

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.

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 change of Era', Saturday 20th 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 10am. to 1.15pm, 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
[More about 'A Change of Era' Book your place here](#)

Praying for Leicestershire at 7pm on November 28th at All Nations Centre - 10 Frog Island, LE3 5AG. On behalf of the Bishop, and many Leicester churches we are writing to invite you to an evening of prayers. The evening will include worship and interactive prayer led by many different church leaders from Leicestershire. It will be fantastic to be together and to pray. Please find a graphic attached to be used to let your congregation know about the event. There is parking at the venue.

"One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: 'Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no-one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.'" Acts 18:9-10 NIVUK

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.

✝ 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.

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

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

	<p>33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>14th – 21st November 2021</p> <p>Remembrance Sunday</p>	
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Sunday 14.11	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass	<p style="text-align: center;">Updated Guidance:</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, but please do not kneel. 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. Please be patient and caring towards each other, as we take this next big step towards normality.</p>
Monday 15.11	No service		
Tuesday 16.11	No service		
Wednesday 17.11	No service		
Thursday 18.11	No service		
Friday 19.11	No service		
Saturday 20.11	No service		
Sunday 21.11	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass	

World Day of the Poor Sunday 14th November.

The diocesan Synod journey invites us to ask, 'Who are the people who feel marginalised or separated from the Church and from society; and how can we best respond? Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) have published a Novena of prayer, liturgy and reflection, starting on 5 November. It sets the scene well for the Synod conversations which follow. It's ideal for use in personal reflection or in the parish. In our society, we also have people who experience the poverty of isolation and loneliness, homelessness, modern day slavery, trafficking, relational poverty, the experience of being abused or the victim of violence. These circumstances are often drivers of material poverty, or the result of material poverty. The Gospel calls us to a conversion of heart and this conversion, as Pope Francis says in this year's message for the World Day of the Poor, "consists primarily in opening our hearts to recognizing the many different forms of poverty and manifesting the Kingdom of God through a lifestyle consistent with the faith we profess."

Loving Father your risen Son sent us out into the world as ambassadors for your kingdom of justice, love and peace; inspire us with your Spirit of compassion, justice advocacy and proclamation, to declare good news to the poor, liberty to captives, to let the oppressed go free. We make this our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Gospel background for Sunday 14th November 2021 - Mark 13:24-32.

This Sunday is the second to last Sunday of our liturgical year. As we approach the end of the Church year, our Gospel invites us to consider Jesus' predictions and teaching about the end of the world. In the context of Mark's Gospel, Jesus' words about this are spoken to his disciples as he prepares them for his passion and death.

Before we consider Jesus' words, it is important to note the political backdrop against which many think Mark's Gospel was written. Most scholars concur that Mark wrote his Gospel for Christians living in or near Rome about 30 to 40 years after the death of Jesus. This was a time of political turmoil in Rome. Some Christians experienced persecution by the Romans during the reign of the emperor Nero (about 64 A.D.). Jewish revolutionaries rebelled against the Romans, which led the Romans to destroy the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 A.D. In this time of political turmoil and persecution, many in Mark's community might have wondered if the end times predicted by Jesus were in fact quite near.

Last Sunday we heard Jesus' observation about the contributions being made to the temple treasury and the example of sacrificial giving that he saw in the poor widow's offering. If we had been reading Mark's Gospel continuously, we would have heard Jesus predict the destruction of the Temple, his teaching about the costs of discipleship, and the woes that will accompany the end times. Finally, we would have heard Jesus instruct his disciples about the need for watchfulness so that they will not be caught unprepared for this final day of judgment.

In today's Gospel, Jesus continues this teaching by offering his disciples signs to look for that will indicate that the coming of the Son of Man is near. His words and images draw upon Old Testament imagery, especially images found in the Book of Daniel. Next, Jesus offers the lesson of the fig tree, a parable that teaches that if one knows how to read the signs, one can be prepared for the end times. Jesus also teaches, however, that no one knows when the end time will come, except the Father. In the verses that follow this reading in Mark's Gospel, Jesus continues to warn his disciples to be on watch for this end time.

Jesus' words are not spoken to frighten his disciples, nor should they frighten us. Rather, they are offered to prepare us for the changes we will experience during our lifetimes and at the end times. Our consolation and hope is found in the lasting nature of Jesus' words and God's never-ending love for us.

Words of the Holy Father

Human history, like the personal history of each of us, cannot be understood as a simple succession of meaningless words and facts. Nor can it be interpreted in the light of a fatalistic vision, as if all were already preordained according to a fate that removes any space for freedom, preventing us from making choices as the fruit of true decision. In today's Gospel passage, however, Jesus says that the history of peoples and that of individuals have a purpose and an aim to fulfil: the definitive encounter with the Lord.

300 Club

Thanks to all the members who continue to support the parish through the 300 Club. Subscriptions are now due for November, and for the year if you pay yearly. As we are still unable to collect at the back of the church we propose to offer a home collection service, as we did last year, and envelopes will be distributed for this purpose in the next week or so. Subscriptions can also be paid monthly by standing order, contact Ted on 07737320878 or John on 2312862 if you would like to pay in this way.

7th November results: £50 A Mathew (270). £25 M Goodrich (56), S O'Donnell (68).

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 "a 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".

Referring to the book of Acts as "the first and most import 'manual' of ecclesiology", the Pope noted that it recounts the story of a road that starts in Jerusalem and after a long journey ends in Rome. This road, he said, tells the story in which the Word of God and the people who turn their attention and faith to that Word walk together. "Everyone is a protagonist," said the Pope, "no one can be considered a mere extra". At times it may be necessary to leave, to change direction, to overcome convictions that hold us back and prevent us from moving and 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.*

We need more readers. If you can help, please see Sharon Pritchard after Mass.



**~ Tea/coffee after the 10.30am Mass every Sunday in the hall.
Please join us!**



**Please bring your red MISSIO box to church to emptied. Thank you.
If you would like a Red Box, please speak to Maila Taylor.**