

**Neophytes Celebration** - Normally on the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter those who have been received into the Church at Easter (Neophytes) are invited to a Mass of thanksgiving at the Cathedral with Bishop Patrick. This year Bishop Patrick will lead a half an hour online service of celebration for Neophytes, please join him at 3:00pm on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May on his YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/BishopPatrickMcKinney](http://www.youtube.com/BishopPatrickMcKinney)

**Thy Kingdom Come** - Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer wave between the feasts of Ascension (13<sup>th</sup> May) and Pentecost (23<sup>rd</sup> May). It is a time when Christians around the world are invited to pray for more people to know Jesus and answer the call to be his disciple. There are a collection of Catholic resources you can use on your own or with others in this time including: morning and evening prayer, praying with Our Lady resources, live streamed night prayer, resources to pray for those you know who aren't followers of Christ, and more! Further information here: [www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/resources-catholic-church](http://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/resources-catholic-church). Resources for children and families here: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/cheekypandas>

**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)

**Words of the Holy Father**

The task which Jesus entrusts to a small group of common men lacking great intellectual capacity seems truly too bold! Yet this small company, insignificant compared to the great powers of the world, is sent to bring the message of Jesus' love and mercy to every corner of the earth. The Lord's Ascension into heaven, while inaugurating a new form of Jesus' presence among us, calls us to keep eyes and hearts open to encounter him, to serve him and bear witness to him to others. On this journey we encounter Christ himself in our brothers and sisters, especially in the poorest, in those who suffer in their very flesh the harsh and humiliating experience of old and new forms of poverty. (Regina Caeli, 13 may 2018)

**A Prayer to be said daily from Ascension to Pentecost...**

Mary, our Mother, you stayed with the disciples  
in those in those ten long days between the Ascension and Pentecost,  
still patient, still pondering, still trusting in your Son.  
Be with us now as we remember how Jesus was taken from your sight.  
Be with us now as we remember his call to share our faith.  
Be with us now as we await his Holy Spirit.  
Pray with us now, "Come Holy Spirit", "Thy Kingdom come".  
(Taken from Journey with Mary from Ascension to Pentecost)

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|---|--|---|
|   | <b>Mother of God<br/>Greencoat Road<br/>Leicester LE3 6NZ</b>  | <b>Parish Priest:<br/>Fr. George Thomas<br/><a href="mailto:gchelackal@gmail.com">gchelackal@gmail.com</a></b>          |
|   | <b>☎(0116) 287 5232<br/>✉<a href="mailto:mogparish@gmail.com">mogparish@gmail.com</a><br/><a href="http://www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk">www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</a></b> | <br><b>NRCDT- Registered Charity</b> |
| Our Schools:<br>Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - <a href="http://www.ctk.ik.org/p_Home.ikml">www.ctk.ik.org/p_Home.ikml</a><br>English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - <a href="http://www.emschool.co.uk/">www.emschool.co.uk/</a> |  |   |



**Seventh Sunday of Easter  
16<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021**

**Words for the Week: The Lord has set his throne in heaven.**

|                 |                |                                |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday 16.05    | 10.30am<br>4pm | English Mass<br>Malayalam Mass |
| Monday 17.05    | No Service     |                                |
| Tuesday 18.05   | 10am           | Holy Mass                      |
| Wednesday 19.05 | 6pm            | Holy Mass                      |
| Thursday 20.05  | 10am           | Holy Mass                      |
| Friday 21.05    | 10am           | Holy Mass                      |
| Saturday 22.05  | 10am<br>5.45pm | Holy Mass<br>Malayalam Mass    |
| Sunday 23.05    | 10.30am<br>4pm | English Mass<br>Malayalam Mass |

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

**World Communications Day 2021 is celebrated on Sunday, 16 May**

Theme "Come and See" (Jn 1:46). Communicating by Encountering People as They Are The theme for the 2021 World Day of Social Communications, chosen by Pope Francis, echoes the words of the Apostle Philip, recognising that authentic communication leads to "encountering people as and where they are". Taken from the Bible, John 1: 46, the words "Come and see" are central to the Gospel. Before the Gospel is proclaimed, prior to words, there are "looks, testimonies, experiences, encounters and closeness. In a word - life." Pope Francis provides the subtitle: "Communicating, encountering people as and where they are". On World Communications Day, we take up the command of Jesus to preach the Good News of the Gospel to the whole world. [Donate - World Communications Day 2021](http://www.worldcommunicationsday.org/)

**Second collection today**

## Gospel Readings Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### 1st Reading - Acts 1:15-17, 20A, 20C-26

Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers there was a group of about one hundred and twenty persons in the one place. He said, "My brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand through the mouth of David, concerning Judas, who was the guide for those who arrested Jesus. He was numbered among us and was allotted a share in this ministry. "For it is written in the Book of Psalms: <sup>20C</sup> May another take his office. "Therefore, it is necessary that one of the men who accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came and went among us, to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away to go to his own place." Then they gave lots to them, and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was counted with the eleven apostles.

