

**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 presienties on each day. Each presienti has to contribute a minimum of £100.

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

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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><i>Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</i></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><i>Parish Priest: Fr. George Thomas <a href="mailto:gchelackal@gmail.com">gchelackal@gmail.com</a></i></p>  <p><i>NRCDT- Registered Charity</i></p>
<p>Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - <a href="http://www.ctk.ik.org/p_Home.ikml">www.ctk.ik.org/p_Home.ikml</a> English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - <a href="http://www.emschool.co.uk/">www.emschool.co.uk/</a></p>		



**23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**5<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Sunday 5.09	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass
Monday 6.09	10am 5.45pm	English Mass Holy Qurbana - Malayalam Mass
Tuesday 7.09	10am 5.45pm	English Mass Holy Qurbana - Malayalam Mass
Wednesday 8.09 <b>Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	10am 5.45pm	English Mass Holy Qurbana - Malayalam Mass
Thursday 9.09	10am	English Mass
Friday 10.09	10am	English Mass
Saturday 11.09	10am 3.30pm	English Mass Solemn Divine Liturgy (Malayalam) Rosary procession and Ladinju
Sunday 12.09	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass

**Words of the Holy Father**

To often the sick and the suffering become a problem, while they should be an occasion to show a society's concern and solidarity with regard to the weakest. Jesus revealed to us the secret of a miracle that we too can imitate, becoming protagonists of "Ephphatha", of that phrase 'be opened' with which He gave speech and hearing back to the man who before could not hear or speak. It means opening ourselves to the needs of our brothers and sisters who are suffering and in need of help, by shunning selfishness and hardheartedness. It is precisely the heart, that is the deep core of the person, that Jesus came to "open", to free, in order to make us capable of fully living the relationship with God and with others.

**Next Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> September, we will remember our dearly departed by lighting candles during both Masses and office of prayers will be said.**

## Gospel background for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021 - Mk 7:31-37

Today we continue to hear the Gospel of Mark proclaimed. In today's reading, Jesus heals a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment. This is a story about Jesus' healing power, and in it we find clues about our understanding of sacrament. We are struck by the physical means used to heal the man, the use of spittle and touch. The Church continues to celebrate the sacraments using physical means. In the Sacrament of Baptism, water and oil are used to show the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, we are anointed with holy oil on the forehead and the hands. In the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. We are a sacramental people who believe that God's grace is given to us through these physical signs.

Some, however, see in this Gospel an image of the proclamation of the good news of Jesus to the Gentiles. The geographic references tell us that Jesus is journeying through Gentile territory. Jesus had previously visited this region and healed a person possessed by a demon. Jesus was already famous there, which explains why people brought the deaf man to him. The story that precedes this reading in Mark's Gospel sets the stage. Jesus encounters a Gentile, a Syrophenician woman who asks him to heal her demon-possessed daughter. Jesus engages her in a dialogue about not feeding to dogs the food intended for children. Jesus is struck by the woman's great faith when she replies that even dogs eat the food that falls from the table, and he heals her daughter immediately. The faith of this Greek woman compels Jesus to respond to her plea.

Mark shows that Jesus' own mission affirms the early Church's mission to the Gentiles. This was a significant issue to the early Christian community, which found that the good news of Jesus took root and spread quickly among the Gentiles. Yet there is an irony in the story of healing that Mark tells. Jesus gives the man the gift of speech, but then tells him not to use it. Jesus asks that the news of his healing power, which is evidence of his identity as the Messiah, not be spread. This is a recurring motif in Mark's Gospel and is sometimes called the "messianic secret."

**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

Talk on Assisted Suicide by Baroness Grey-Thompson on Thursday September 9<sup>th</sup>. Baroness Grey-Thompson will deliver a talk entitled, 'Assisted Dying: A Win for Autonomy or a Loss for Civil Society?' Baroness Grey-Thompson, is a former Paralympian, disability rights campaigner, member of the House of Lords and opponent of legalised physician assisted-suicide who will address the Diocese on this vital moral issue, via Zoom. If you would like to attend this exclusive talk, please visit [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk) in order to register.

**10<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**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 29<sup>th</sup> August:** £50 M Fisher (117). £25 J Woolley (35), B Prowse (281).

### 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.**

Diocese of Nottingham Grapevine 30

<https://us8.campaign-archive.com/?u=8660f054ac5b3dc3f5fec2801&id=26fd641f3f>