, some for reasons we may never know.

Newcomers will stumble in to our churches, looking for welcome, healing and hope. As a community of faith, we have been changed, and we'll need to find out how, and who we are now. This edition of Grapevine highlights a number of ways to awaken to this Gospel moment, and reach out with healing to a wounded world. Jesus says 'stay awake, because you do not know the day or the hour' when the bridegroom will come (Matthew 25.13). Actually this is one of those rare occasions when we do have a clue - so let's get ready! *Paul*  
**(Programme Leader for Social Action)**

### 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.