

## LOVE CHRISTMAS

Bishop Patrick is encouraging parishes to get involved in the Love Christmas initiative. The scheme is a national initiative, growing through a network of thousands of churches and other local organisations to share 'Bags of Kindness' with people in their neighbourhoods.

In the wake of the COVID pandemic, many people continue to live isolated from friends, family and community; often struggling with financial distress, poor health, job uncertainty and bereavement. Love Christmas brings Catholic parishes and other local churches together to give, pack and deliver practical gifts. It strengthens personal connections in communities across the UK and lets people know we are with them, and they are not alone.

It's a great way to lift our eyes from concerns about the impact of the pandemic on our own parish congregation, look outwards to the wider community, and build our confidence for mission. Follow the link below to see if Love Christmas is something your parish could do.

**Please help by donating a box this Christmas or, if you prefer, there will be a box in the church porch for donations of dry food and tins. Thank you**

**A moment of consequence.** After a year's postponement, negotiators and world leaders are about to gather for COP26 in Glasgow. It is the most consequential international summit of our generation. For one will be following every move with bated breath. I imagine that in all of our parishes we'll be praying for a courageous outcome. Let's hope the needs of the poor and future generations win over short-term self-interest.

Immediately afterwards is our online diocesan annual Justice and Peace Assembly. And we can have no better keynote speaker to help us make sense of the outcome than Lord Deben, Chair of the UK Climate Change Committee, which advises government on climate policy.

The biggest casualty of a bad outcome from COP26 would be justice, and we're also privileged to be joined by Raymond Friel, Chief Executive of Caritas Social Action Network. CSAN leads the co-ordinates advocacy and action at national level across a whole range of social concerns. The impact of Covid-19 is giving their work - and the task facing all of us - a sharper focus than ever.

Now is the time to get your booking in - and to put the advert below in your parish bulletin! You'll be able to join people from your parish and district in buzz groups. Together we'll seek to navigate this 'change of era' with the Gospel as our guide. I look forward to having you with us!

*Paul - Programme Leader for Social Action, Diocese of Nottingham*

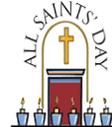
**Mass Intentions.** One of the great gifts we can give to someone is to have a Mass offered for their intention or for the repose of their soul. To request a Mass please use the envelopes found at the back of the church. Please state if the Mass is for a deceased person, birthday or any special intentions.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

**Please find the time to join us for this special 12 Days of Prayer for COP26.** Heaven's Road Catholic Online Radio invites you to join us for 12 days of prayer for the success of The COP26 Environmental Conference 1-12 Nov 2021 in Glasgow with world leaders in attendance. Simply tune into Heaven's Road and click to Live Masses at [heavensroadfm.com/live-masses/](https://heavensroadfm.com/live-masses/).

	<p><b>Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</b></p> <p><b>☎(0116) 287 5232</b> <b>✉mogparish@gmail.com</b> <b><a href="http://www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk">www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</a></b></p>	<p><b>Parish Priest: Fr. George Thomas <a href="mailto:gchelackal@gmail.com">gchelackal@gmail.com</a></b></p>  <p><b>NRCDT- Registered Charity</b></p>
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Our Schools:

Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - [www.ctk.ik.org/p\\_Home.ikml](http://www.ctk.ik.org/p_Home.ikml)  
English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - [www.emschool.co.uk/](http://www.emschool.co.uk/)

	<p><b>31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b></p> <p><b>31<sup>st</sup> October – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b></p>	
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Sunday 31.10	10.30am 3.30pm 4pm	English Mass Rosary Malayalam Mass	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Updated Guidance:</b></p> <p>Hand Sanitiser will be available at the entrance. Wearing of face-coverings is highly recommended. During Mass, you can remain seated or stand, <b>but please do not kneel.</b> Congregational singing is again permitted. Holy Communion can be distributed with distancing. Some of our people will be very anxious at the sudden rise of Covid cases. We can be patient and caring towards each other, as we take this next big step towards normality.</p>
Monday 1.11	No service		
Tuesday 2.11	10am	English Mass Feast of all Souls	
Wednesday 3.11	No service		
Thursday 4.11	No service		
Friday 5.11	No service		
Saturday 6.11	No service		
Sunday 7.11	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass	

**Children's Liturgy Group will be postponed to next Sunday.**

✚November - Month of the Holy souls

November is when we remember the souls of our departed brothers and sister / relatives and friends. Please hand in an envelope with the names for those whom you wish to be prayed for during this month. We pray for all the deceased people of the parish.

