



We are 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. Other Agencies 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](#)

The **Leicester Ukrainian Community** is indicating ways of supporting refugees via this website: <https://linktr.ee/KalynaHome>. The Ukrainian Catholic Community, which is in communion with Rome, celebrates Mass in the Byzantine rite on the second and fourth Sunday of each month at 2.00pm at the Church of the Ascension of Our Lord, on the corner of Hinckley Road and Fosse Road South. Please help if you can.

A full list of items you can donate is available from the church porch.

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)

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD - 25th MARCH 2022 at 5pm -

ST. PETERS'S BASILICA - Penitential celebration with Pope Francis.

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.



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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



Third Sunday of Lent

20th – 27th March 2022



**Stations of the
Cross every Friday
after morning Mass.**

Sunday 20.03	7am 10.30am 3.30pm 4pm	Malayalam Mass English Mass - Joseph Thomas & Ouseph Antony RIP Stations of the Cross Malayalam Mass	New COVID Guidance Hand sanitiser will be available at the entrance. Please continue to wear a face mask. Do not attend church if you display any sign of illness. Full guidance displayed in the church porch.
Monday 21.03		No Service	
Tuesday 22.03	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Wednesday 23.03	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Thursday 24.03	9.30pm 10pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Friday 25.03	9.30am 10am 5pm	The Annunciation of the Lord Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Stations of the Cross Lenten Retreat	
Saturday 26.03	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Sunday 27.03	10.30am 3.30pm 4pm	English Mass Stations of the Cross Malayalam Mass	



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.

The Pope's prayer intention for MARCH. 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.

Gospel background for Sunday 20th March - Luke 13:1-9

Jesus preaches a lesson on repentance.

Now into the third week of the Season of Lent, our Sunday Gospel prepares us to hear Lent's call to conversion and repentance. Today's reading is found in the chapters of Luke's Gospel that describe Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. During this journey, Jesus teaches and heals. He must also respond to those who question and challenge his authority and actions. There is no parallel in Mark's or Matthew's Gospels for today's reading from Luke. While Mark and Matthew describe an incident in which Jesus curses the fig tree, today's reading makes the barren fig tree the subject of a parable.

Luke tells us that some among the crowds report to Jesus a massacre of Galileans by Pilate. The intention of the crowd seems to be to ask Jesus to explain why these people suffered. It was commonplace to render people's suffering as evidence of their sinfulness. Jesus challenges this interpretation. Those who were massacred were no more or less sinful than the ones who report the situation to Jesus. Jesus replies that even a fatal accident, a natural disaster, ought not to be interpreted as punishment for sin.

Jesus' words at first appear to have a fire-and-brimstone quality. Jesus says in essence, "Repent or perish as these people did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment." The tone changes, however, in the parable that follows. The parable of the barren fig tree contrasts the patience and hopefulness of the gardener with the practicality of the property owner. When told to cut down the fig tree because it is not producing fruit, the gardener counsels patience. If properly tended, the barren fig tree may yet bear fruit. Throughout his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus has been teaching about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of God's patience and hopefulness as he prepares his Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. And yet God is merciful. He delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he desires from us.

This, then, is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of his efforts. Next week's Gospel will give an even clearer picture of the kind of mercy that God shows to us.

Words of the Holy Father. The fig tree that the master in the parable wants to uproot represents a sterile existence that is incapable of giving, incapable of doing good. And this vinedresser's likeness manifests the mercy of God who leaves us time for conversion. We all need to convert ourselves, to take a step forward; and God's patience and mercy accompanies us in this. Despite the barrenness that marks our lives at times, God is patient and offers us the possibility to change and make progress on the path towards good. However, the deferment requested and received in expectation of the tree bearing fruit also indicates the urgency of conversion.

300 Club Results 6th March: £50 M Niland (212), D Brighton (220), Mr C Barkshire (52).
13th March 2022: £50 D Greaves (186), £25 W Campbell (286), E Odell (54).

Catholics in Health and Social Care are invited to three events on ethics and practice in health and social care, hosted by Saint Mary's University, the Anscombe Centre, and the Bios Centre. The events will consider the challenges of assisted dying, the care of the dying and questions of conscientious objection in the workplace, and will be held in Edinburgh (19th March), London (2nd April) and by zoom (14th May). For further information email marianne.rozario@stmarys.ac.uk

Stella Maris. On the one-year anniversary of the Ever Given ship getting stuck in the Suez Canal, Catholic charity Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) is hosting a webinar about modernisation in the shipping industry. It will look at the history of the container ship, the rise of the ultra-large container vessels, and explore what impact modernisation of the shipping industry has had on seafarers around the world. Please register now at www.stellamaris.org.uk/modernisation to join online on **23 March at 7.30pm** to hear how shipping has changed in the last century, the impact this is having on seafarers today, and the important role Stella Maris has in supporting them.

NDCYS & The Briars are excited to announce the opening of Saints' Meadow Luxury Retreat Cabins. This new initiative, to support the work of the diocesan youth service, gives anyone a chance to stay in the beautiful Derbyshire Peak district in custom built, fully serviced, en-suite cabins. With fantastic views and a stunning location in the grounds of The Briars it has to be the most enjoyable way to support NDCYS and the young people they work with. Find out more and book right now at www.saintsmeadow.com

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. 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 more information, 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!

LACY OUTSIDE STATIONS OF THE CROSS - 3rd 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, starting at 1.30pm. 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. If you can be with us and would like to be involved, contact paulinepayne@hotmail.com or claudiacoxon@googlemail.com.

Walsingham Young Adults' Pilgrimage (18-35s): £60 which includes lunch and dinner on Friday 10th June, breakfast and lunch on Saturday 11th and accommodation on Friday night (a twin room in Dowry House). A full pilgrimage programme integrated with the diocesan schedule on Saturday 11th June will be hosted. Places can be secured with a £30 deposit. Shared travel options are available. Register at: shorturl.at/cBOU1

Nottingham Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage - under the leadership of Bishop Patrick, from Monday 4th until Friday 8th July. Full details are on the Tangney Tours website: <https://www.tangney-tours.com/nottingham>, or for more details contact Father Simon Gillespie (simon.gillespie@dioceseofnottingham.uk)

Pawel Martyniak has been missing from his home in Norfolk since 30 November 2021. He is described as religious and he attends Sunday Mass. The police are involved with the search for Pawel and it is thought that he may have travelled to London although this is not confirmed. His family have asked if the Church can assist with locating Pawel, and so please see the poster on the parish noticeboard.