### Responsorial Psalm - Psalms 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20

**The Lord has set his throne in heaven.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. **R.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us. **R.**

The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. Bless the LORD, all you his angels, you mighty in strength, who do his bidding. **R.**

### 2nd Reading - 1 John 4:11-16

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us. This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us, that he has given us of his Spirit. Moreover, we have seen and testify that the Father sent his Son as savior of the world. Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God. We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us. God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.

### Gospel - John 17:11B-19

Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed saying: "Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are one. When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth."

**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:** He fell in love with our littleness and he chose us because of that. And he chooses the little ones, not those who are great, the little ones. And he reveals himself to the little ones: "You have hidden these things from the learned and the wise and have revealed them to little ones". His reveals himself to the little ones: if you want to understand something about Jesus's mystery, humble yourself: make yourself little. Recognize your nothingness. He chooses the little ones, he reveals himself to the little ones and calls the little ones. But he does not call the great ones? Their hearts are open, but the great ones do not hear his voice because they are full of themselves. To listen to the Lord's voice, you need to make yourself little.

**300 Club 9<sup>th</sup> May:** £50 J Bevins (280). £25 M Shaw (106), M Ryan (30).

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

**CONGRATULATIONS** and best wishes to Mick and Sheila Deevey who were married at Mother of God Church in 1961. On 22nd May they will celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. A huge achievement! They are still very healthy and keeping well.

**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.

**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.

**LACY AND PENTECOST!** Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth extend a warm invitation to all young people, their families and friends to share a Celebration with them on the Feast of Pentecost, Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, via Zoom at 7.00 p.m. Fr. Simon Gillespie will lead us in the celebration. Perhaps you are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation and would like to join together to share more thoughts about the Holy Spirit giving the disciples the power to proclaim God's wonderful word. An opportunity to hear young people's thoughts, connecting and sharing discipleship through energy and enthusiasm as we recognise that *Youth is a flame! Youth is a fire!* Interactive discussion, Prayers, Readings, Reflection and Music will take place. For link in details contact [claudiacoxon@googlemail.com](mailto:claudiacoxon@googlemail.com) or [paulinepayne@hotmail.com](mailto:paulinepayne@hotmail.com). All young people under the age of 18 present on Zoom should be accompanied by an adult.

**News from Justice & Peace and Caritas 24<sup>th</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)**

### **Caritas is coming**

The eve of Pentecost is a great time to be launching Caritas in the Diocese of Nottingham. I hope you'll join us for an online celebration on 22 May to mark the moment. Booking is now open, as you will see in this edition of Grapevine. From Pentecost, Caritas will be our diocesan network for charity, justice, peace and care for creation. It will be embedded in the global Caritas family, and yet local to every parish and individual here in the East Midlands. In fact in building our diocesan Caritas, we've been guided throughout by the principle that 'together, we are Caritas' - you, me, and all of us. So as we launch Caritas we will also launch Friends in Caritas, the network through which we make common cause to live the Gospel. In many countries Caritas is the Church's humanitarian agency both at home and abroad. In England and Wales CAFOD is the Bishops' agency working abroad; Caritas will work for the common good of people here in the Diocese, whatever their faith. See you at Pentecost! Paul (Programme Leader for Social Action)  
Sign up to receive Grapevine direct to your inbox: [click here](#)

### **In this issue**

Book now for Kindle the Fire, Pentecost prayer for the launch of Caritas  
2 June: 'Open with Care' - resuming parish life and outreach  
8 June: 'Renewing the face of the Earth' - our first Laudato Si workshop  
15 June: An opportunity to help homeless young people in Nottingham  
Join forces for justice: stand with us for global justice

### **Kindle the fire: Pentecost online prayer - Saturday 22 May 2021 at 4pm.**

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. (Luke 4: 18) Join online prayer for the eve of Pentecost with Bishop Patrick, parishioners and friends of Caritas from around the Diocese of Nottingham. We'll be marking the launch of Caritas, the new ministry supporting charitable service in parishes in Nottingham diocese, and justice, peace and care for creation in the wider world. Meet fellow Catholics and find out how Caritas can help you live the Gospel. Find out more at [dioceseofnottingham.uk/kindlethefire](http://dioceseofnottingham.uk/kindlethefire) and follow the link to [book your place](#)

**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 *"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**

**REVOLUTION OF TENDERNESS.** 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](#)

**OPEN** 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](#)



"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/whats-on/news/share-your-story-how-has-covid-19-affected-you-and-your-faith](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.

### **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.