

WEST LEICESTER CATHOLIC 300 CLUB

Thank you to all members of the 300 Club for their generous support for this valuable and successful fundraiser for our parishes of Mother of God, Blessed Sacrament and St Peter's. The committee is pleased to announce the dividend for the year ending October 2021 is £7,500, to be split equally between our parishes, at £2,500 per parish.

Subscriptions remain at £5 per month for the new year - November 2021 to October 2022, with prize money as last year: **Weekly:** 1 x £50 plus 2 x £25 - **Quarterly:** 1 x £100 - **Year End:** 1 x £1,000 plus bonus prizes. Membership is continuous year after year, unless the committee is advised otherwise.

Please see our "History and Today" and "300 Club Rules and Membership Form" documents on our parish website. Not a member? If you would like to join, please contact either Marian: 0116 2246 258, or Anna and Pio (0116 2892 697) (Blessed Sacrament and St Peter's) or John: 0116 2312862 / Ted: 07737 320 878 (Mother of God).

Words of the Holy Father

The power of Jesus confirms the authority of his teaching. He does not just speak with words, but he takes action. In this way, he manifests God's plan with words and with the power of his deeds. In the Gospel in fact, we see that in his earthly mission, Jesus reveals the love of God both through preaching and through countless gestures of attention and aid to the sick, the needy, children and sinners.

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.**

A Prayer for our Parish Community

Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on all who share
in the life and work of our Church and Parish:

In the ministry of word and sacrament, in teaching and pastoral care,
in service to the Diocese and Deanery. The community and those in need,
in ecumenical fellowship and co-operation.

We pray for all members of the congregation, that in their life and work
they may advance your kingdom and bear witness to your love,
shown in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



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



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**Parish Priest:
Fr. George Thomas
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NRCDT- Registered Charity

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



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

30th January - 6th February 2022

Sunday 30.01	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass Tom Joseph & family	Updated Omicron Guidance: The new guidance recommends that you still wear a face covering. Hand sanitiser will be available at the entrance. Please do not attend church if you display a sign of illness. Hymn books can be distributed. Holy Communion can be distributed with distancing. Some copies of the new guidance will be available on the table in the church porch.
Monday 31.01	No service		
Tuesday 1.02	10am	Nish Vinod Thanks	
Wednesday 2.02	6pm		
Thursday 3.02	10am		
Friday 4.02	10am 5.30pm	Malayalam Mass	
Saturday 5.02	9.30am		
Sunday 6.02	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass	

Feasts of the week: Monday, St. John Bosco. Wednesday, Presentation of the Lord, Candlemas Day. Saturday, St. Agatha.

What is the significance of Candlemas? Candlemas is celebrated 40 days after the birth of Jesus. It marks the date when Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to be presented to God in the temple. Here, they met Anna and Simeon. Simeon held up the baby Jesus and named him, 'the Light to the World'. It's one of the oldest feasts of the Christian church. It has been celebrated in Jerusalem since the fourth century.

Pope Francis Prayer Intentions for February 2022: For religious sisters and consecrated women. We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

Gospel background for Sunday 30th January 2022 - Luke 4:21-30

Jesus is rejected in his hometown of Nazareth.

This Sunday we read from the Gospel of Luke, continuing immediately from last week's Gospel. Recall that in last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus read from the prophet Isaiah and announced that this Scripture was now fulfilled. In today's Gospel, we learn that the people of Nazareth are impressed by Jesus' words, and yet they seem surprised. They still think of Jesus as merely Joseph's son. They do not expect such words from someone they believe that they know.

This Gospel is about who Jesus is and who people believe him to be. The story of Jesus' preaching and rejection at Nazareth is found in each of the Synoptic Gospels. In Luke's Gospel, this incident is told in a way that foretells Jesus' passion and death and helps explain the inclusion of the Gentiles in the promise of salvation. In Luke's Gospel this incident appears at the beginning of Jesus' ministry; in Matthew and Mark, this event is placed considerably later, after Jesus has preached and taught elsewhere. Only Luke identifies the content of Jesus' teaching in any detail, telling us that Jesus read from the book of the prophet Isaiah in the synagogue. In Mark and Matthew's Gospels, Jesus teaches in the synagogue in Nazareth, and the townspeople take offense because Jesus is only the son of a carpenter. They reject his authority to teach them. In Matthew and Mark, it is only after Jesus is rejected that he observes times when Israel has rejected prophets.

