

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Statement from the Catholic Bishops of England - *Sunday – it is our Day*

On 19th July, the current legislative powers which assist the mitigations against the covid-19 virus transmission will be rescinded by HM Government. Nevertheless, there will be an encouragement to personal and corporate responsibility in this area; as the Prime Minister said in his most recent statement “The pandemic is not over.” Even without this legislation in place, the Church in England and Wales will be adopting a cautious approach to capacity and activity within our buildings, especially at corporate acts of worship.

We are mindful of the certain fact that the Covid-19 virus is still circulating in society. Vaccines provide genuine protection against the worst effects of the virus, yet we recognise the legitimate fear on the part of some who otherwise desire to gather for Holy Mass. It is our continuing judgement, therefore, that it is not possible at the present time for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday thus fulfilling their duty to God.

It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021. In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church.

In April, following our Plenary Assembly, we offered a reflection on the experience of the extraordinary long months of the pandemic. It was titled *The Day of the Lord*. We also began to look at the way forward. We spoke about the important invitation to restore the Sunday Mass to its rightful centrality in our lives. We asked for a rekindling in our hearts of a yearning for the Real Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist, as our response to the total, sacrificial love that Jesus has for us. We said: “The Eucharist should be the cause of our deepest joy, our highest manner of offering thanks to God and for seeking his mercy and love. We need to make it the foundation stone of our lives.”

May this continue to be our striving during these coming months as we journey back to the full celebration of our Sunday Mass and our renewed observance of *The Day of the Lord*.

1 St Jerome, *In Die Dominica Paschae II*

Updated Guidance

Hand Sanitiser will be available at the entrance. Wearing of face-coverings is highly recommended in Church. Social distancing is no longer mandatory, but please be respectful of others' needs at this time. During Mass, you can remain seated or stand as you wish, **but please do not kneel**.

Congregational singing is again permitted. Holy Communion can be distributed with distancing and allow some spacing, mindful of the needs of others. Father will continue to sanitise his hands and wear a face-covering before distributing Holy Communion. Some of our people will be very anxious at any sudden return to 'normality'. We can be patient and caring towards each other, as we take this next big step back towards normality, following the pandemic.



*Mother of God
Greencoat Road
Leicester LE3 6NZ*

(0116) 287 5232
[✉mogparish@gmail.com](mailto:mogparish@gmail.com)
www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk

*Parish Priest:
Fr. George Thomas
gchelackal@gmail.com*



NRCDT- Registered Charity

Our Schools:

Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - www.ctk.ik.org/p_Home.ikml
English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/



Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st – 8th August 2021

Words for the Week: The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

Sunday 1.08	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass
Monday 2.08	No Service	
Tuesday 3.08	10am	Holy Mass
Wednesday 4.08	6pm	Holy Mass - St John Vianny
Thursday 5.08	10am	Holy Mass
Friday 6.08	10am	Holy Mass - The Transfiguration of The Lord
Saturday 7.08	10am 5.45pm	Holy Mass Malayalam Mass
Sunday 8.08	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass

Our Parish Prayer

Father God,
thank you for our church and its people.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit
so that our church may grow.
Help us to see you in everyone we meet
and fill our lives with your praise.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Pope Francis August Intentions - The Church. Let us pray for the Church, that She may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

Gospel Reflection Sunday 1st August 2021

John 6:24-35 - "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?"

Good News: whoever comes to Jesus will never hunger, and whoever believes in Him will never thirst.

Jesus noticed that many people were following Him because of the food that was provided for them. Maybe they were looking for more. He then took the opportunity to preach about the real bread that gives life to the world.

This is in support of His previous statement that no man shall live on bread alone but by the word of God. (Matthew 4:4) For indeed physical bread spoils but His word sustains life forever.

That is why when the people asked Jesus what they can do to accomplish the works of God, He responded by telling them to believe in the one He sent, an indication that Jesus Himself is the Son of God. By believing in Him, one's spiritual hunger and thirst is satisfied. In short, Jesus alone is all we need.

The people insisted on seeing signs before they could believe in Jesus. They already witnessed the many wonders that He performed such as healing, raising of the dead, and feeding of thousands. They are never satisfied. Even if Jesus will perform even more miracles, they will still look for more. That is human nature at work. Jesus told them and He is telling us now: He is the sign.

So, if you want to accomplish the work of God, believe in the one God has sent - Jesus.

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

Jesus does not eliminate the concern and search for daily food. No, he does not remove the concern for all that can make life more progressive. But Jesus reminds us that the true meaning of our earthly existence lies at the end, in eternity, it lies in the encounter with Him, who is gift and giver. He also reminds us that human history with its suffering and joy must be seen in a *horizon of eternity*, that is, in that horizon of the definitive encounter with Him.

300 Club 18th July: £50 M Wakely (121). £25 M Rossa (105), P Moore (289).
25th July: £100 Mrs M Taylor (10). £50 Mrs A Billson. £25 M Robinson (174), M Billington (59).

Mass Intentions. One of the great gifts we can give to someone is to have a Mass offered for their intention or for the repose of their soul. To request a Mass please use the envelopes found at the back of the church. Please state if the Mass is for a deceased person, birthday or any special intentions. **Thank you.**



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

News from Justice & Peace and Caritas 28th Edition of the Diocesan Grapevine -
Go to <https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/whats-on/grapevine-e-bulletin>

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.