

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 Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life announced the launch on Monday of a campaign dedicated to persons living with disabilities. Tagged #IamChurch, the campaign, which begins on 6 December, will consist of five videos containing the testimonies of Christians living with disabilities from different parts of the world who recount their experience of faith and affirm, "I am Church!" "I am Church" through Baptism. In his message to persons with disabilities on the occasion of the International Day dedicated to them, Pope Francis noted that Baptism gives each one of us, "without exclusion or discrimination, the possibility of exclaiming, 'I am Church!'" Echoing the Pope's words, the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life launched the videos, which will be released weekly, with the aim of highlighting the contribution that persons with disabilities offer to the ecclesial community on a daily basis. www.vaticannews.va

Words of the Holy Father. In this season of Advent, let us be guided by the Baptist's exhortation: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!", he tells us. We prepare the way of the Lord and make his paths straight when we examine our conscience, when we scrutinize our attitudes, in order to eliminate these sinful manners that I mentioned, which are not from God: success at all costs; power to the detriment of the weak; the desire for wealth; pleasure at any price. May the Virgin Mary help us to prepare ourselves for the encounter with this ever greater Love, which is what Jesus brings and which, on Christmas night, becomes very very small, like a seed fallen on the soil. And Jesus is this seed: the seed of the kingdom of God.



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.**

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.

	<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>NRCDD- 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>Second Sunday of Advent</p> <p>5th – 12th December 2021</p>	<p>The second candle represents faith and is called "Bethlehem's Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David. The second candle is also purple to symbolism preparation for the coming king..</p>
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Sunday 5.12	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass	<p>Updated Omicron Guidance:</p> <p>Hand Sanitiser will be available at the entrance.</p> <p>Wearing of face-coverings is obligatory.</p> <p>During Mass, you can remain seated or stand, but please do not kneel.</p> <p>Congregational singing is permitted. Holy Communion can be distributed with distancing.</p> <p>Some people will be very anxious at the sudden rise of Covid cases.</p> <p>Please observe all the rules and keep a 2 metre distance between each other, as we take this next big step towards normality.</p>
Monday 6.12	No service	We continue to pray for all the sick and housebound people of the parish.	
Tuesday 7.12	10am		
Wednesday 8.12	6pm		
Thursday 9.12	10am		
Friday 10.12	10am		
Saturday 11.12	10am	English Mass Malayalam Mass	
Sunday 12.12	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass	

Bishops' Statement: 'Honouring Sunday'

As your bishop, we recognise that prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in the position to fulfil the duty/obligation to attend Sunday Mass. We now encourage people to look again at the patterns which they have formed in recent months with regard to going to Mass on Sundays. This would include consideration and reflection about what we might do on Sundays, such as sports or shopping, or other leisure and social activities. This review, and the decisions which arise from it, fall to all of us and we trust this will be done with honesty, motivated by a real love for the Lord whom we encounter in the Mass. The full statement from the Bishops of England and Wales is on www.cbcew.org.uk/bishopsstatement-honouring-sunday/

Feasts of the week: Monday, St. Nicholas, Bishop. Tuesday, St Ambrose, Bishop.
Wednesday, Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary.

Gospel background for Sunday 5th December - Luke 3:1-6

This week and next, our Gospel readings invite us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. To affirm this, Luke quotes at length from the prophet Isaiah. John baptizes for repentance and for forgiveness of sins, preparing the way for God's salvation.

The three Synoptic Gospels—Mark, Matthew, and Luke—attest to the importance of the baptism of John in preparing for Jesus. Only the Gospel of Luke, however, extends the connection between these two men to their birth. The first two chapters of Luke's Gospel contain the Infancy Narrative, which tells about the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. These stories set the stage for the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in chapter 3.

The evangelist Luke is the author of the Gospel that bears his name, and he also wrote the Acts of the Apostles as a continuation of the story of Jesus and the Church. In these two works, Luke's sense of time and history emerges. He identifies three epochs of salvation history: the time before Christ, the time of Christ, and the time of the Church and the Holy Spirit. In today's Gospel reading, as elsewhere, John the Baptist is presented as the figure who bridges the time before Christ and prepares the way for Christ's own ministry.

In today's Gospel we also note Luke's attention to political and historical detail. Luke shows that salvation is for all people and situated in world events. Therefore, Luke lists the political and religious leaders at the time of John's appearance in the desert. Salvation is understood as God's breaking into this political and social history.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives the coming of the Lord, as John did.

Discover how Jesus is speaking to you in Scripture 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

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 Results: 28th November 2021: £50 R McCormick (15). £25 K O'Brien (3), Fr B Dazeley (167).

Here: Now: Us and the Synod. Nearly 100 people from around the diocese signed up to one of the Here: Now: Us workshops taking place around the diocese over recent Saturdays. At Living the Dream you can find out what you missed! Judging from the feedback, participants enjoyed:

'meeting people from other parishes'

'opportunities to link Catholic Social Teaching with parish action'

'creating friendships in the Gospel' and 'the ideas that came out of the discussion'

-and all of them wanted to meet again to put those ideas into practice.

Next Tuesday's workshop will bring you up to speed with what emerged, and how we can help ensure that ideas sparked by them and the current Synod consultations bear fruit.

Book your place for 7 December

"HAVE YOUR SAY: SYNOD 2021 / 2023". Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth (LACY) will be hosting an afternoon of "Games, Fun and Faith" exploring the Synod. This will be held at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 100 Beaumont Leys Lane, Leicester, LE4 2BD on Sunday 9th January 2022 - the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - from 2pm - 5pm. All young people, their families and friends are invited to share in the afternoon. The Pope is calling us to pass on views and thoughts to our Priests, Bishop and with each other! We value your ideas! A great opportunity to voice them. Light refreshments will be available! Full details on the LACY Facebook page. Look out for our poster! We'd love to hear from you. Book in with us or just come along. All welcome. Contact paulinepayne@hotmail.com or claudiacoxon@googlemail.com.

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 let's make an experience of daily glory rather than a daily grind. For more information visit: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/onlineevents [Click here to register](#)

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 to 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](#)

Heaven's Road Catholic Online Radio www.heavensroadfm.com is an online radio broadcasting features like prayers, interviews and music to appeal to a Catholic audience - they also have many podcasts and broadcast over 40 daily live Masses from 15 churches in England and Ireland from their website www.heavensroadfm.com.