

Marriage Law Changes in England and Wales

You may be aware that from 1st July 2021 civil marriages will be permitted to be held outdoors on Approved Premises. This change is in respect of civil marriages only. The law in respect of religious marriages remains unchanged, they must take place in certified places of worship which are also registered for marriage. Furthermore, Canon Law states: "A marriage between Catholics or between a Catholic Party and a non-Catholic baptised party is to be celebrated in a parish church. It can be celebrated in another church or oratory with the permission of the local ordinary or parish priest. The local ordinary can permit a marriage to be celebrated in another suitable place. A marriage between a Catholic party and a non-baptised party can be celebrated in a church or in another suitable place". Diocesan Ordinaries have the faculty to permit the celebration of marriages, in limited circumstances, to take place "in another suitable place" but these are always in other Christian buildings.

The Holy Father's Day for Grandparents and the Elderly - 25th July 2021

At the end of January, the Holy Father announced a 'World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly' to be held annually on the Fourth Sunday in July (25th July 2021). The announcement formed part of Pope Francis' Angelus address on 31st January, a copy of which can be found at: http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2021/documents/papa-francesco_angelus_20210131.html In addition, there are many helpful resources provided by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life. See Annex 3a,3b,3c,3d.

Prayer for the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly - 25 July 2021

I thank You, Lord, for the comfort of Your presence:
even in times of loneliness, You are my hope and my confidence,
You have been my rock and my fortress since my youth!

I thank You for having given me a family
and for having blessed me with a long life.
I thank You for moments of joy and difficulty,
for the dreams that have already come true in my life
and for those that are still ahead of me.

I thank You for this time of renewed fruitfulness to which You call me.
Increase, O Lord, my faith, make me a channel of your peace,
teach me to embrace those who suffer more than me,
to never stop dreaming and to tell of your wonders to new generations.
Protect and guide Pope Francis and the Church,
that the light of the Gospel might reach the ends of the earth.
Send Your Spirit, O Lord, to renew the world,
that the storm of the pandemic might be calmed,
the poor consoled and wars ended.

Sustain me in weakness
and help me to live life to the full in each moment that You give me,
in the certainty that you are with me every day,
even until the end of the age.
Amen.

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



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4th – 11th July 2021

Words for the Week: *Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.*

Sunday 4.07	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass
Monday 5.07	No Service	
Tuesday 6.07	10am	Holy Mass
Wednesday 7.07	10am	Holy Mass
Thursday 8.07	No Service	
Friday 9.07	No Service	
Saturday 10.07	10am 5.45pm	Holy Mass Malayalam Mass
Sunday 11.07	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>

Sea Sunday - 11th JULY 2021

Please note that Sea Sunday will be on 11th July this year. It is when we are asked to encourage prayer and financial contributions to support the work of Stella Maris (the Apostleship of the Sea), the official maritime charity of the Catholic Church. This mandatory second collection is vital for the future of Stella Maris and its support of seafarers and fishermen in the UK and around the world. I kindly ask that you observe this **Sunday with prayer and a second collections.**

Second Collection next Sunday for Apostleship of the Sea.

Gospel Readings Sunday 4th July 2021

1st Reading – From the Book of Prophet Ezekiel Ez 2:2-5

As the LORD spoke to me, the spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me: Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have revolted against me to this very day. Hard of face and obstinate of heart are they to whom I am sending you. But you shall say to them: Thus says the LORD GOD! And whether they heed or resist—for they are a rebellious house— they shall know that a prophet has been among them.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalms 123 1-2, 2, 3-4

R. Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

To thee have I lifted up my eyes, who dwellest in heaven. Behold as the eyes of the servants are on the hands of their masters. **R.**

As the eyes of the handmaid are on the hands of her mistress: so are our eyes unto the Lord our God, until he have mercy on us. **R.**

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us: for we are greatly filled with contempt. For our soul is greatly filled: we are a reproach to the rich, and contempt to the proud. **R.**

2nd Reading – from the 2nd Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: That I, Paul, might not become too elated, because of the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, an angel of Satan, to beat me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me, but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

Gospel – Mark 6:1-6

Jesus departed from there and came to his native place, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands! Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honour except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house.” So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

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

One cannot know Jesus without getting oneself involved with Him, without betting your life [on] Him. When so many people - including us - pose this question: ‘But, who is He?’, The Word of God responds, ‘You want to know who He is? Read what the Church tells you about Him, talk to Him in prayer and walk the street with him. Thus, will you know who this man is.’ This is the way! Everyone must make his choice.

Pope Francis July Intentions - Social friendship. We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

300 Club 27th June: £50 Mr T Knott. £25 C Larkin (162), L Mathew (146).



Please remember in your prayers all the sick and housebound people of the parish.

News from Justice & Peace and Caritas 27th Edition of the Diocesan Grapevine - Go to <https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/whats-on/grapevine-e-bulletin>

Through Caritas, our Catholic parishes, groups, schools and individuals can share in each other’s dreams for a better world. Its mission of justice and charity is a wide remit. There is sure to be a place for you in our six ‘ministries’ of care:

- Building communities of missionary disciples
- Environment and global responsibility
- Offering social friendship and overcoming isolation
- Tackling poverty and defending human dignity
- Support for refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and members of diaspora communities
- Confronting modern slavery, trafficking and exploitation.

