

**'Peace Sunday' - 16th January 2022**

**Theme of Pope Francis' World Peace Day:**

**Education, work and dialogue between generations: tools for building lasting peace**

Once again Pax Christi, the international Catholic movement for peace, has produced a variety of on-line and paper resources to celebrate the theme. While there are some limits as to how we come together, Pax Christi have materials for parishes, communities and families - allowing for as much creativity as possible, this is not limited to one day or place! In his message to parishes Pax Christi's National President, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon says:

*"This year has been one of unprecedented and continuing challenges. We are all conscious of the need to restore and rebuild our communities here and around the world, accepting that we need new ways of working and relating to each other. The Christian message of peace, through reconciliation, justice and nonviolence, can offer hope and direction in these times. I invite you to seriously consider facilitating a collection for, or making a donation to, the work of Pax Christi at this time as a way to make a practical contribution to continuing the work of peace."*

Their website suggests many ways we can all become better peacemakers. There are activities for families to do at home, including a peace liturgy for young children. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2022>  
Pax Christi needs our support to keep going. If you'd like to make a donation, small or large, here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/yxfcw67x> Or send a cheque payable to 'Pax Christi' to: Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, London NW4 4TY - Tel: 0208 203 4884.



*"Education, work and dialogue  
between generations: tools for  
building lasting peace"*



*Almighty God,*

*Creator of the earth in which we live,  
Help us today in our search for peaceful ways  
To avoid wars, to eliminate terrorism and tyranny  
And to establish justice for peoples of all races and faiths.*

*We pray that the billions of peace-loving  
People of goodwill throughout the nations,  
Will join together in prayer and action  
To bring love where there is hatred,  
Friendship where there is enmity,  
And justice where there is oppression.*

*Amen.*

	<p><i>Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</i></p> <p><b>(0116) 287 5232</b> <a href="mailto:mogparish@gmail.com">✉mogparish@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk">www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</a></p>	<p><i>Parish Priest: Fr. George Thomas <a href="mailto:gchelackal@gmail.com">gchelackal@gmail.com</a></i></p> <p><i>NRCDT- Registered Charity</i></p>
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Our Schools:  
Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - [www.ctk.ik.org/p\\_Home.ikml](http://www.ctk.ik.org/p_Home.ikml)  
English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - [www.emschool.co.uk/](http://www.emschool.co.uk/)

Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914

	<p><b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b></p> <p><b>Peace Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>16th – 23rd</b></p> <p><b>January 2022</b></p>
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Sunday 16.01	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass	<p><b>Updated Omicron Guidance:</b></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.</p> <p>Some people will be very anxious at the sudden rise of Covid cases. Please observe all the rules and keep a <b>2 metre distance</b>, between each other, as we take the next big step towards normality.</p>
Monday 17.01	No service		
Tuesday 18.01	10am		
Wednesday 19.01	6pm		
Thursday 20.01	10am		
Friday 21.01	10am		
Saturday 22.01	10am		
Sunday 23.01	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass	

**Pope Francis Prayer Intentions for January 2022:** For true human fraternity. We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

**Words of the Holy Father**

At Cana Jesus' disciples become his family and at Cana the faith of the Church is born. We are all invited to the wedding feast, because the new wine will never run short!

**Feasts of the week:**

Monday, St. Anthony, Abbot. Friday, St. Agnes.

**Please keep in your prayers all the sick and housebound people of the parish.**

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK FOR SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS**

## Gospel background for Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022 - John 2:1-11

This Sunday we begin the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. For many Sundays in this lectionary cycle (Cycle C), our readings will be taken from the Gospel of Luke. Occasionally, however, we will read from John's Gospel. This is true of today's Gospel reading, which describes the beginning of Jesus' ministry and his first miracle.

To situate today's reading within the context of John's Gospel, we note that John's report of this event follows Jesus' call of his first disciples. John tells us that Jesus and his disciples were invited to this wedding at Cana, as was Jesus' mother, Mary. There is no parallel report of this miracle at Cana in the Synoptic Gospels.

