

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	5.30pm	Carol Service & Readings for Families
	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



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/

A Prayer to Prepare My Heart for Christ's Coming

Father, just as You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus,
help me to clear the path in my heart, too.
Show me the distractions in my life that block me
from all-out worship of You this Advent.

Lord, I await Your coming! As I celebrate the first Advent
—the first coming—I look toward the day
where I will see You face to face. I imagine what it will be like.
Give me a heart, Lord, that looks for Your coming on a daily basis.

Help me to live my life where I'm constantly
seeking Your presence. My offering to You
today is my righteous life for I know I am only clean because of Jesus.

Show me today how I need to be refined, purified, forgiven.
Give me the strength to ask for forgiveness
and to then change my ways.

~Sarah Martin, from "[The Awe & Wonder of Advent: Day 18](#)"

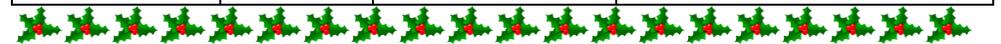
	<p style="text-align: center;">Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">☎(0116) 287 5232 ✉mogparish@gmail.com www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Parish Priest: Fr. George Thomas gchelackal@gmail.com</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">NRCDT- 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 style="font-size: small;">Happy 4th week of Advent!</p>	<p>Fourth Sunday of Advent</p> <p>19th - 26th December 2021</p>	<p>The fourth candle represents peace and is called the "Angel's Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace--He came to bring people close to God and to each other again. This color is also purple to represent the culmination of love through the Messiah.</p>
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Sunday 19.12	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass	<p>Updated Omicron Guidance:</p> <p>Hand Sanitiser will be available at the entrance. Wearing of face coverings is obligatory. 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 next big step towards normality.</p>
Monday 20.12	No service		
Tuesday 21.12	10am		
Wednesday 22.12	6pm		
Thursday 23.12	10am 10am - 7pm	Holy Mass Malayalam Confessions	
Friday 24.12	5.30pm 6pm 9pm	Carol Service & Readings for Families Holy Mass and Christmas Carols Malayalam Mass	
Christmas Day Saturday 25.12	10.30am	Holy Mass	
Sunday 26.12	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass	



To all Parishioners and our Supporters, a wish of a very joyful and peaceful Christmas with God's Blessings from Fr. George.



Children's Liturgy. There will not be Children's Liturgy on Sunday 26th December, but looking forward to seeing you all again the following Sunday as usual.

Second Collection TODAY for Poor and needy Parishes.

Gospel background for Sunday 19th December - Luke 1:39-45

On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah.

Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel.

In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

300 Club Results: 12th December: £25 J Scott (99), C Fisher (177).

Luiza Fernandes RIP, sister of Jarvis D'Souza. Her Funeral will take place at St. Peter's Church, Hinckley Road, on Thursday 23rd December at 1pm. Our sincere and deepest condolences to her family and friends.

STOP PRESS! LATEST NEWS FROM LACY!!

Due to the rising number of infections with COVID at the present time, LACY have decided that instead of meeting at St. Patrick's Leicester for our event for young people entitled "HAVE YOUR SAY SYNOD '21 - '23", this will now take place online via Zoom on **9th January 2022 at 4pm**. A great opportunity for input about the SYNOD, discussion, fun time and a short liturgy will be shared together. **Save the date! Save the time!** We look forward to seeing all young people, families and friends. (Please note that all young people under the age of 18 should be present with an adult). Link in details for Zoom will be sent out at the beginning of January to schools and parishes and may also be found on our Facebook page @LACYcatholicityouthleics. Contact details: e mail paulinepayne@hotmail.com or claudiacoxon@googlemail.com.

Let's fan the flame and share our ideas with our Bishop, our Priests and each other!

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.

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

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.**

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.

🌟 Christmas offerings

This year, Father George is asking for the Christmas Offerings to go towards the cost of new gas

Radiators which amounted to £7,000. Please be generous. Thank you 🌟