

Prayer for Racial Justice Sunday 13th February

'Racial Justice Sunday: What's it got to do with me?' This is very much a call for all Christians to engage in the righteous struggle for racial justice because racial justice is everyone's business. The Bible has a lot to say about justice because as God's Word, it reflects God's heart for justice. It can be argued that we should love justice because God does! Racism and racial discrimination are justice issues because they deny basic justice and human dignity to women and men who are made in the image of God. Equally, they are sinful because, among other issues, they assume all are not equal before God and are not part of God's family. Racial justice is everyone's business and Racial Justice Sunday should not be regarded as an onerous matter to be avoided, but an opportunity for churches to focus on the three 'R's of 'Remembering', 'Reflecting' and 'Responding':

- 'Remembering' the importance of racial justice
- 'Reflecting' on human diversity and thanking God for it
- 'Responding' by working to end injustice, racism and ignorance through prayer and action.

A Prayer for Racial Sunday taken from 'Fratelli Tutti'.

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,
so that we may discover anew
that all are important and all are necessary,
different faces of the one humanity
that God so loves. **Amen.**

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.

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.

**Our Account Name: MOTHER OF GOD LEICESTER RCP -
Account number: 01538822 - Sort code: 30-94-97. Thank you.**

Walk against Hunger. Are you ready to change your life and transform someone else's this Lent? Challenge yourself to walk 200k this Lent and help stamp out hunger, one step at a time. You can walk, roll, skip or stroll your way to 200k. You can boldly go it alone and take it on 5k a day for 40 days, or you can smash the target all at once as a team. There are 200 million children in the world whose lives are at risk from malnutrition. So, this Lent, challenge yourself to conquer 200k, and help give hunger its marching orders.
Sign up now <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Walk-Against-Hunger>

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

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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

**Racial Justice
Sunday**

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

13th – 20th February 2022



Sunday 13.02	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass Ajith M Jose(RIP) Anto Antony & Family Thanks	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 an 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 14.02	No service		
Tuesday 15.02	10am	Annakutty Kuriako 13 th RIP Anniv.	
Wednesday 16.02	6pm	People of the Parish	
Thursday 17.02	10am	Francis Pious Birthday Soby Philip & family Thanks	
Friday 18.02	10am	Thresiamma Philip RIP Anniv	
Saturday 19.02	10am	People of the Parish	
Sunday 20.02	10.30am 4pm	English Mass People of the Parish Malayalam Mass	

Words of the Holy Father

Let us ask ourselves: do we truly want holiness? Or are we content with being Christians without infamy and without praise, who believe in God and esteem their neighbour, but without overemphasizing. Thus, either holiness or nothing! It is good for us to let ourselves be spurred by the saints, who did not use half-measures here, and are 'cheering us on' from there, so that we may choose God, humility, meekness, mercy, purity, so that we may be impassioned by heaven rather than earth.

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.**

Gospel background for Sunday 13th February - Luke 6:17,20-26

Last Sunday we heard Jesus call Peter to be his disciple. Jesus then travels with Peter and the other disciples. Luke reports acts of healing (a person with leprosy and a paralytic man) and the call of Levi, the tax collector. Jesus also replies to questions from the Pharisees regarding fasting and the observance of the Sabbath. In the verses immediately before today's gospel reading, Jesus is reported to have chosen 12 men from among his disciples to be apostles. *Apostle* is a Greek word that means "one who is sent."

Today's gospel reading is the beginning of what is often called the Sermon on the Plain. We find a parallel to this passage in [Matthew 5:1-7,11](#) that is often called the Sermon on the Mount. As these titles suggest, there are differences and similarities between these gospel readings.

When spoken from the mountaintop in Matthew's Gospel, we can't miss the impression that Jesus is speaking with the authority and voice of God. The mountaintop is a symbol of closeness to God. Those who ascend the mountain see God and speak for God; recall the story of Moses and the [Ten Commandments](#). As Luke introduces the location of Jesus' teaching, Jesus teaches on level ground, alongside the disciples and the crowd. Luke presents Jesus' authority in a different light. He is God among us.

