

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.

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

THE FOUR WEEKS OF ADVENT

During the first two weeks of Advent we light the first two purple candles. The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. On this day we celebrate that our waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas day is almost over. Rose is a liturgical colour that is used to signify joy, so we light the single pink candle on the third Sunday of Advent. Then on the fourth Sunday of Advent, the final purple candle is lit to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait expectantly for the soon-coming birth of the King of Kings. In modern day adaptations, the white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. The colour white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Saviour.

Words of the Holy Father

Today Advent begins, the liturgical time which prepares us for Christmas, inviting us to lift our gaze and open our hearts to welcome Jesus. During Advent we do not just live in anticipation of Christmas; we are also called to rekindle the anticipation of the glorious return of Christ – when he will return at the end of time – preparing ourselves, with consistent and courageous choices, for the final encounter with him. During these four weeks we are called to leave behind a resigned and routine way of life and to go forth, nourishing hope, nourishing dreams for a new future.

Inner listlessness comes from always turning around ourselves and being blocked by our own life, with its problems, its joy, and suffering, but always turning around ourselves. Advent invites us to a commitment to vigilance, looking beyond ourselves, expanding our mind and heart in order to open ourselves up to the needs of people, of brothers and sisters, and to the desire for a new world. It is the desire of many people tormented by hunger, by injustice and by war. It is the desire of the poor, the weak, the abandoned. This is a favourable time to open our hearts, to ask ourselves concrete questions about how and for whom we expend our lives.

Pope Francis December Intentions - Intention for evangelization - Catechists. Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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>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/

Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914

 <p>1ST SUNDAY @ Advent</p>	<p>First Sunday of Advent</p> <p>28th November – 5th December 2021</p>	<p>The first candle symbolizes hope and is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival. The purple colour symbolizes royalty, repentance, and fasting.</p>
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Sunday 28.11	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 29.11	No service		
Tuesday 30.11	10am	We continue to pray for all the sick and housebound people of the parish.	
Wednesday 1.12	6pm		
Thursday 2.12	10am		
Friday 3.12	10am 5.45pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass	
Saturday 4.12	10am		
Sunday 5.12	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass	

Prayer for the Advent Wreath

Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people. He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us. He is the Saviour of us all. O Lord, let your blessing come upon us as we light the first (purple) candle of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise of salvation. May He come quickly and not delay. We ask this in His holy name. Amen.

Gospel background for Sunday 21st November 2021 – Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice. In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C). Today's Gospel is taken from the last chapter before the passion narrative in which Jesus is teaching in the Temple. We hear Jesus speak to his disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory.

The community for whom Luke wrote his Gospel may have believed that they were already experiencing some of the events Jesus described. Most scholars believe that Luke's Gospel was written after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. At the time, many Christians interpreted this event as an indication that Jesus' second coming was near.

Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus indicates that others will be frightened; Jesus' disciples are not to fear, but are to stand tall. Yet Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations. He encourages his disciples to pray for strength. The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. Instead, we find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God's unfailing love for us in all circumstances.

Jesus' predictions about the end times may sound dire, but in the next paragraph Luke tells us that people woke early to listen to Jesus' teaching in the Temple area. In his person and in his message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world.

Praying for Leicestershire at 7pm 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. 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

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!](#)

Ratcliffe College Community Carol Service. After two years of lockdown the College is delighted to be able to open its Chapel doors to members of the public. We would like to invite you and members of your parish community to our Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 12th December. The Service will begin at 4pm and there will be refreshments in the refectory

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.

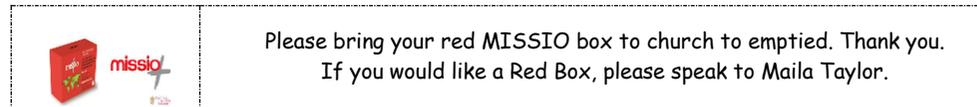
14th November results: £50 LM (50). £25 L Mason (69), M Green (185).

21st November 2021: £50 J Dhonau (139). £25 S Wagstaff (211), S Riley (168).

CAFOD worked with local experts to help many people rightfully and happily together in their family home. **Thank you for your support** which enables hundreds of women remain in their homes during times of struggle. Other examples of our work can be found in our World Gift catalogues or website worldgifts.cafod.org.uk

Sign up for our daily Advent reflections: These reflections have been very popular and offer an opportunity to pause and reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. Visit our [Interactive online Advent calendar | CAFOD](#) for more details. There are also free Advent children's liturgy resources that parish catechists may find useful. [Children's Liturgy | CAFOD](#)

Discover how Jesus is speaking to you in Scripture - On Tuesday 7th December at 7:30pm Sr Hyacinthe a Dominican Sister, catechist, tutor, writer and joy filled follower of Jesus will lead a workshop on Zoom introducing the 4 senses of Scripture. These skills are great ways to help us see how we can use and understand scripture more in our own lives and in catechesis too. Register for the talk by visiting www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/onlineevents



5th December - Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle C- John the Baptist appears in Judea preaching repentance. Learn more about this Gospel with reflections and activities.

8th December The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus. Learn more about this Gospel with reflections and activities.

12th December - Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle C - John the Baptist teaches the path of repentance and announces Christ. Learn more about this Gospel with reflections.

19th December - Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle C - Mary visits Elizabeth, who sings praise to Mary and her child. Learn more about this Gospel with reflections and activities.

25th December - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass at Dawn - The shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the infant in the manger. Learn more about the Christmas story with reflections and activities.

Encountering God in your daily work - For four Wednesdays, starting on 12th January at 7pm, the diocese will be running an online course looking at how we can encounter Jesus in our daily work and how it can help us to grow in holiness too. We spend more hours in a week at work than doing most other activities (including going to church) so lets make an experience of daily glory rather than a daily grind. For more information visit: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/onlineevents