

Welcoming Ukrainian refugees.

Caritas has received numerous expressions of interest in hosting, welcoming and supporting refugees from the conflict in Ukraine. The pieces are now beginning to fall into place nationally, enabling us to develop ways locally to support parishes and individuals in their response. This update provides you with the picture at time of writing. In particular it invites you and representatives of your parish to attend an open workshop on Zoom next Monday afternoon.

An online workshop for anyone interested in knowing more about, or developing the Church's welcome for Ukrainian Refugees is being held this coming Monday, 28th March, at 2.00pm-3.30pm. To register for the event visit bit.ly/ParishesofWelcome or email caritas@dioceseofnottingham.uk

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.

GodCalls Adventure from the National Office for Vocation, is a free, 40-day self-guided course which aims to help you grow in holiness, and root each day in prayer. You will find resources on the website <https://www.godcalls.co.uk/godcalls-adventure> to guide you in how to plan your days putting God at the centre of your life, engage in prolonged prayer and journal your progress. The downloadable resources focus on cultivating different virtues, ranging from meekness to purity, gratitude to courage. There is also guidance on using the Bible, how to pray and reflect with the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross. Join the private Facebook group where you can find support and fellowship, (type GodCalls Adventure into the search bar in Facebook to join). GodCalls Adventure is not just for Lent, try the 40 days at any point of the year.

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)

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.



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



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NRCDT- Registered
Charity

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



Fourth Sunday of Lent

27th March – 3rd April 2022



Stations of the Cross every Friday after morning Mass.

Sunday 27.03	7am 10.30am 3.30pm 4pm	Malayalam Mass English Mass Stations of the Cross Malayalam Mass	<p>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.</p>
Monday 28.03		No Service	
Tuesday 29.03	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Wednesday 30.03	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Thursday 31.03	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Friday 1.04	9.30am 10am 5pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Stations of the Cross Lenten Retreat	
Saturday 2.04	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Sunday 3.04	10.30am 3.30pm 4pm	English Mass Stations of the Cross Malayalam Mass	

A prayer for Ukraine

We pray that the Lord God send His Holy Spirit to all the people of Ukraine and gives them the grace of endurance in faith, hope and love amid the current ordeals; may peace be granted throughout Ukraine and may the Ukrainian nation be delivered from all enemies, so that we may glorify the good and merciful God in justice and truth. Lord hear us and have mercy. Amen

The Pope's prayer intention for APRIL. For health care workers. We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

Gospel background for Sunday 27th March - Luke 15:1-3,11-32

Jesus teaches about forgiveness in the parable of the Prodigal Son.

The parable Jesus tells in today's Gospel is unique to the Gospel of Luke. Jesus has been teaching the crowds as he journeys to Jerusalem. As he teaches, the Pharisees and scribes complain and challenge Jesus because he is welcoming sinners at his table. Today we hear the third of three parables that Jesus tells in response to his critics. These three familiar parables—the lost sheep, the lost coin, and today's parable of the prodigal son—invite us to consider the depth of God's mercy and love.

The Pharisees taught a scrupulous observance of Jewish Law. In their interpretation and practice, observant Jews who shared table fellowship with sinners would be made unclean. Like Jesus, the Pharisees hoped to lead sinners back to God. The Pharisees, however, required that sinners first become ritually clean—observant of the Pharisees' interpretation of Jewish Law—before sharing table fellowship. This appears to be one of the major differences between the Pharisees and Jesus. Jesus reaches out to sinners while they are still sinners, inviting them to conversion through fellowship with him. Jesus is God acting among us; by befriending us, he is inviting us to return to friendship with God. Through friendship with Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we, in turn, bear fruit for God. Recall last Sunday's Gospel and the barren fig tree.

Our familiarity with today's parable risks dulling us to its tremendously powerful message. We call this the parable of the lost son or the prodigal son. Any focus on the younger son, however, must also be balanced by an examination of the unusual behaviour of the father. First we must imagine our first response to the audacity of a son who asks for his inheritance before his father has died. Indignation would certainly be a justifiable response to such a request. Yet the father in this parable agrees to honor the son's request and divides his property among his two sons. How might we describe such a father? Foolish comes to mind, but so does trusting. Without property of his own, the father must rely upon his sons to provide for his well-being.

The younger son takes his inheritance and leaves home. The older son remains, continuing to provide for the father and the household. Having been disgraced by the younger son, the father spends some time watching the road for the return of the lost son. When he eventually sees his wayward son returning, the father not only welcomes him but also runs out to greet him and then honours him with a party. We say that this father is loving and forgiving. Yet these adjectives only begin to describe the depth of love and mercy that characterize the father.

We find no surprise in the anger of the older son. Yet the father appears sad and even confused by the older son's indignation. He says in reply that they should celebrate because the lost son had returned. The father is filled with gratitude and love for the older son's faithfulness. This love is in no way diminished by the father's rejoicing at the return of the younger son. Yet the older son's jealousy reveals his limited understanding of the depth of his father's love.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." Today's Gospel describes the reason for our joy: God's great love for us has been revealed in Jesus. Through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Christ has reconciled us with God and one another.

300 Club Results 20th March: £50 D Gomes (221), £25 P Fox (259), G McKeefry (232).

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 Ancombe 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

Nottingham University Hospitals is undertaking an **independent review of maternity services**, and is asking for feedback from as many families as possible, across all faiths, who have experience of maternity services at NUH between 2006 and 2021. This feedback will help to provide the very best local maternity services in the future. To participate please visit <https://independentmaternityreviewnotts.nhs.uk/get-involved>, or email nccg.nottsmaternityreview@nhs.net.

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

LACY OUTSIDE STATIONS OF THE CROSS - 3rd April 2022 at 1.30pm at the Rosmini Centre, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, LE7 4SJ. Calling ALL YOUNG PEOPLE, families and friends. 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 would like to be involved, contact paulinepayne@hotmail.com or claudiacoxon@googlemail.com.

Leicester West Saturday Seven Steps Scripture Sharing at the Upper Room, West Holme St, LE3 0TA or on first Saturdays by Zoom from 10 to 11.30, almost every Saturday - with Easter, summer and Christmas breaks. Our Scripture Sharing is open to all baptized adults who can attend regularly. When we have more than twelve members, new groups are formed. Next term: 30 April - 9 July. Enquiries to criscus@me.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)

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham, Saturday 11th June 2022. Join with Bishop Patrick on pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady to pray for vocations, peace in our world, and evangelisation. Transport to Walsingham - individually organised, or encourage your deanery parishes to organise a coach or minibus together. For more information and details contact: Deacon Séamus O'Looskan on 0116 241 4057 - solooskan@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk. Or visit the Walsingham Shrien Website: www.walsingham.org.uk