✚Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> of November: Feast of all Souls

✚Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November: Remembrance Sunday

**Pope Francis November Intentions - Universal intention - People who suffer from depression.** We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

## Gospel background for Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021 - Matthew 5:1-12

### Feast of all Saints - Jesus teaches what it means to be happy.

Every year the Church recalls the example, witness, and prayer of the holy women and men who have been identified by the Church as Saints. These saints are more than just role models; they are family members with whom we continue to share relation, in a bond of prayer, called the Communion of Saints. Every year when we celebrate this day, the Gospel we proclaim recalls for us Jesus' teaching about happiness, the Beatitudes. We quickly note in this reading that none of those Jesus names as "blessed" or "happy" are expected . . . the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted. Jesus' blueprint for happiness reflects little of what the world might call happiness.

What does Jesus mean when he uses the word "blessed?" This word is sometimes translated as "happy" or "fortunate" or "favoured." In other words, Jesus is saying that divine favour is upon those who are poor, who mourn, who are persecuted. This might have been welcome and surprising news to the crowds who heard Jesus that day.

The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living. Because of this, it is natural that we proclaim this Gospel on the Feast of All Saints. Saints are people who lived the spirit of the Beatitudes as Jesus lived. On this day, we too are challenged to model our lives on the spirit and promises of the Beatitudes.

**An Act of Spiritual Communion:** 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

### West Leicester Catholic 300 Club

Thank you to all members for their continued support for the 300 Club's valuable fundraising for our parishes of Mother of God, Blessed Sacrament and St Peter's.

#### Grand Prize Draw:

The Grand Prize Draw will take place on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021 with committee members only in attendance. The 1<sup>st</sup> Prize is £1,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize is £400, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize is £300, 4<sup>th</sup> prize is £200 and the usual quarterly £100 and weekly £50 and two £25 prizes. A reminder that only fully-paid up members are eligible for the draw.

**300 Club 24<sup>th</sup> October:** £50 A Fitzgerald (236). £25 N Tyrell (173), B Stasiewicz (127).

**A message from CAFOD:** P Thank you for supporting our Climate Crisis Appeal for our recent Family Fast Day. Every donation helps us in our work and is gratefully received. [cafod.org.uk/climatecrisis](http://cafod.org.uk/climatecrisis)

**Please pray for the success of the upcoming UN climate talks in Glasgow, COP26, from 31 October to 12 November.** There are prayer cards at the back of church; please do take one and pray that world leaders will put the needs of marginalised communities around the world, those most affected by climate change, right at the heart of these climate talks. For more information see [cafod.org.uk/COP26](http://cafod.org.uk/COP26)

**May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 and instill in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the most vulnerable**

## Opening of World Wide Synodal 2021-2023

Pope Francis is calling the Church to rediscover its deeply synodal nature, which will involve a process of humbly discerning together, how God is calling us to be Church, in the third millennium. Please pray for the guidance and inspiration of God's Holy Spirit throughout this process.

Addressing the faithful of the Diocese of Rome, Pope Francis described the upcoming Synod – with the theme "For a synodal Church: communion, participation, mission" – as a journey in which the whole Church is engaged. He noted that the Synod will take place between October 2021 and October 2023, and that the itinerary has been conceived as dynamism of mutual listening, conducted at all levels of the Church, involving the whole the people of God".

The first stage of the process (October 2021 - April 2022) is the one concerning the individual diocesan Churches. "That is why I am here, as your bishop, to share, because it is very important that the Diocese of Rome commits itself with conviction to this journey", said the Pope. He explained that "synodality expresses the nature of the Church, its form, its style, its mission". The word "synod", in fact, contains everything we need to understand: "walking together".

See the full text and other reporting of the Synod at <https://www.vaticannews.va/>

### Synod Prayer

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in you our unity so that we may journey together  
to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

**'A Change of Era' - Saturday 20 November.** Hard on the heels of COP26, join our online Diocesan Justice and Peace Assembly, with Bishop Patrick and parishioners from around our diocese, and two high-profile keynote speakers:

Lord Deben, Chair of the Climate Change Committee, which advises the UK Government on climate policy.

Raymond Friel, Chief Executive of Caritas Social Action Network.

Pope Francis has said 'We do not live in an era of change so much as a change of era'. There is no doubting his words. Covid-19 is still rife worldwide and climate change is accelerating. In these turbulent times, three things abide: faith, hope and love.

You will be warmly welcome to join by Zoom from 10.00 a.m. to 1.15 p.m., to listen and share what the Spirit is saying to the Church - particularly as parish communities called to mission in the wake of Covid-19 and the Glasgow climate summit the previous week. More details and booking at [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/changeofera](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/changeofera)

[More about 'A Change of Era' Book your place here](#)

**We need more readers.**

**If you can help, please see Sharon Pritchard after mass.**