In the Church's liturgical history, the wedding feast of Cana is closely associated with the baptism of the Lord and the adoration of the infant Jesus by the Wise Men. In this context, the sign Jesus performs at the wedding feast is celebrated as an epiphany or a manifestation of Jesus' divinity.

Yet awareness of Jesus' impending passion and death is ever present in John's Gospel. Even in this report of Jesus' first sign, the language used anticipates Jesus' passion. When Jesus says to his mother that his hour has not yet come, he protests against her wishes in language that John will use again when reporting Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. When introducing the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet, John writes that Jesus knew that his hour had come. In John's Gospel, Jesus is very much in command and aware of all that is to happen to him.

Here, as elsewhere in John's Gospel, Mary is not mentioned by name, but is referred to instead as the mother of Jesus. Mary is influential in Jesus' first sign. She will also be present at his Crucifixion, a witness to the final manifestation of his divinity.

John's Gospel describes seven signs that indicate Jesus' identity to his disciples. John never speaks of these signs as miracles because their importance is not in the deed that Jesus performs but in what these deeds indicate about Jesus' identity. Here, as when John describes the other signs, the disciples are said to begin to believe, but no mention is made as to whether the other wedding guests are even aware of what has happened.

Marriage and wedding feasts are metaphors used in Scripture to describe God's salvation and the Kingdom of God. Here at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, John's Gospel seeks to establish that Jesus is going to re-interpret and fulfil Yahweh's promise to Israel. Jesus establishes the New Covenant. A hint about what this New Covenant will be like is made evident in the deed that Jesus performs. Asked to do something to address the awkward situation that the absence of wine at a wedding feast would create, Jesus' miracle produces vast quantities of wine—six jars holding thirty gallons each are filled to overflowing with choice wine.

This lavish response to a simple human need is a vision for us of the abundance of God's kingdom. It challenges us to respond generously when confronted with human need today. We respond as best we can, fully confident that God can transform our efforts, bringing the Kingdom of God to fulfilment among us.

**Florence Perkins RIP**, died on 1<sup>st</sup> of January in Hospital. Our deepest and sincere condolences to her family and friends. Funeral details to follow.

**300 Club Results:** 9<sup>th</sup> January £50 Fr. F McLaughlin (67). £25 C Snary (152), J Fernandes (148).

**Encountering God in your daily work** - For four Wednesdays, starting on 12<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/onlineevents) [Click here to register](#)

**Ecological works of mercy.** This month's edition of the Catholic News features a thought-provoking article by Fr Patrick Bassey (a priest at St Hugh's in Lincoln) about our new diocesan environmental journey. Following the COP26 climate summit, and the launch of our environmental policy framework last month, Fr. Patrick proposes 'seven ecological works of mercy'. The article comes in three instalments, with part two following in January's issue. Catholic News is independently published in the Diocese of Nottingham, and is available online or in parishes which have ordered hard copies. Download Fr Patrick's article. [Click for other editions of Catholic News](#)

**Why does tax matter for people of faith?** Early in the New Year, we invite you to this online presentation and workshop which we're organising in partnership with Church Action for Tax Justice and the National Justice and Peace Network. Recalling the mobilisation of the church community in the run up to the Millennium we will explore how a reformed and renewed tax system in the UK can contribute to the Common Good and build a more sustainable life for all. Join us on Monday 17 January at 7.30 p.m. to discover an increasingly important theme in Christian social witness. [Click here to book your place on Eventbrite](#)



The Synod on Synodality is a two-year process of listening and dialogue beginning with a solemn opening in Rome on October 9 and 10, 2021 with each individual diocese and church celebrating the following week on October 17. The synodal process will conclude in 2023. Pope Francis invites the entire Church to reflect on a theme that is decisive for its life and mission: "It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium." This journey, which follows in the wake of the Church's "renewal" proposed by the Second Vatican Council, is both a gift and a task: by journeying together and reflecting together on the journey that has been made, the Church will be able to learn through Her experience which processes can help Her to live communion, to achieve participation, to open Herself to mission. Learn more about the synodal process by visiting the Vatican Synod website. **Each parish is asked to send two delegates at the zoom meeting on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January from 7/8pm. Please let Fr George Know if you are able to represent our church.**



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