

Ash Wednesday is approaching and we would like to invite you to join us as we seek to make space and time to draw closer to God and our global family through reflection and prayer this Lent. Each day in our emails we will share a reflection on one of the readings of the day, stories of our global family, a prayer and a suggested action you might like to take as we prepare for Easter.

Join us on this journey by signing up for our daily Lent emails. [Sign up now](#)

Women's Retreat on Saturday 12th March at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Nottingham (NG8 6AZ). The day will have input from the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph and women from around the Diocese of Nottingham, with also times of reflection, prayer, socialising, confession and Mass. The theme of the retreat will be: 'Make the tent you live in larger; lengthen its ropes and strengthen the pegs!' (Isaiah 54:2) and we will explore how we live out our faith in all areas of our lives and through the people we interact with. The cost of the day will be £20 which includes a buffet lunch. The day will begin at 10am and will finish at 5pm.

The following **Saturday (19th March)** to celebrate St Joseph's Day, patron saint of men, we will host a retreat for Catholic Men on Saturday 19th March at the Briars Retreat Centre in Crich. The day will focus on 'Friendship with Christ - Friendship in Christ' and will explore how as men we are called to not only grow in holiness but in fraternity too. The cost of the day will be £25 which includes breakfast lunch and dinner. The day will begin at 10am and will finish after a curry at 5:30pm. To book your place please either click here for the women's retreat: <https://forms.office.com/r/XatCtqCMHC>; here for the men's retreat: <https://forms.office.com/r/PaX4dcUK0Acall> 0115 9539806 or email: adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk

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

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.ctk.ik.org/p_Home.ikml
English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/

Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914

	<p style="text-align: center;">Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p style="text-align: center;">27th February – 6th March 2022</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">† Stations of the Cross every Friday after morning Mass.</p>
---	--	--

Sunday 27.02	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass -Paulgi &family Inten- Zacharias Aldrin Alex Thanks - Thekkan Kuriya & Kachappilly Ouseph RIP	<p>Family Fast Day is on Friday 11 March. Join in Family Fast Day with your parish, friends and family so that more children can grow up big and strong. By eating simply and giving what you save, you'll be making a place so that no child should go hungry.</p> <hr/> <p>Omicron Guidance: It is 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.</p>
Monday 28.02	5pm 5.30pm	Silent Adoration Malayalam Service (Vibhuthi)	
Tuesday 1.03	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Wednesday 2.03	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Ash Wednesday	
Thursday 3.03	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Friday 4.03	9.30am 10am 5pm 5.30pm	First Friday - Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Stations of the Cross Silent Adoration Malayalam Service	
Saturday 5.03	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Sunday 6.03	10.30am 3.30pm 4pm	English Mass Stations of the Cross Malayalam Mass	

ASH WEDNESDAY and beginning of LENT on Wednesday 2nd March.

Pope Francis Prayer Intentions for March 2022: For a Christian response to bioethical challenges. We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

Mother of God Children's Liturgy group. There will be no Children's Liturgy next Sunday 6th March. Our sessions will continue as normal the following Sunday 13th March.

Gospel background for Sunday 27th February - Luke 6:39-45

The third and final section of Luke's Sermon on the Plain begins: And he told them a parable. There are actually four parables, three of which we read today. They are all about how to be a good disciple.

The blind cannot lead the blind. And a disciple cannot be a good disciple unless he or she has learned from the teacher. Everyone who is fully trained is like the teacher who knows how to cure the blind. Before you can be a good disciple and teach others you must take care of yourself. Do not try to take a speck out of your brother's eye until you have taken the board out of your own. Finally, only when you have purified yourself can you produce the good works that the teacher requires. Discipleship asks us to produce good deeds. But to produce them requires the integrity and purity of heart found in the teacher.

When people see your good deeds they will know that this is because you have a good heart. The final parable, which we do not read today, is about building on the solid foundation of rock and not on sand. This is the only way to face the difficulties a disciple will encounter and survive.

Ash Wednesday Background on the Gospel Reading.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the liturgical season of Lent. In this season, we prepare ourselves to celebrate the high point of our Christian life, Easter. Each year, the readings for Ash Wednesday are the same. They call us to a change of heart and teach us about the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These disciplines are to be part of the Christian life during every season, but during the season of Lent, we renew our commitment to them.

The meaning behind tracing a cross on our foreheads with ashes (the liturgical sign of Ash Wednesday) is a summary of our Christian life. On one level, the ashes remind us of our origin and our death. (In the words of the prayer said when we receive ashes: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.") The ashes are also the sign of our victory: the cross of Christ. In his death and resurrection, Christ conquered death. Our destiny as Christians is to receive the victory over death that Christ won for us. We acknowledge that victory when we "[t]urn away from sin and [are] faithful to the gospel," words from the alternative prayer when we are signed with ashes.

Today's reading is part of the Sermon on the Mount. In the sermon, Jesus warns his followers against acting for the sake of appearance. When Jesus' disciples give alms, pray, and fast, they are to do so in such a way that only God, who sees the heart and knows what is hidden, will know. Although our Lectionary reading omits the Lord's Prayer, we can recall that Matthew presents that prayer as a model for the disciples' prayer (Matthew 6:9-15).

Words of the Holy Father. The fruits are actions but also words. A tree's quality can also be understood from words. Indeed, those who are good draw good from their hearts and their mouths, and those who are bad draw bad, by practicing the most damaging exercise among us, which is grumbling, gossiping, speaking ill of others. This destroys. It destroys the family, destroys school, destroys the workplace, destroys the neighbourhood. Wars begin from the tongue. Let us consider a bit this lesson of Jesus and ask ourselves the question: do I speak ill of others? Do I always seek to tarnish others? Is it easier for me to see others' flaws than my own? And let us try to correct ourselves at least a little: it will do us all good.

Following Bishop Patrick's Pastoral Letter last 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)

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.

300 Club Results 20th February: £50 T Watts (190). £25 J O'Donoghue (63), C Scranney (95).

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.**

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>

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!