

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: 1st - 8th September 2021.

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

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

Please find the minutes for the Mother of God church parish council meeting on 25 August 2021 at 7pm over ZOOM.

1. The Parish Priest thanked all the stewards and the musicians who did an exceptional job in helping to keep the church COVID-free. He will soon be distributing certificates, issued on behalf of the bishop of Nottingham diocese, to all the stewards for their selfless service.
2. Parish council member - Santhosh, informed us of the issues of a leak in the parish hall. He is talking with some builders to have a look at it, and get an expert opinion.
3. Feast of Nativity of BVM on 1-8 September 2021. There will be English and Malayalam masses on 1-8 September. Exposition of the Eucharist after English Mass, until the start of Malayalam Mass. Mass is there on all days. Festal celebration on 11th September 2021. Parish council member - Ian McKay, raised the need to remember the dead during the feast. It was agreed that on 12th September 2021, during both English and Malayalam Mass the dead will be remembered. Candles will be lit during the mass remembering the dead and office of prayers will be said. Community members should provide the names of their bereaved (can be anywhere in the world) to the parish priest before the festal period so that they can be remembered during mass. Maila will be informed about it and they will be published in the newsletter.
4. A common cleaning of the church and its premises will be undertaken on 30 August 2021. All community members are invited.
5. Parish council member - Margaret, requested that we should pray for those who are suffering in Afghanistan. Parish Priest and other members supported this need to pray for the people who are suffering.
6. Parish council member - Ian McKay, proposed the need to have an International day. All council members supported it. Ian will co-ordinate the multi-lingual choir. The possibilities for having international food event will depend on the COVID directives.
7. Next parish council meeting on 6/10/2021 Wednesday 7 pm in the parish hall.

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
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/



22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

29th August – 5th September 2021

Sunday 29.08	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass
Monday 30.08	No Service	
Tuesday 31.08	10am	Holy Mass
Wednesday 1.09 Starting of EttuNoimpu	10am 5.45pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass
Thursday 2.09	10am 5.45pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass
Friday 3.09	10am 5.45pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass
Saturday 4.09	10am 5.45pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass
Sunday 5.09	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass

Words of the Holy Father

The approach is one of sensitivity, prudence, humility, attention towards the one who committed a fault, to avoid wounding or killing the brother with words. Because, you know, words too can kill! When I speak, when I make an unfair criticism, when I “flay” a brother with my tongue, this is killing another person’s reputation! Words kill too. Let us pay attention to this. At the same time, the discretion of speaking to him alone is to avoid needlessly humiliating the sinner. It is discussed between the two, no one is aware of it and then it’s over. It’s terrible to see an insult or taunt issue from the mouth of a Christian. It is ugly. Do you understand? Do not insult! To insult is not Christian. Understood? To insult is not Christian.

Pope Francis September Intentions -Universal intention - An environmentally sustainable lifestyle. We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

Gospel Reflection Sunday 29th August 2021 -

He summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile." **Mark 7:14-15**

Jesus speaks this passage after calling the Pharisees "hypocrites." He rebukes them for being obsessively concerned about the externals and failing to be attentive to the internals. Jesus makes it clear that evil comes from within and that the heart should be our true concern.

The thing that sparked Jesus' strong rebuke of the Pharisees was the fact that they criticized the disciples for not washing their hands and, thus, they ate their meal with "unclean hands." What's sad is that the Pharisees seem to make a huge deal about this fact. What this reveals is that the Pharisees seemed to think that holiness is something that you obtain by scrupulous external observance of the laws and customs of the times. But they failed to see the importance of what was within.

St. Teresa of Ávila has a couple of beautiful quotes that speak of the importance of that which is within. "Within you dwells your God. Enter within, look at Him, talk to Him, listen to Him and stay with Him in your heart." And, "Indeed, we have heaven within ourselves for the Lord of Heaven is there."

Jesus also points out the types of evil that come from within. "From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile" **Mark 7: 21-23.**

So what's in your heart? When you spend time alone and quietly look at your life, what do you see? What is it that makes up your interior life?

Reflect, today, upon that which is within. Know that any sin in your heart must be acknowledged, confessed and purged. Only when that is done can you meet God who dwells within. Only then can you allow God to transform your exterior from His presence in your soul.

Lord, please do come into my heart. Set my heart on fire with love for You. Purge my heart of all sin and allow Your divine presence to shine forth for all to see. Jesus, I trust in You.

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 22nd August: £50 Mr T Knott (13). £25 R Ashley (239), C Fisher (61),

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.**

10th September is World Suicide Prevention Day, an annual event that encourages people around the world to think about those touched by suicide and in doing raise awareness. Let's pray for them:

God of all mercy,

From whose love nothing can separate us, we pray this day for all Experiencing mental illness and those who love and care for them.

Especially this day, we pray for all whose lives have been touched by suicide, for those who have died by suicide and those who have attempted it.

We pray for those who, because of mental health challenges, live with thoughts of suicide. We pray for those who live in despair and without hope because of life events.

We pray for families and friends, colleagues and co-workers, who have been touched by the suicide of a loved one,

We pray for all those who care for them and all who seek to help. And we pray, too, that you might give us the courage and wisdom to be there for others in distress, to offer your love and our care, to help break the silence and change the conversation about suicide, to be your listening ear, your hands, and your heart for others. **Amen.**

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.**