Another distinction found in Luke's version is the audience. Luke's Sermon on the Plain is addressed to Jesus' disciples, although in the presence of the crowd; Matthew's Sermon on the Mount is addressed to the crowd. In keeping with this style, the [Beatitudes](#) in Luke's Gospel sound more personal than those in Matthew's Gospel—Luke uses the article "you" whereas Matthew uses "they" or "those." There is also a difference in number: Matthew describes eight beatitudes; Luke presents just four, each of which has a parallel warning.

The form of the Beatitudes found in Luke's and Matthew's Gospel is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, such as in the Psalms and in Wisdom literature. They are a way to teach about who will find favour with God. The word *blessed* in this context might be translated as "happy," "fortunate," or "favoured."

As we listen to this Gospel, the Beatitudes jar our sensibilities. Those who are poor, hungry, weeping, or persecuted are called blessed. This is, indeed, a Gospel of reversals. Those often thought to have been forgotten by God are called blessed. In the list of "woes," those whom we might ordinarily describe as blessed by God are warned about their peril. Riches, possessions, laughter, reputation . . . these are not things that we can depend upon as sources of eternal happiness. They not only fail to deliver on their promise; our misplaced trust in them will lead to our demise. The ultimate peril is in misidentifying the source of our eternal happiness.

The Beatitudes are often described as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. We are challenged to examine our present situation in the context of our ultimate horizon, the Kingdom of God.

300 Club Results 6th February: £50 R Kennedy (249). £25 D Delima (141), N Phelan (132).

Evening Prayer (Vespers) with Synodal Sharing. Everyone is invited to gather with Bishop Patrick for Evening Prayer on Tuesday 22nd February, from 7pm - 8.30pm in Saint Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham (NG1 5AE) during which each deanery will say a little about their Synodal Journey so far, and the Bishop's Draft Diocesan Response will be presented. All are very welcome!

Let's go! Here: Now: Us and Synod - Bearing fruit in outreach. Thursday 24 February at 7pm on Zoom. Here: Now: Us workshops took place around the Diocese in Autumn 2021 to equip lay people for outreach. And now the diocesan Synod consultation process is reaching its conclusion with a celebration at the Cathedral on 22 February. You're invited to an online gathering to start putting our plans for social outreach into action. If you didn't take part in Here: Now: Us or Synod meetings, you're particularly welcome to join us - it's never too late to get involved! [Click here to book for 'Let's Go' on 24 February](#)

An Annual Requiem Mass for the Loss of Children will be celebrated on Friday 4th March at 6pm in Saint Joseph's church, Matlock. The Mass will be celebrated in memory of our children who have died whatever age or how long ago - the hope is that this will be a source of hope and grace to us all. Everyone is most welcome to attend this beautiful Mass and Ceremony of Light, celebrated by Father Robbie O'Callaghan. There is also an opportunity to send a message through the parish website (<http://matlockcatholicchurch.org.uk/> : just fill in the form) and we shall be honoured to light a candle for your loved ones.

Student Cross 2022. Do you want to do something different for Holy Week? Why not join the Pilgrim Cross Walking Pilgrimage to Walsingham? It's a walking pilgrimage to Walsingham held over Holy Week from various destinations in the country. From our diocese the 'legs' start from Nottingham and Leicester. It is an ecumenical pilgrimage, but has a very strong Catholic ethos. It's both spiritually uplifting and great fun. The group lives and walks in community for one, three, or seven days before spending an amazing weekend celebrating Easter in the Walsingham Basilica. For further information, please contact Deacon Chris Stevens at c.stevens@boro.ac.uk or visit the pilgrimage website at <https://pilgrimcross.org.uk/> Deacon Chris will be walking the over 18s Midland Leg as one of the Chaplains, so come and join us!

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).

A new Headteacher for English Martyrs'. We have appointed a new permanent Headteacher for English Martyrs' following Mr Carney's departure. Mr Calen has been taking on the role of interim Head of School since the start of term and, following a very rigorous process this week, we are delighted to inform you that he has now been successful in securing the permanent post. Mr Calen has been at English Martyrs' for 9 years so, in addition to his overall high level of experience and expertise, he brings great knowledge of the community and context of the school. I have complete confidence that Mr Calen, working closely with the CMAT, will steer the school to even greater heights in the next stage of its journey. I know that many of you know Mr Calen well, and you appreciate the care and dedication he brings to his work with your children. He is also enormously respected by staff across the school. Please keep Mr Calen and all at English Martyrs' in your prayers as they move forwards in educating, supporting and caring for your children.