



As Lent begins, we're all shocked by the situation unfolding in Ukraine. People are separating from their loved ones and fleeing the country, simply to survive. Your support today will have a direct impact on the people of Ukraine. Today we would normally share stories from our Lent appeal, and you may have received our Lent pack recently, but the situation in Ukraine is one we cannot ignore. Our sister organisation, Caritas Ukraine, and other Caritas agencies in neighbouring countries, are already on the ground helping people affected by this conflict. They are working to provide food, blankets and warm clothes to families who have been forced to leave everything behind. Whatever you can give today will help us reach more families with urgent assistance. Please do continue to pray for our sisters and brothers in Ukraine.

[Donate now](#)

[Read our update](#)

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](#)**

**The Pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving**

Saint Augustine described "Prayer, fasting and almsgiving" as the Pillars of Lent. The role of any pillar is to support, from the soft pillar we rest our head on each night to the pillars of the buildings we live and work in; they all support something. Pillars of Lent support our way of living the Gospel. The ideals of prayer, fasting and almsgiving support us on our whole Christian journey rather than are something we inflict on ourselves for just forty days of the year. Jesus summed up the pillars of discipleship - "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." **(Prayer)** "You shall love your neighbour **(almsgiving)** as yourself **(fasting)**" Matt 22:37,39. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving remind us to put our relationships right again **(conversion)**.

**Prayer** places us into right relationship with God

**Fasting** places us into right relationship with our self (our body)

**Almsgiving** places us into right relationship with others (almsgiving)

**A prayer for Ukraine**

Loving God,

We pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices. We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need. May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world. Amen.

	<p><b>Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</b></p> <p><b>☎(0116) 287 5232</b> <b>✉<a href="mailto:mogparish@gmail.com">mogparish@gmail.com</a></b> <b><a href="http://www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk">www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</a></b></p>	<p><b>Parish Priest: Fr. George Thomas</b> <b><a href="mailto:gchelackal@gmail.com">gchelackal@gmail.com</a></b></p> <p><b>NRC DT- Registered Charity</b></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>LENT</b></p>	<p><b>First Sunday of Lent</b></p> <p><b>6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022</b></p>	<p><b>Stations of the Cross every Friday after morning Mass.</b></p>
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Sunday 6.03	10.30am 3.30pm 4pm	English Mass - Carmos Fernandes RIP Stations of the Cross Malayalam Mass - Chinnamma Philip RIP	<p><b>Family Fast Day is on Friday 11 March. CAFOD envelopes will be distributed today. To be returned next Sunday.</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>New COVID Guidance</b> Hand sanitiser will be available at the entrance. You can still wear a face mask if you wish. Please do not attend church if you display any sign of illness. Full guidance displayed in the church porch.</p>
Monday 7.03		No Service	
Tuesday 8.03	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Wednesday 9.03	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Thursday 10.03	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Friday 11.03 <b>CAFOD Lenten Fast Day</b>	9.30am 10am 5pm 5.30pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Stations of the Cross Silent Adoration Holy Qurbana	
Saturday 12.03	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Sunday 13.03	10.30am 3.30pm 4pm	English Mass Stations of the Cross Malayalam Mass	

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

**LENTEN PRAYER**

Almighty and Everlasting God, You have given the human race Jesus Christ our Saviour as a model of humility. He fulfilled Your will by becoming man and giving His life on the Cross. Help us to bear witness to You by following His example of suffering and make us worthy to share in His Resurrection. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.

**24 HOURS FOR THE LORD - 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2022 at 5pm -  
ST. PETERS'S BASILICA  
Penitential celebration with Pope Francis.**

## Gospel background for Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March - Luke 4:1-13

In each of the three Synoptic Gospels, after his baptism, Jesus is reported to have spent forty days in the desert, fasting and praying. In Luke and in Matthew, the devil presents three temptations to Jesus. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger, he offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship him, and he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test. In each case, Jesus resists, citing words from Scripture to rebuke the devil's temptation.

Each temptation that Jesus faces offers insight into the spirituality we hope to develop as we keep the forty days of the Season of Lent. We can trust God to provide for our material needs. We worship God because God alone has dominion over us and our world. We can trust God to be faithful to his promises. Jesus' rejection of the devil's temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the Word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil by his confidence in God's protection and faithfulness.

This Gospel highlights for us one of the central themes of the Season of Lent. We are dependent upon God for all that we have and all that we are. Anything that leads us to reject this dependency or to distrust its sufficiency, is a temptation from the devil.

Luke ends his report of Jesus' temptation in the desert by noting that the devil departs for a time. The implication is that the devil will return. Jesus knows that he will be tempted again in the Garden of Gethsemane. The depth of Jesus' trust in God is shown most fully when Jesus rejects the temptation to turn away from the task God has given to him. Jesus' final rebuke of the devil is his sacrifice on the Cross.

Jesus' responses to the temptations of the devil teach us how we can respond to temptation. As we start our journey through Lent, this Sunday's Gospel calls us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice, God's promise of protection can be trusted, and God alone is God.

**Words of the Holy Father.** During the 40 days of Lent, as Christians we are invited to follow in Jesus' footsteps and face the spiritual battle with the Evil One with the strength of the Word of God. Not with our words: they are worthless. The Word of God: this has the strength to defeat Satan. For this reason, it is important to be familiar with the Bible: read it often, meditate on it, assimilate it. The Bible contains the Word of God, which is always timely and effective. Someone has asked: what would happen were we to treat the Bible as we treat our mobile phone? Were we to read God's messages contained in the Bible as we read telephone messages, what would happen? Clearly the comparison is paradoxical, but it calls for reflection. Indeed, if we had God's Word always in our heart, no temptation could separate us from God, and no obstacle could divert us from the path of good.

**300 Club Results** 27<sup>th</sup> February: £50 P Moore (289). £25 J Gray (23), J Bevins (280).

**CAFOD Coffee Morning** for Leicester this Lent will be hosted at St Edwards, 633 Aylestone Rd., Leicester. LE2 8TF on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 10.30-12.30 am with Maggie Mairura, Co-ordinator for Nottingham Diocese. Everyone welcome.

**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>

**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](mailto: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!

**Women's Retreat on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 (19<sup>th</sup> March)** to celebrate St Joseph's Day, patron saint of men, we will host a retreat for Catholic Men on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> 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/XatCtgCMHC>; here for the men's retreat: <https://forms.office.com/r/PaX4dcUk0Acall> 0115 9539806 or email: [adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk)

**LACY OUTSIDE STATIONS OF THE CROSS - 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022** - at the Rosmini Centre, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, LE7 4SJ. Calling ALL YOUNG PEOPLE, families and friends - come and share some time with us taking a "Journey with Jesus" as we make the Stations of the Cross outside in the grounds of the Rosmini Centre, commencing at 1.30 p.m. This will be followed by a Celebration of Mass and light refreshments. With LACY support and help we are hoping that young people will lead the Stations and feel they can be involved in the Celebration of Mass through Music and readings. Let us know if you can be with us and would like to be involved. Contact [paulinepayne@hotmail.com](mailto:paulinepayne@hotmail.com) or [claudiacoxon@googlemail.com](mailto:claudiacoxon@googlemail.com).

**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.



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

**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.**