In Luke's Gospel, the people are surprised but not immediately offended by Jesus' words in the synagogue. It is the words that follow his reading from the prophet Isaiah that seem to offend them. Jesus challenges and provokes the people of Nazareth by referring to examples in which Israel rejected the prophets. He also challenges them to respond to his message, the message of a prophet, in a way that is different from their ancestors. This call for a new response leads to his rejection.

It is helpful to consider the historical context of Luke's Gospel. Luke has witnessed the acceptance of the gospel message among many Gentiles. He endeavours to explain why the Good News of Jesus has not been as well-received by his Jewish contemporaries. Luke's report interprets the cause of Jesus' rejection at Nazareth in the context of this later Christian history. Just as the people at Nazareth did not welcome the Good News that Jesus announced, so too many among the people of Israel will not accept the preaching of the gospel.

After Jesus' words of challenge, Luke reports that there was a movement to kill Jesus by throwing him over a cliff. This differs from the reports found in Mark and Matthew's Gospels, where Jesus is said to be unable to perform miracles in Nazareth because of the people's lack of faith. Luke says that Jesus walks away from the crowd that intended to kill him; it is not yet his time. The animosity of the people of Nazareth prefigures and prepares the reader of Luke's Gospel for the cross. Luke wants all to understand that it is through his death on the cross that Jesus offers God's salvation to all.

300 Club Results: 23rd January £50L Mason (69). £25 B Ambler (201), A Woolley (38).

Caritas seeks fundraising volunteer / freelancer. Over the next three years Caritas Diocese of Nottingham hopes to develop a number of outreach projects that will require external funding. Here's a flavour of the plans:

- Helping parishes open 'listening centres', drop-ins and well-being sessions
- Affordable counselling services for people on low incomes
- Developing environmental initiatives for our Pioneer Parishes scheme
- Promoting racial equality and inclusion through our parishes and in society.

If you have experience of applying to the Lottery or grantmaking trusts, or would like to help in another way, Caritas would love to hear from you. Initially the role would be voluntary, but if funding can be secured remuneration may be possible on a freelance basis. Email Paul at caritas@dioceseofnottingham.uk to find out more.

Assisted Suicide: an amendment has been tabled to the Health and Social Care Bill by Lord Forsyth which would force the Government to lay an assisted suicide bill before Parliament within a year of the Bill passing into law. This is yet another attempt by the assisted suicide lobby to build momentum for a change in the law which would pose a serious risk to the sick and vulnerable and **make assisted suicide available on the NHS**. Bishop Patrick McKinney is encouraging everyone to write to peers and urge them to oppose Lord Forsyth's amendment which is expected to be debated next Wednesday, 2nd February. The organisation Right to Life can support you with this via their website: Ask Peers to oppose assisted suicide next week (www.righttolife.org.uk). Please act now and ensure that England and Wales does not allow a lethal prescription to become an established part of health care.

Lent Volunteer Gathering on Saturday 5th February 10am - 11:30am. Please do sign up for what will be an incredible event using the link below:

[Lent Volunteer Gathering](#). Our online celebration will connect volunteers from all over England & Wales and help us prepare together for Lent. Plus we have some really interesting speakers including; Kayode, our Country Manager in Sierra Leone will be joining us to tell us more about the incredible projects we have helped support whilst also explaining more about the Walk Against Hunger Campaign. Sr Francis Orchard CJ, daughter of one of our Founding Mothers Elspeth Orchard, will share her memories of the very first Fast Day they organised in Lent 1960. When signing up, please do add some of your CAFOD highlights, along with any photos you may wish to share to really help make this a celebration of 60 years - please send photo's direct to me. Looking forward to seeing you online on the 5th February.

Parish Finances

All financial contributions made by parishioners are very much appreciated at any time and we greatly appreciate those who have been able to continue to contribute throughout the pandemic. Many parishioners contribute through Planned Giving Envelopes. The time has come to order April 2022 - March 2023 envelopes. You might want to reconsider your way of giving and change to standing order. You do not have to be a tax payer to do this. Please see Father George or Maila after Mass. A Standing Order Mandate form will be available for you to take to your bank.

Or you could phone your bank with the following details:

Our Account Name: MOTHER OF GOD LEICESTER RCP -

Account number: 01538822 - Sort code: 30-94-97. Thank you.