

**Words of the Holy Father.** Jesus, the grain of wheat sowed by God in the furrows of the earth, died, killed by the sin of the world. He remained two days in the tomb; but his death contained God's love in all its power, released and made manifest on the third day, the day we celebrate today: the Easter of Christ the Lord. The words heard by the women at the tomb are also addressed to us: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen". There is a word that transcends them, a word that only God can speak: it is the word of the resurrection.

**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.**

**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

**Leicester West Saturday Seven Steps Scripture Sharing** at the Upper Room, West Holme St, LE3 OTA 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](mailto:criscus@me.com).

**The Leicester Ukrainian Community** is indicating ways of supporting refugees via this website: <https://linktr.ee/KalynaHome>. The Ukrainian Catholic Community Church of the Ascension of Our Lord is 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.**



**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**



Please bring your red MISSIO box to church to emptied and collect your free magazine. The Red Box is a vital source of support for countless people in need around the world. Thank you  
If you would like a Red Box, please speak to Maila Taylor.

	<p><b>Mother of God Greencourt 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>NRCDT- 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>Easter Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>17<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022</b></p>	
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Sunday 17.04	10.30am	Holy Mass - No Malayalam Service
Monday 18.04	No service	
Tuesday 19.04	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass
Wednesday 20.04	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass
Thursday 21.04	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass
Friday 22.04	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass
Saturday 23.04	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass
Divine Mercy Sunday 24.04	7am 10.30am 3pm	Malayalam Mass Holy Mass Malayalam Mass (Feast of St. George)



**Easter Prayer**

**Gracious God,**

**We praise you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus.**

**We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.**

**We praise you for the light of new life that continues to shine in our hearts today.**

**We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy, will live in us each day;**

**and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others. Amen.**

## Gospel background for Easter Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April John 20:1-9

Mary of Magdala finds that the stone has been removed from Jesus' tomb.

Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.

### PILGRIMAGES

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

**Nottingham Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage** - under the leadership of Bishop Patrick, from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> until Friday 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:simon.gillespie@dioceseofnottingham.uk))

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham**, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:solooskan@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk). Or visit the Walsingham Shrien Website: [www.walsingham.org.uk](http://www.walsingham.org.uk)

**300 Club Results** 10<sup>th</sup> April: £50 M Wakely (121). £25 J Marston (109), R Fernandes (218).

**Grapevine 43:** The next few months see some exciting opportunities to get involved with Caritas in endeavours for the Gospel. This issue outlines the key dates coming up. Also, hot off the press, we share the final report on the diocesan Synod process, which will guide Caritas from here. There's a lot to share with you this time, so let's get on with it! -- Paul and Helen for Caritas Diocese of Nottingham.

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

**Journey in Hope - New directions for outreach in the post-pandemic parish.** Tuesdays at 7.00 from 3 May on Zoom. Does your parish have a group which was active before the Covid-19 pandemic hit? Would you like to regroup and reconceive your purpose for the challenges now emerging? If so Journey in Hope is for you. The lockdown of 2020 confronted us with realities that had gone unchallenged in our society: indifference, loneliness, inequality, poverty, pollution, polarisation. How much have we learnt its lessons? And where is the 'new normal' we were promised, under the cold shadow of the cost of living crisis and war in Ukraine? Even so we can glimpse a future through our own Synodal consultations, as we navigate the reorganisation of parishes. At this time of new discovery, where does God call us? Who indeed are 'us' in the midst of so much change? Now is a time for trust - not passively waiting for someone to tell us what to do; rather, an active trust marked by curiosity, perseverance, and a willingness to take risks. For all of God's people it will be a journey whose destination we do not know - a journey in hope. As we travel through Eastertide, we will be guided by Scripture and the writings of Pope Francis in Fratelli Tutti and Let Us Dream. And we'll listen together for God's word in our hearts and on each other's lips. **Click here to book for 'Journey in Hope'**

Journey in Hope has been compiled by a team of parishioners around Nottingham Diocese. Over six weeks, we invite you to set out with us on six contemplative forays, each taking its bearings from the experience of God's people, past and present:

3 May: From loneliness to friendship

10 May: From fragmentation to community

17 May: From fear to trust

24 May: From inertia to creativity

31 May: From introspection to adventure

7 June: From here to the future.

Do not feel you have to attend every session. Click on the relevant link below to sign up on Zoom. You can also download the complete study guide - feel free to read the first 8 or 10 pages before we start. We look forward to meeting you.

**Laudato Si' (Praise Be To You).** Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si is a worldwide wake up call to help humanity understand the destruction that humanity is rendering to the environment and our fellow people. Event: Become a Laudato Si' Animator. Join the Laudato Si' Movement in acting to care for our common home. The Free course includes weekly readings, videos, four online dialogues (which you can follow live or whenever you want), and practical ideas to lead your community based on prayer, sustainability, and prophetic advocacy. You can learn the story of Milaiza, an animator from Brazil through **YouTube**. The first webinar is on 20<sup>th</sup> April. **More details available here.**