

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.

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

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 19th 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 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>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;">Parish Priest: Fr. George Thomas gchelackal@gmail.com</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  NRCDT- Registered Charity </div>
<p>Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - www.ctlk.org/p_Home.ikml English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/</p>		
	<p>Fourth Sunday of Lent - 14th – 21st March 2021</p> <p style="color: purple;">Words for the Week: Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!</p>	
Sunday 14.03	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass
Monday 15.03	No Service	
Tuesday 16.03	10am	Holy Mass
Wednesday 17.03	6pm	Holy Mass
Thursday 18.03	10am	Holy Mass
Friday 19.03	10am	Holy Mass
Saturday 20.03	10am 5.45pm	Holy Mass Malayalam Mass
Sunday 21.03	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 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. John 3:13-21

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 14th March 2021.

1st Reading - 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD's temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem. Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy. Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects. Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power. All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah: "Until the land has retrieved its lost Sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled." In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of mouth and in writing: "Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!"

Responsorial Psalm - Psalms 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6.

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. On the aspens of that land we hung up our harps. **R.**

For there our captors asked of us the lyrics of our songs, and our despoilers urged us to be joyous: "Sing for us the songs of Zion!" **R.**

How could we sing a song of the LORD in a foreign land? If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand be forgotten! **R.**

May my tongue cleave to my palate if I remember you not, if I place not Jerusalem ahead of my joy. **R.**

2nd Reading - Ephesians 2:4-10

Brothers and sisters: God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ - by grace you have been saved -, raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.

Gospel - John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

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: Jesus wept not only for Jerusalem, but for all of us. He gives His life so that we might recognize his visitation. St. Augustine said a word, a very strong sentence: 'I am afraid of God, of Jesus, when He passes!' But why are you afraid? 'I'm afraid I will not recognize Him!' If you are not careful with your heart, you will never know if Jesus is visiting you or not. May the Lord give all of us the grace to recognize the times we have been visited, we are visited and shall be visited, so that we open the door to Jesus and thus ensure that our heart is enlarged ever more by love, and that we might serve the Lord Jesus in love."

300 Club 7th March: £50 S Hunt (41). £25 A Hynes (94), C Fernandes (5).



The National Justice and Peace Network produces a fantastic monthly bulletin of news, campaigns, events and articles. Topics this month range from strengthening the Environment Bill, ethical eating, Pope Francis' visit to Iraq, and praying with immigration detainees. To subscribe, just [visit NJPN's website](#), and sign up at the very top of their webpage.

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 25th March at 7pm:** 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.

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/UCHyTbDeBQ_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 Closing date 30 March 2021.

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.

Reweaving the parish. A couple of weeks ago 30 people joined the first 'open evening' for Here: Now: Us. It was a great opportunity to share impressions of the impact of the pandemic on the life of our respective parishes, and the steps we can take out of lockdown and into mission. In the breakout discussions, one parish group found an arresting and inviting image for what lies ahead. It is time, they felt, to 're-weave' the parish. The edges might be frayed; the fabric might have worn thin, and we might find a hole or two where once there was a person, or a family. But with care and creativity, nothing is beyond repair. New colours can be added, and new hands might join the work. The tools and threads are Scripture, Catholic social teaching and each other's gifts and skills. That is the invitation of Here: Now: Us, and of Caritas, which will be launched at Pentecost. Another Open Evening for Here: Now: Us takes place on Tuesday 13 April - and there is a link in this edition of Grapevine to book your place. And you will find other opportunities to reweave the parish, the common good, and even the damaged web of Creation.

In this issue

Prepare the Future: workshop 4. Building parishes of welcome, listening and hope. Thursday 18 March 2021, 3.00 - 4.30pm on Zoom [Still time to book - click here](#)



Apologies that the link to Two's Company, the telephone befriending model for churches, didn't work in the last issue of *Grapevine*. Click the link, and it should work this time [Find out here about 'Two's Company'](#)

Join our Team Laudato Si'! Training to inspire your parish and diocese to care for creation. Find out more on 30 March. Training starts on 14 April. [Let us know if you'd like to join on 30 March](#) [Click here to find out about the training](#)

Here: Now: Us is a three-part programme to help you put your faith into action, bring Catholic social teaching to life, and build your parish into a confident, outward-looking community. For you, your faith, and your parish, it offers a three-stage journey out of lockdown with fellow Catholics from around the diocese. [Book here for the 'Here: Now: Us' Open Evening on 13 April](#)

Allegations of modern slavery in Leicester. Bishop Patrick has welcomed reports that an official inquiry is due to be launched into allegations of modern slavery. The clothing giant, Boohoo, is coming under increasing scrutiny following allegations of exploitative practices at its factories in Leicester and is now facing an investigation into its practices by the US Customs and Border Protection. Bishop Patrick said: "I was disturbed to hear of allegations of labour exploitation in some of Leicester's clothing factories and I welcome reports that an official investigation is due to be launched." As Pope Francis has previously said, 'every human being is a free person destined to live for the good of others in equality and fraternity. Every person, and all people, are equal and must be accorded the same freedom and the same dignity.' "The Diocese of Nottingham and the wider Catholic Church in England and Wales will continue to fight for the human dignity of each individual and support international efforts, to hold to account, anyone who violates this inalienable right." From CBCEW