



"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?"

How has Covid-19 affected you and your Faith? Bishop Patrick would like to know more about peoples' experiences of the pandemic, with a view to ensuring that the faithful are well supported and understood in the years ahead. Please visit [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/) whats-on/news/share-your-story-how-has-covid-19-affected-you-and-your-faith and fill the questionnaire.

The deadline for submissions is July 4<sup>th</sup> 2021.

When you do the survey click onto the Nottingham Diocese. Please encourage other parishioners to do so.

### SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Plans are afoot for a joint parish celebration of Confirmation to take place in summer / autumn 2022. Before we ask the Bishop for a date, we will need to see how many candidates we have for the Sacrament. Anyone currently in secondary school or of an older age group is eligible to apply. Please email the parish office for an application form. [mogparish@gmail.com](mailto:mogparish@gmail.com)

**Pope Francis May Intentions - The world of finance.** Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

### Prayer for our parish community.

Almighty God,  
 we pray for your blessing on all who share  
 in the life and work of our church and parish:  
 in the ministry of word, prayer and sacrament;  
 in teaching, learning together and pastoral care;  
 in service to our Diocese, the community and those in need;  
 in ecumenical fellowship, sharing and co-operation.  
 We pray for all members of the congregation,  
 that in their life and work they may advance your  
 kingdom and bear witness to your love,  
 shown in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.  
 Amen.

	<p><b>Mother of God</b>  <b>Greencoat Road</b>  <b>Leicester LE3 6NZ</b></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><b>Parish Priest:</b>  <b>Fr. George Thomas</b>  <a href="mailto:gchelackal@gmail.co">gchelackal@gmail.co</a>  <u>m</u></p> <p></p> <p>NRCDT- Registered Charity</p>
<p>Our Schools:          Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - <a href="http://www.ctk.ik.org/p_Home.ikml">www.ctk.ik.org/p_Home.ikml</a>          English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - <a href="http://www.emschool.co.uk/">www.emschool.co.uk/</a></p>		



### Fifth Sunday of Easter

2<sup>nd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Words for the Week: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

Sunday 2.05	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass
Monday 3.05	No Service	
Tuesday 4.05	10am	Holy Mass
Wednesday 5.05	6pm	Holy Mass
Thursday 6.05	10am	Holy Mass
Friday 7.05	10am	Holy Mass
Saturday 8.05	10am 5.45pm	Holy Mass Malayalam Mass
Sunday 9.05	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>

**Words of the Holy Father:** "The Christian life is to remain in me". Remain. And here He uses the image of the vine, like the branches remain on a vine. And this remaining is not a passive remaining, a falling asleep in the Lord. This might be a "beatific slumber", but that's not what it is. This remain is an active remaining, and it is also a mutual remaining. (...) It is true, the branches without the vine cannot do anything because the sap would not get to them. They need the sap to grow and bear fruit; but even the trunk, the vine needs the branches because the fruit is not attached to the trunk, to the vine. There is a mutual need, a mutual remaining in order to bear fruit.

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

## Gospel Readings Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

### 1st Reading - Acts 9:26-31

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. He moved about freely with them in Jerusalem, and spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord. He also spoke and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. And when the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him on his way to Tarsus. The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.

### Responsorial Psalm - Psalms 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32

**I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.**

I will fulfill my vows before those who fear the LORD. The lowly shall eat their fill; they who seek the LORD shall praise him: "May your hearts live forever!" **R.**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of the nations shall bow down before him. **R.**

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people. To him alone shall bow down all who sleep in the earth; before him shall bend all who go down into the dust. **R.**

And to him my soul shall live; my descendants shall serve him. Let the coming generation be told of the LORD that they may proclaim to a people yet to be born the justice he has shown. **R.**

### 2nd Reading - 1 John 3:18-24

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.

### Gospel - John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

**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 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. John 15:1-8

**300 Club 25<sup>th</sup> April: £100 J Danes (133). £50 E Waldron (234). £25 A Openshaw (274), D Fitzgerald (299).**

**During the month of May**, we invite you to join with churches across the country to pray for the work of Mary's Meals. Our work is built on the power of prayer, and as a result we continually see the providence of God in incredible ways. Mary's Meals is now providing life-giving and life-changing school meals to more than 1.8 million of the world's poorest children. You will find inspirational resources for our Pray In May campaign, including our prayer card, on [our website](#) or do [get in touch](#) if you would like to arrange a talk for your church about our work.

Thank you for remembering Mary's Meals in your prayers. God bless you all.

