

Pope Francis released from hospital returns to Vatican

The Director of the Holy See Press Office, has confirmed that the Holy Father was discharged shortly after 10.30 on Wednesday. In responding to questions from journalists, he noted that "Before returning to the Vatican, the Pope went to the Basilica of Saint Mary Major where, before the icon of the Virgin Mary Salus Populi Romani, he expressed his gratitude for the success of his surgery and offered a prayer for all the sick, especially those he had met during his stay in hospital. Shortly before midday he returned to Casa Santa Marta." Pope Francis later [sent a tweet](#) via his @Pontifex profile: "I thank all those who have been close to me with prayer and affection during my hospital stay. Let us not forget to pray for the sick and for those who assist them."

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.

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<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>		



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

18th – 25th July 2021

Words for the Week: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Sunday 18.07	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass
Monday 19.07	No Service	
Tuesday 20.07	10am	Holy Mass
Wednesday 21.07	6pm	Holy Mass
Thursday 22.07	9.30am	Holy Mass
Friday 23.07	10am	Holy Mass
Saturday 24.07	10am 5.45pm	Holy Mass Malayalam Mass
Sunday 25.07	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>

Words of the Holy Father

Today we could pray during this Mass for our shepherds, that the Lord give them the grace to walk with the people and to be present for them with much tenderness and closeness. When the people finds its shepherd, they feel that special sensation only felt in the presence of God. This amazement [comes from] feeling the closeness and the tenderness of God in the shepherd.

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.

Gospel Readings Sunday 18th July 2021

First reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah Jer 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock of my pasture, says the LORD. Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, against the shepherds who shepherd my people: You have scattered my sheep and driven them away. You have not cared for them, but I will take care to punish your evil deeds. I myself will gather the remnant of my flock from all the lands to which I have driven them and bring them back to their meadow; there they shall increase and multiply. I will appoint shepherds for them who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear and tremble; and none shall be missing, says the LORD. Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David; as king he shall reign and govern wisely, he shall do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah shall be saved, Israel shall dwell in security. This is the name they give him: "The LORD our justice."

Responsorial Psalm – Ps 23: 1-3, 3-4, 5,6

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

A psalm for David. The Lord ruleth me: and I shall want nothing. He hath set me in a place of pasture. He hath brought me up, on the water of refreshment: He hath converted my soul. **R.**

He hath led me on the paths of justice, for his own name's sake. For though I should walk in the midst of the shadow of death, I will fear no evils, for thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff, they have comforted me. **R.**

Thou hast prepared a table before me against them that afflict me. Thou hast anointed my head with oil; and my chalice which inebriateth me, how goodly is it! **R.**

And thy mercy will follow me all the days of my life. And that I may dwell in the house of the Lord unto length of days. **R.**

Second reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians Eph 2:13-18

Brothers and sisters: In Christ Jesus you who once were far off have become near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, he who made both one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh, abolishing the law with its commandments and legal claims, that he might create in himself one new person in place of the two, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile both with God, in one body, through the cross, putting that enmity to death by it. He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

From the Gospel according to Mark Mk 6:30-34

The apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat. So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place. People saw them leaving and many came to know about it. They hastened there on foot from all the towns and arrived at the place before them. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

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

300 Club 11th July: £50 R Hughes. £25 J Marston (109), A Lomas (177).

Sea Sunday Second Collection: £ 107.15. Thank you very much.



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

Congratulations and best wishes to Chris and Netsai Mukopfa, who will be celebrating their 24th Wedding Anniversary on Monday, 19th July.

Online Discussion: Post Lockdown Parish Evangelisation and Catechesis

As the restrictions begin to lift, and over the coming weeks and months life starts returning to normal/the new normal what could evangelisation and catechesis look like in our parishes? Join an online discussion on **Wednesday 21st July at 7pm** to listen to and share ideas with people from across the diocese on how we can Encounter God, grow as Jesus' Disciples and be Spirit filled Missionary Disciples. Sign up at www.dioceseofnottingham.uk

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.

'What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like?'

Teaching is not just about conveying facts - it's an act of the imagination. Teacher and learner together create something new.

Jesus used many parables to attempt to describe the Kingdom of God, but more often than not he started with a question, one like this: 'What shall we say the kingdom of God is like?' (Mark 4: 30). He invites us to find the answer for ourselves, in the evidence around us.

It's a timely question for us as we emerge from lockdown, and begin to rebuild our communities - both in the parish and in our neighbourhoods. So where do you see parables of the Kingdom in the community around you?

One thing is for sure, says Jesus, the signs are easily missed: the tiny mustard seed, the yeast in the loaf, the treasure in the field. So join Caritas on a search party - a search party of the imagination!

With the launch of Caritas in our diocese at Pentecost, we launched the 'Friends in Caritas'. This is a network of people who are seeking to grow in their practical witness to the Gospel, with encouragement and support from each other and from Caritas. You are welcome to join us - scroll down for more details. More than that, we invite you to connect with other Catholics locally, and together seek out those signs of the Kingdom so that they don't go unheeded. We are establishing four county-based Hubs within Caritas, and this issue of *Grapevine* contains an invitation to you to be in at the start. *Paul* (Programme Leader for Social Action)

Sign up to receive Grapevine direct to your inbox: [click here](#)

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Caritas Hubs: planting Caritas close to home

9 August: Planting Caritas close to home

Sign up as a Friend in Caritas

An update... from the Briars

In April 2020 we had no choice but to bid farewell to a calendar full of school, parish and youth groups booked for the months ahead of us. The volunteer team were sent home, and the centre became empty for the longest time since opening over 50 years ago. In times of desolation it's often hard to see, feel or even believe that God is with us and has already thought up a plan amid the chaos of the world. Alongside the wave of sadness and disappointment, of opportunities missed, of loved ones lost and dreams shattered, there were always some blessings - however small - that we could cling onto. Glimmers of hope, looking to a future of peace, togetherness and eventually joy.

Now, it's an exciting time for The Briars as our massive renovation project finally gets underway. We've worked really hard to use this time of closure as a time for growth and in addition to our increased online provision and new methods of working with school groups outdoors in our inflatable classroom. The whole staff community, many of whom have been working remotely or furloughed for a huge amount of time, are so excited to be back and welcome you to a renovated and updated centre for Summer/Autumn 2021.

The Briars first opened its doors as a Catholic residential retreat centre for young people in 1969 after the site was obtained by the Diocese of Nottingham following its previous use as a Quaker guest house. In the 80s exciting developments were made in order to increase residential capacity and allow for larger groups of young people to be resident at the centre, with the guidance of an ever-growing volunteer team and management.

This saw the construction of two new structural additions known today as 'Hebron' and 'Tabor' respectively housing the catering, residential and social spaces, and the chapel, lower conference room and reception area. Today, these new developments that are underway are the largest single investment in the centre in over 30 years. We will see residential areas fully modernised - with en-suite accommodation for all, a brand new state of the art dining area and food servery, renewed lounge and social facilities and additional improvements to our site and outdoor recreational spaces, easier parking and coach spaces, all making the retreat experience at The Briars smoother, easier and more beautiful than ever.

Make sure you check out our website and social media for more information and updates, and don't forget to book your trip now for 2021-22! We've frozen prices from last year and whilst restrictions remain we're offering a no risk deposit to secure your trip. There's also a special 20% discounted rate for weekend bookings.

[CONTACT US ABOUT BOOKING!](#)

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.