



DIOCESE OF NOTTINGHAM

"It is now necessary that we reflect together as a diocese on our varying experiences. Share your story: How has Covid-19 Affected You and Your Faith?"

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ, This past year of the Coronavirus pandemic has been a tough and challenging time for Catholics across our diocese.

In our parishes, chaplaincies, schools, religious houses, as well as in our own homes, we have all had to learn to adapt to this new and uncharted situation. Some have managed fairly well, while others have struggled.

It is now necessary that we reflect together as a diocese on our varying experiences, positive and negative, of the living out our faith during this period. This will enable us to explore what can be learned for the immediate future.

So, I invite you to complete this simple survey, (https://forms.rcaos.org.uk/covid-19-survey-form/) which won't take much of your time.

Your responses will help us to get a more informed overview of the strengths, lessons learnt, and weaknesses of our current situation as a diocese. They will, in turn, also help us to move forward more creatively and more realistically.

Thank you for taking part in this survey. I look forward to reading your responses.

With prayer and good wishes

+Patrick

When you do the survey click onto the Nottingham Diocese. Please encourage other parishioners to do so. The deadline for submissions is July 4th 2021.

We continue to pray for all the sick and housebound people of the parish.

Divine Mercy Prayer

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion - inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.

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2nd Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday

11th -17th April 2021

Words for the Week: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Table with 3 columns: Day, Time, and Mass type. Rows include Sunday 11.04, Monday 12.04, Tuesday 13.04, Wednesday 14.04, Thursday 15.04, Friday 16.04, Saturday 17.04, and Sunday 11.04.

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

Words of the Holy Father: He was stubborn. But the Lord precisely wanted a stubborn person to make us understand something greater. Thomas saw the Lord, he was invited to put his finger into the wound made by the nail, to put his hand into Jesus's side. And he did not say: "It is true: the Lord has risen!" No! He went beyond. He said: "God!" The first of the disciples that make a confession in Christ's divinity after the Resurrection. And he adored.

Pope Francis April Intentions - Fundamental rights. We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

Gospel Readings Sunday 11th April

1st Reading - Acts 4:32-35

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. ³⁴ There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

Responsorial Psalm - Psalms 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever." Let the house of Aaron say, "His mercy endures forever." Let those who fear the LORD say, "His mercy endures forever." **R.**

I was hard pressed and was falling, but the LORD helped me. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. The joyful shout of victory in the tents of the just: **R.**

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it. **R.**

2nd Reading - 1 John 5:1-6

Beloved: Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and blood. The Spirit is the one that testifies, and the Spirit is truth.

Gospel - John 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

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 - Divine Mercy Sunday, Year B Blessed Are Those Who Have Not Seen and Have Believed

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." **John 20:27-29**

Today's Bible Verse of the Day Reflections

Jesus was crucified, died and was buried. This is what Thomas knew at that time when Jesus was appearing to His disciples after His resurrection. Thomas, just like all of us would have done, didn't believe that Jesus had resurrected. But Jesus was not angry or mad at him for his disbelief, in fact, He had to come again a second time so as to reveal Himself to Thomas. This underscores the very important task that Jesus wants us to undertake even with our human weakness. Jesus will still use us to spread His Gospel to the whole world. After realizing that Jesus resurrected and is alive, Thomas said to Jesus, "My Lord and my God." These words transformed Thomas from a dis-believer to a believer in the risen Christ. So, the pronouncement we make from our hearts through the mouth are very strong. Let us today say like Thomas, 'My Lord and my God' in every difficult situation where we find ourselves doubting the power of Jesus Christ. Jesus will always reveal Himself to us both in our strongest and weakest points in our day to day life. Thomas, despite his doubt in the Risen Christ, became one of the greatest Gospel evangelizers in Asia. We too should not be bogged down by our weaknesses, let us rise to the occasion and do Gods will of spreading His Word to the whole world.

Prayer: Dear God, bypass our human weaknesses and use us to spread Your word to the whole world just the same way You used Apostle Thomas. Help us to never doubt Your presence in our lives and that You will always help us when we believe in You and call on Your Holy Name. **Amen.**



In 2020, **our community of MOG raised £510.17** through our Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Communities around the world are so grateful that people here in TOWN are supporting them through prayer and our generous donations. The Missionaries, and the communities they serve, are living in such difficult circumstances, made harder by COVID-19. They have asked to pass on their thanks, and tell us that they pray for us all. Find out more at mission.org.uk.

300 Club 4th April: £50 J Woolley (35). £25 N Hickey (275), K Patecka (176).



News from Justice & Peace and Caritas 21st Edition of the Diocesan Grapevine - Go to <https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/whats-on/grapevine-e-bulletin>

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](#)

'Being a Missionary Disciple' - After the great success of Bishop Patrick's Lent Talks on Discipleship, the Formation for Mission Team are offering two talks on Zoom in May on 'being a Missionary Disciple'. The first talk '*The Ascension & the Great Commission*' will be given by Canon Christopher Thomas (General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales) on Thursday 13th May at 7pm. This talk will explore the importance of the Ascension and how we can live Jesus' final instructions to us. The second talk '*Pentecost & Mission*' will be given by Pippa Baker (A Catholic Missionary, Speaker & Musician) on Wednesday 19th May at 7pm. This talk will examine the significance of Pentecost for us and how the Holy Spirit equips us for mission in our everyday lives. To register visit: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk

'Helping people encounter Jesus' - the Alpha Course is a highly successful way for people and parishes to help others encounter Jesus. Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa (Preacher to Popes St John Paul II, Benedict XVI & Francis) has said about it: 'One of the advantages of Alpha is that it focuses on Kerygma [the Good News the Jesus desires on friendship]... faith in itself blossoms only by hearing the Kerygma.' The Diocese of Nottingham has partnered with the Alpha in a Catholic Context team to deliver training on how to run Alpha to empower you to help others encounter (or reencounter) Jesus. Visit: https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/information/diocesancommissions/01_commission-adult-formation to register for the training dates on 13th & 20th April.'

'A Father's Heart - A Podcast for Catholic Dads. The Diocese of Nottingham has launched a new Podcast to celebrate the Year of St Joseph. A Father's Heart takes its name from *Patris Corde* (Pope Francis' letter that launched this special year). This letter is split into 7 sections, each highlighting a different characteristic of St Joseph's fatherhood. Each month the podcast will pick a section for 2 dads, from around the diocese, to reflect on and discuss. Find out how to listen (and subscribe) by going to: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/podcasts'

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.