**Prayer:** We ask you, Lord, to pour out your blessings on those who are outcast in their own societies. We pray especially at this time for the people of Tigray, Ethiopia and Myanmar as fighting and unrest force so many to flee their homes.



Please bring your MISSIO Box to church to be emptied and collect your free magazine. Thank you.



News from Justice & Peace and Caritas 23<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the  
Diocesan Grapevine - Go to <https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/whats-on/grapevine-e-bulletin>

## Join us to craft the Common Good

Booking opens today for 'The Word and the Common Good', a chance to meet others from around the Diocese and explore what Catholic Social Teaching could look like in practice, locally and globally, in the wake of Covid-19.

It takes place on Monday evenings from 7 June, but you don't have to attend every one. Come as you are - nobody will be an expert. Catholic Social Teaching is a toolkit of Gospel principles. Each of us can work out its challenges in the unique context in which we live. With Catholic Social Teaching, all of us can create something beautiful. It makes craftspeople of us all.

Nor do you have to attend with others from your parish - though when you've been to one or two you may want to tell them about it. We hope to run another round of the course in the Autumn, or you could run it yourself in your parish.

**Paul (Programme Leader for Social Action)**

### In this issue

From 7 June: The Word and the Common Good: booking now open

22 May: Pentecost prayer for the launch of Caritas

2 June: 'Open with Care', our next Prepare the Future workshop

Parliament in your Parish: ask your MP to 'build back better' from Covid.

**The Word and the Common Good:** You are invited to join Catholics from around the Diocese of Nottingham for an interactive online course over six Monday evenings in June and July. As life starts afresh after lockdown, it's a rare opportunity to sow seeds of the Gospel.

- Discover how Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching can help us seize this moment and build a society that reflects God's Kingdom
- Build bridges following a year of social distancing and foster a new 'culture of encounter'
- Form new friendships, renew old ones, and help to build our parish communities for mission.

The sessions begin on Monday 7 June at 7.00 p.m. for six weeks.

To find out more: Visit [dioceseofnottingham.uk/here-now-us](https://dioceseofnottingham.uk/here-now-us)

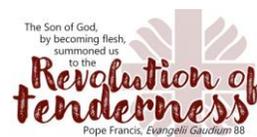
Join an [Open Evening on Monday 17 May](#)



Or [book your place today](#).

The Word and the Common Good is part of [Here: Now: Us](#), a wider programme to help your parish grow as a confident, outward-looking community, and invest in the leadership of lay people. When Covid restrictions allow, this autumn or in 2022, our Caritas team can bring a Saturday workshop to your parish. If you'd like to find out more about Here: Now: Us and The Word and the Common Good before signing up, [visit our website](#), or join an Open Evening at 7.00 pm on Monday 17 May. Better still, encourage a few of your fellow parishioners to come too.

*"This initiative comes at an exciting time for our diocese, as we listen afresh to the Gospel's invitation to encounter Christ, grow as disciples, and step out in mission... Every parish that takes up the invitation of 'Here: Now: Us' won't just make an impact at home; it will be joining the universal Church in making Christ's love known on earth."* - **Bishop Patrick McKinney** and join up as a



Kindle the fire. On the eve of Pentecost, 22 May 2021, you are invited to a special interactive online service to mark the launch of Caritas. Find out how you can help to grow. [Click here to book for Pentecost prayer](#)



Calling parish administrators, hall caretakers and clergy! Open with Care. Resuming parish life in the 'new normal'

In late June the government hopes to relax the restrictions that have prevented most parish activities taking place. It will be the moment when many parish facilities and groups can start up again.

Open with Care on Wednesday 2 June at 3.30pm will help you ensure that your church premises and the things that happen in it are as safe and healthy as possible, and fulfil the government guidance.

We'll be joined by Catherine Scholes from the diocesan property office. Having guided us through lockdown, she'll now be helping us make plans to re-open.

[Book here for 'Open with Care'](#)

## Give a Catholic charity a chance of £3,000

In the last edition of Grapevine we advertised for nominations for the virtual awards ceremony at the [Catholic Charity Conference](#) on Wednesday 5 May. One of the projects being nominated is in our diocese: the Justice and Peace group at Blessed Sacrament and St Peter's in Leicester. If they're shortlisted, they'll be in for the 'People's Choice' award, which means that the more people attending vote for them, the better their chances! [Book your place at the Catholic Charity Conference](#)

### 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.

**census**  
2021

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Guidance available in 49 languages and accessible formats.

Find out more at [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk)

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