

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

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 important '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/>

✝ 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.ckk.org/p_Home.ikml
 English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/

Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914

	<p>Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe</p> <p>21st - 28th November 2021</p>
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Sunday 21.11	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass	<p>Updated Guidance: 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 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 22.11	No service		
Tuesday 23.11	No service		
Wednesday 24.11	No service		
Thursday 25.11	No service		
Friday 26.11	No service		
Saturday 27.11	No service		
Sunday 28.11	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass	

We pray for all the sick and housebound people of the parish

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.

A Prayer for our Parish Community

Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on all who share in the life and work of our Church and Parish: In the ministry of word and sacrament, in teaching and pastoral care, in service to the Diocese and Deanery.

The community and those in need, in ecumenical fellowship and co-operation.

We pray for all members of the congregation, that in their life and work they may advance your kingdom and bear witness to your love, shown in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel background for Sunday 21st November 2021 - John 18:33b-37

Jesus is questioned by Pilate about the charge brought against him that he is “King of the Jews.”

This Sunday is the last Sunday of the Church’s liturgical year. On this Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. Each year we set aside this Sunday to reflect upon this title that we have given to Jesus. In Lectionary Cycle C, we read a portion of the passion from the Gospel of John, which is also part of the Gospel reading proclaimed each year on Good Friday.

In John’s Gospel, Pilate is shown in a more favourable light than in the other Gospels. In today’s reading, we hear one of two dialogues between Jesus and Pilate that are reported in John’s Gospel. Pilate questions Jesus about the charges brought against him. Caiaphas and the high priests have charged Jesus with a political crime, one that would require a punishment of death. Pilate distances himself from the Jewish leaders who accuse Jesus; he is not a Jew, and he seems to want little to do with this Jewish affair.

In his responses to Pilate’s questions, Jesus distinguishes his kingdom from the political powers of this world. King and kingdom may be appropriate terms for Jesus’ mission and promise, but only by analogy. Jesus is king, but not the kind of king we imagine or expect. He was certainly not the kind of king Pilate feared he might be.

Jesus refers to a kingdom that does not belong to this world. This has been mentioned earlier in John’s Gospel. Recall that in his prayer during the Last Supper discourse (see [John 17:6-18](#)), Jesus prayed for his disciples who are in the world but do not belong to the world. Yet like Jesus, they are sent into the world for the world’s salvation. In today’s reading, we see Jesus identify the final proof that his kingdom is not of this world: If his kingdom were of this world, then there would be people fighting to save him. Again we hear echoes of John’s theme—salvation is worked out through a cosmic battle. It is helpful to return to the first chapter of John’s Gospel to understand the context for Jesus’ words to Pilate. Jesus came into the world, but the world did not know him. In John’s language, the world prefers the darkness, and yet the light will not be overcome by the darkness.

Truth has been another important theme in John’s Gospel. We see it emphasized in the conclusion of the dialogue between Jesus and Pilate. Those who know the truth will recognize Jesus as king and will know how to interpret this insight. Yet Jesus’ kingship was hidden from many of his contemporaries. Only those chosen, those who have the eyes of faith, are able to see. As modern disciples of Jesus, we also struggle at times to recognize Jesus as king. Today’s Gospel invites us to see with eyes of faith that we might recognize that Jesus, through his crucifixion and death, is indeed king and Saviour of all.

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

Thought for the week: “Just by listening and being kind to somebody, you have the ability to make a difference in their lives.” ~ **Jan Rader.**

The Briars Advent Retreat!

Spend time with friends, journey together, refresh your faith, eat well, have fun, take in the view, get to know yourself more, feel the holy spirit, connect with Jesus, live advent, prepare well for Christmas. Details: 10th - 12th December 2021, at The Briars, Crich, Derbyshire, DE4 5BW. Free of charge and open to all young people in years 10 - 13. Register by Friday, 3rd December using the link below...[Sign Up Here!](#)

300 Club

Thanks to all the members who continue to support the parish through the 300 Club. Subscriptions are now due in 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.

14th November results: to be announced next week.



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



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

Upcoming events

First Sunday of Advent, Cycle C - November 28

Jesus tells his disciples to watch for the coming of the Son of Man. Learn more about this Gospel with reflections and activities from Loyola Press.

Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle C - December 05

John the Baptist appears in Judea preaching repentance. Learn more about this Gospel with reflections and activities from Loyola Press.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - December 08

The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus. Learn more about this Gospel with reflections and activities from Loyola Press.

Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle C - December 12

John the Baptist teaches the path of repentance and announces Christ. Learn more about this Gospel with reflections and activities from Loyola Press.

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle C - December 19

Mary visits Elizabeth, who sings praise to Mary and her child. Learn more about this Gospel with reflections and activities from Loyola Press.

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass at Dawn - December 25

The shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the infant in the manger. Learn more about the Christmas story with reflections and activities from Loyola Press.