

**PARISH FEAST: MOTHER OF GOD LEICESTER**

Eight days fasting in connection with the Nativity of Our Lady (Ettu Noimpu), will be the main feast of the Mother of God Church (English and Malayalam Community).

**Feast Days: 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021.**

Person(s) and / or family members who are interested to take up ettu (Ettu Noimpu) celebrations in a special way (presidenti or sponsors) are encouraged to come forward. There can be more than one presidenties on each day. Each presidenti has to contribute a minimum of £100.

**Please see poster in church porch for full details of celebrations.**

<b>Updated Guidance</b>	<p>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, <b>but please do not kneel.</b></p> <p>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.</p>
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**Mother of God First Holy Communion Programme 2021-2022**

This is an advanced notification of our intended future dates for our First Holy Communion Programme.

**From Sunday 26th September**, application forms will be available from the back of church, to be returned by Sunday 17th October at the latest.


**Tuesday 19th October:** meeting for parents to be introduced to the programme.

**Sunday 24th October:** first session for the children, in the hall from 9 till 10 am.

**Sunday 31st October at the 10.30 mass, our First Holy Communion Enrolment Mass.**

More details to follow in order to confirm or rearrange our programme. Looking forward to meeting you all.

**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.**

	<p><b>Mother of God</b> Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</p> <p><b>(0116) 287 5232</b> <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.com">gchelackal@gmail.com</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">                   NRCDT- Registered Charity             </p>
Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - <a href="http://www.ctlk.org/p_Home.ikml">www.ctlk.org/p_Home.ikml</a> English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - <a href="http://www.emschool.co.uk/">www.emschool.co.uk/</a>		



**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**22<sup>nd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

**Words for the Week:** Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Sunday 22.08	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass
Monday 23.08	No Service	
Tuesday 24.08	10am	Holy Mass
Wednesday 25.08	6pm	Holy Mass
Thursday 26.08	10am	Holy Mass
Friday 27.08	10am	Holy Mass
Saturday 28.08	10am 5.45pm	Holy Mass Malayalam Mass
Sunday 29.08	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass

**Words of the Holy Father**

From Peter's question we understand that fidelity to God is a question of fidelity to a person, to whom we bind ourselves to walk together on the same road. And this person is Jesus. All that we have in the world does not satisfy our infinite hunger. We need Jesus, to be with him, to be nourished at his table, on his words of eternal life! Believing in Jesus means making him the centre, the meaning of our life. Christ is not an optional element: he is the "Living Bread", the essential nourishment.

**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.



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

## Gospel Reflection Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021 - John 6:60-69

### To Whom Shall we go?

Good News: Jesus has the message of eternal life. In many gospel passages, we read about crowd following Jesus. In the last remaining verses of John chapter 6, we read that many people walked away because they find Jesus' teaching about the "Bread of Life" as intolerable and unacceptable. Some of them went on to plot His death. This is what happens if people do not have faith. We need faith in order to understand and accept the message of salvation.

Thanks be to God, Peter and the other apostles stood by Jesus. It is because they believed in Him even if they only have little understanding of what their master was teaching about. It is very important that we cleanse our thoughts of pre-conceived ideas. It is much more important that we develop our heart and mind as fertile ground where the Word of God can be planted and grow. Else, we are like some of the followers of Jesus who were "disturbed" and just distanced themselves from Him.

Indeed, there are many teachings of Jesus that are difficult to accept especially when they affect the things we hold dear like our business or relationship. They don't like Jesus to interfere with their worldly activities. As a result, some people become part-time believers or even full-time unbelievers.

Jesus has the words of eternal life. If we want to have eternal life, let us listen to Him wholeheartedly without any reservation. Yet we cannot go to Him unless the Father leads us. For faith and understanding is a gift from above. Let us pray then that our Father in heaven grant us a welcoming and faithful heart and that Jesus may become the King in all aspects of our life.

"Do you also wish to go away?" When Jesus asks of us this question, may our answer be like Peter: "To whom shall we go?"

**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

**SVP - Mother of God:** Our small team of SVP members would like to know if any parishioners are interested in joining them. Now that we are allowed to visit people in their home, or give them our support by a phone call, we need a few more members. For any information please call Clive Barkshire on 0116 2874343.

**300 Club 15<sup>th</sup> August:** £50 P Dias (184). £25 Fr, J-J Maloney (300), S Hunt (41).

**The Cry of Creation Laudato Si', the IPCC,** and their challenge to us in the Diocese of Nottingham Monday 6 September 7 - 8.30pm on Zoom. Whether it's wildfires, flooding or the depletion of wildlife, news is coming in thick and fast of the changes our planet is undergoing. The world's poorest, who are least responsible, are being hardest hit - but all of us are beginning to feel the impact. Back in 2015 Pope Francis issued his ground breaking encyclical Laudato Si', 'On Care for our Common Home'. How well have we grasped its message? And how can it ignite us for action in 2021 as the environmental crisis deepens? This online workshop will be an opportunity to get a handle on the key messages of Laudato Si' hear the latest evidence from the IPCC re-assess how Laudato Si' challenges us anew in 2021 help to shape our response in our parishes hold the COP26 climate summit and other decision makers to account. Join us for a major diocesan conference on Saturday 20 November 2021, when we hope to launch the diocesan environmental policy. Our keynote speaker in November will be Lord Deben, chair of the UK Climate Change Committee.

[Register here for 'The Cry of Creation', 6 Sept](#)

### English Martyrs' Catholic School, Leicester - A Level Results 2021

Congratulations to our Sixth Form students who received their A Level, BTec and AS results on Tuesday 10th August. Consistent with our long-established record of superb results, this year we are celebrating 87.4% grades A\*-C and 100% pass rate at A Level.

Year 13 have contributed a great deal to the school community during their time in the Sixth Form and we are delighted that the vast majority of students have accepted their first choice offers at university. Here is a small selection of this year's university destinations and courses: **Bournemouth University** - Animation; **Bristol University** - Chemistry; **Liverpool University** - Economics; **Nottingham University** - Economics; **Nottingham University** - Aerospace Engineering; **King's College London** - Engineering; **Leeds University** - Engineering; **Nottingham University** - Electrical Engineering; **Leicester University** - English Literature & History; **Swansea University** - French; **Warwick University** - History; **Sheffield University** - Law; **Imperial College London** - Medicine; **King's College London** - Medicine; **Leicester University** - Medicine; **Newcastle University** - Medicine; **Nottingham University** - Medicine; **Plymouth University** - Medicine; **Birmingham Conservatoire** - Music & Vocal Performance; **Leicester University** - Neuroscience; **Manchester University** - Adult Nursing; **Nottingham University** - Pharmacy; **Manchester University** - Psychology; **Sheffield University** - Sociology and Media. We wish our students happiness and fulfilment as they commence the next stage in their academic careers.

### A prayer for Afghanistan

Lord, compassionate and merciful, you  
hear the cries of all peoples,  
formed as they are in Your own image.

Reach with into the hearts of all who call Afghanistan home;  
of all her people in this time of trauma;  
of all who flee, and all who can give them shelter;  
of all who have given of themselves in the cause of peace;  
and of all who have taken the nation in their hands.

We pray for tranquillity, dignity and freedom;  
for the women, men and children of Afghanistan;  
and for wisdom and generosity in the international community.  
Jesus Christ, prince of peace, hear our prayer. Amen.

Link to Grapevine 29 <https://us8.campaignarchive.com/?u=8660f054ac5b3dc3f5fec2801&id=749b07f8d1>