It’s a pretty comprehensive brief. In this edition of *Grapevine* we spotlight, among other things, the risks faced by seafarers from piracy, and the work of the Citizens movement. But there are two key projects which we are focusing on this year. You’re invited to a Zoom workshop on each:

- our emerging ecological ministry, as we strive to become a zero-carbon diocese - we've got a workshop on 6 July, *Renewing the face of the Earth*, where you can find out more
- opening up hospitality in our parishes so that people in our neighbourhoods can find healing after the pandemic - come to *Open with Care* on 5 July to help your parish take its next steps out of lockdown.

In this issue

Seafarers at risk of piracy

5 July: 'Open with Care' - a second workshop on safely resuming parish life

6 July: 'Renewing the face of the Earth' - join our follow-up workshop

6 September: 'The Cry of Creation' - Laudato Si' in a nutshell, six years on

The diocesan ministry for LGBT+ people

Opportunities for service - support for prisoners' families

Prayer for the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Piracy on the High Seas - Seafarers need protection and prayer

Caritas works locally in the Diocese of Nottingham, but keeps a global perspective through the wider Caritas network. This year, with Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea), we celebrate Sea Sunday on the 11th July, and we ask that you particularly remember all those key workers at sea, who provide us with goods and food, in your prayers. In 2020, 135 crew were kidnapped from their ships globally, with the Gulf of Guinea accounting for over 95% of the crew numbers kidnapped. This has happened in international waters in an area less than 20% of the size of the sea area dominated by Somali pirates a few years ago. The pirates launch their attacks from the Niger Delta, where they also subsequently hold their hostages. The attacks on merchant ships in the Gulf of Guinea by Nigerian pirates must end. So far, 99 maritime companies, organisations and flag states, including Stella Maris, have signed the [Gulf of Guinea Declaration on Suppression of Piracy](#), which was launched in May.

Martin Foley, Chief Executive of Stella Maris, has written an interesting article in [The Tablet](#) concerning the piracy issue, and the Declaration.

Please pray that seafarers are protected from danger and the threat of piracy, and if you can, please support the [Sea Sunday Appeal](#) that will be taking place in Parishes around the country.

Monday 5 July 2021 2.00 - 3.30 p.m. - Open with Care Getting your parish group started safely

Caritas in the Diocese of Nottingham is organising another online 'Open with Care' workshop. This is an ideal opportunity for parish groups, teams and rota organisers to find out how to start up after lockdown in a Covid-secure way. It's also a chance to find out how to start up a new group safely.

The afternoon will be hosted by Paul Bodenham of Caritas and Catherine Scholes, the diocesan Health and Safety Property Officer.

If you help run a parish activity, or are keen to see a new activity started up, this workshop is for you. It will take place on Zoom, with opportunities to ask your own questions and learn from others. Bookings must be made in advance: visit [bit.ly/openwithcare](#) to register.

It seems the country is inexorably moving to further easing of Coronavirus restrictions. When the rules relax we'll still owe a duty of care to parishioners and users of our services. It's time to plan how to reopen parish activities safely - friendship groups, coffee after Mass, external bookings, young people's catechesis, parish council meetings and so forth - and potentially start something new. Our second Open with Care workshop will help you make practical plans to get your activity started, while still observing public health restrictions. Catherine Scholes, Health and Safety Property Officer, will be on hand again to answer your questions.

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

Renewing the face of the Earth Tuesday 6 July, 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.

A practical workshop for anyone interested in promoting care of Creation

When it comes to action on climate change, every parish is part of the 'race to net-zero'. Would you like to help our parish, diocese and the wider Church in taking up the environmental challenges of our time? Caritas is seeking to develop a network of parish representatives to help promote care for the environment across the diocese. Join this conversational workshop on Zoom to explore what being a parish eco-representative could mean, and opportunities coming up this Autumn to enable the parish to 'preach Good News to all Creation'. Bookings must be made in advance: visit [bit.ly/renewtheearth](#) to register.

A follow-up workshop for care of Creation

We're holding a second workshop to help you plan environmental action in your parish, and develop a network of parish eco-representatives to support each other across the diocese.

Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si' calls us all to an 'ecological conversion'. The coming Autumn months will be a valuable time for us to answer that call as a Church, in our parishes and as individuals. Here are some of the events coming up: The Season of Creation runs from 1 September to 4 October, St Francis' feastday Climate Sunday takes place on 5 September, or any other suitable Sunday 'Cry of the Earth', a workshop on Laudato Si, the latest science and the challenge before us is planned for 6 September - more on that below COP26 takes place in Glasgow in early November On 20 November we'll have a conference to launch the diocesan environmental policy. [Book here for the workshop on 6 July](#)

World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees - 26th September 2021

The 107th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR), will be celebrated on 26th September 2021. The theme chosen for this year is "Towards an ever wider we," which is a major theme of Pope Francis in both Fratelli Tutti and the Declaration on Human Fraternity. Further information will be provided closer to the date.