

Mother of God First Holy Communion Programme future important dates.

- Meeting for parents - Tuesday 17th May at 6.30 in the church.
- First Confessions- Tuesday 24th May-starting at 6.30 in the church
- First Holy Communion Day (English mass) Sunday 12th June at 10.30
- First Holy Communion Day (Malayalam mass) Saturday 18th June - time to be announced later.

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.

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.**

A Prayer for World Peace

Lord, we pray for the power to be gentle; the strength to be forgiving;
the patience to be understanding; and the endurance to accept
the consequences of holding to what we believe to be right.
May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil
and the power of love to overcome hatred.
We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe
in a world emancipated from violence, a new world
where fear shall no longer lead men to commit injustice,
nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others.
Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy
to the task of making peace, praying always for the inspiration
and the power to fulfill the destiny for which we and all men were created.

Amen

	<p>Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</p> <p>☎(0116) 287 5232 ✉mogparish@gmail.com www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</p>	<p>Parish Priest: Fr. George Thomas gchelackal@gmail.com</p>  <p>NRCDT- Registered Charity</p>
--	---	---

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

	<p>Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>20th -27th February 2022</p>	<p>Pastoral Letter to be read at Masses this weekend - Copies available from the church porch</p>
---	--	--

Sunday 20.02	10.30am 4pm	English Mass - Keith Bobs RIP Malayalam Mass - Santhosh Mathew & Pushipa family thanks. Thresiamma Philip RIP	<p>Updated Omicron Guidance:</p> <p>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 any 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.</p>
Monday 21.02	No service		
Tuesday 22.02	No service	Priests Retreat	
Wednesday 23.02	No service	Priests Retreat	
Thursday 24.02	No service	Priests Retreat	
Friday 25.02	No service	Priests Retreat	
Saturday 26.02	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration People of the Parish	
Sunday 27.02	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass -Paulgi &family Inten- Zacharias Aldrin Alex Thanks - Thekkan Kuriya & Kachappilly Ouseph RIP	

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.

Following Bishop Patrick’s Pastoral Letter this weekend, any further Synodal responses, thoughts or reflections can be sent directly to the Diocesan Co-ordinators: Father David Cain (david.cain@dioceseofnottingham.uk) or Joe Hopkins, Adult Formation Director for Mission (joe.hopkins@dioceseofnottingham.uk)

Gospel background for Sunday 20th February - Luke 6:27-38

Jesus teaches his disciples to be merciful as God is merciful.

Today's gospel reading is a continuation of the teaching that began in last Sunday's gospel. We continue to hear Jesus' Sermon on the Plain. Recall that in Luke's Gospel, this teaching is addressed to Jesus' disciples. This is in contrast to the parallel found in Matthew's Gospel, the Sermon on the Mount, in which Jesus' words are addressed to both the disciples and to the crowds.

These words from Jesus' teaching are familiar to us. They constitute the crux and the challenge of what it means to be a disciple: Love your enemies, turn the other cheek, give to those who ask, do unto others, lend without expecting repayment, judge not lest you be judged.

There are several similarities between Luke's and Matthew's report of Jesus' great teaching. Both begin with the **Beatitudes**. Matthew includes nearly all the content that Luke does; the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel is longer than Luke's Sermon on the Plain. There are, however, differences in language and nuance. For example, Matthew presents this portion of the teaching as a contrast between Jesus' teaching and the teachings of the law and the prophets. This is in keeping with Matthew's concern to address his predominantly Jewish audience. It is likely that Luke omits this contrast because it was unnecessary for the Gentile believers for whom Luke is writing.

Another point of contrast between Matthew and Luke's presentation is the terminology. In Luke, Jesus contrasts the behaviour of his followers with the behaviour of "sinners." In Matthew, Jesus contrasts the behaviour desired with the behaviour of tax collectors and Gentiles. Matthew concludes the teaching about love of enemies with the admonition to be perfect as God is perfect; Luke concludes by emphasizing God's mercy.

In both Gospels, Jesus' words challenge those who would follow him to be more like God. God loves us beyond our expectations, beyond anything we can possibly imagine. In response to God's love, we are to love as God loves, beyond expectations and with a depth beyond imagining.

300 Club Results 13th February: £50 S Varghese (73), £25 C McCreesh (11), R Leslie (215).

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](#)

Shalom World's program, HeartTalk, this Sunday features a **TV Interview with Bishop Patrick**. The bishop speaks about his early life, his mission, his vision, and the ministries he is involved in through our diocese and the wider Church. The interview can be seen on Sunday 20th February, 7.30pm on www.shalomworld.org

Job Opportunity - Warden & Clerk - St Scholastica's Retreat. A competitive salary, pension, and accommodation onsite in Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire. The Trustees are seeking to appoint a Warden & Clerk to the Trustees for this Almshouse Charity that provides sheltered housing for Catholics in financial need aged 60 or over. For details of the role and how to apply by 28th February, see: www.stscholasticas.co.uk/warden-clerk-vacancy.

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) <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Walk-Against-Hunger>

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@lboro.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!

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.

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.**

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



Sign up to receive Grapevine direct to your inbox: [click here](#)