

Christmas Masses and Services

18 th December (Saturday)	10am	English Mass
	10am-1pm	Confessions
23 rd December (Thursday)	10am-7pm	Malayalam Confessions
24 th December-Christmas Eve	6pm	English Mass
		followed by Christmas Carols
	9pm	Malayalam Mass
25 th December - Christmas Day	10.30am	English Mass
26 th December - Holy Family	10.30am	English Mass
	4pm	Malayalam Mass



* 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. Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, which is called *Gaudete* Sunday; that is, the Sunday of joy. In the Liturgy the invitation rings out several times to rejoice, why? Because the Lord is near. Christmas is near. The Christian message is called the 'Gospel'; i.e. 'good news', an announcement of joy for all people; the Church is not a haven for sad people, the Church is a joyful home! And those who are sad find joy in her, they find in her true joy!

* Christmas offerings

This year, Father George is asking for the Christmas Offerings to go towards the cost of the new gas boiler which amounted to £7,000.

Please be generous. Thank you



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NRCDT- Registered Charity

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



**Third Sunday
of Advent**

12th - 19th
December 2021

The third candle symbolizes joy and is called the "Shepherd's Candle." To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy. This candle is colored pink to represent joyfulness and rejoicing.

Sunday 12.12	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass	<p style="text-align: center;">Updated Omicron Guidance:</p> <p>Hand Sanitiser will be available at the entrance. Wearing of face coverings is obligatory. During Mass, you can remain seated or stand, but please do not kneel. Congregational singing is permitted. Holy Communion can be distributed with distancing. Some people will be very anxious at the sudden rise of Covid cases. 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 13.12	No service	We continue to pray for all the sick and housebound people of the parish.	
Tuesday 14.12	10am		
Wednesday 15.12	6pm		
Thursday 16.12	10am		
Friday 17.12	10am		
Saturday 18.12	10am	Holy Mass and confessions	
Sunday 19.12	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 Lucy. Tuesday, St. John of the Cross.

Gospel background for Sunday 12th December - Luke 3:10-18

This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. Recall that last week's reading described John's appearance in the desert and established his connection with the prophetic tradition of Israel. If we were to read Luke's Gospel continuously, we would learn about John the Baptist challenging the crowds who came to him and calling upon them to show evidence of their repentance. John tells his listeners that they cannot rely on their lineage as Israelites because children of Abraham can be raised up from stones. Repentance, rather, must be observable in one's actions. Here, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles.

In today's Gospel reading, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The concern for justice is a hallmark of Luke's Gospel.

When the crowd begins to wonder if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, John interprets his baptism and makes it clear that his ministry is in preparation for the Messiah. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation. By encouraging the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life, John's teaching suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in today's second reading from the Paul's letter to the Philippians. Some people mark this Sunday by lighting a pink candle instead of a purple one on their Advent wreath. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

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: 5th December: £50 M Flynn (74). £25 A Shimkin (55), R Hughes (231).

Jean Mary Mullings RIP. Her funeral took place On Thursday 9th December at 15.30pm at Gilroes Crematorium. Our deepest and sincere condolences to her family and friends.

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.

"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](#)



Advent Prayer for peace: one family

Lord God, Father of all,

We, your children, are all members of the same human family, your family.

We implore you to help us to accept your peace,

To be at peace with ourselves and to live in peace with others.

Help us to seek wisdom and justice in all we do.

Help us to be more understanding and compassionate when dealing with others,

To be ready to forgive when wronged, To be willing to love when hurt and

To strive for harmony and peace when threatened.

Eternal Father, in your mercy, hear our prayer

And grant us your everlasting peace.

Amen.

Diana Ng-Sutherland, CAFOD supporter

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.