

Returning to Mass at Pentecost
An invitation from the Bishops of England and Wales

This is the bread come down from heaven (John 6:58)

A beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist. We do so with deep gratitude and joy. The Eucharist gives the Church her identity - "The Eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the Eucharist." It enables us to worship Almighty God, to support each other on our journey of faith, and to be a visible sign of faith in the world. This hallmark is supported and strengthened by the precept that our fundamental Christian duty is to worship God by participating in the celebration of Mass. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is the greatest of all privileges, sometimes referred to as "the Sunday Obligation."

Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed. The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply.

We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation.

Our Catholic people and parishes have benefitted during these difficult times from the online streaming of Mass and other services. "Virtual viewing" of Mass online does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation. It may, however, be a source of continual spiritual comfort to those who cannot attend Mass in person, for example those who are elderly and sick, for whom the obligation does not apply. In this context, we recognise gratefully the ministry of those who administer Holy Communion to the elderly, sick and housebound.

We are grateful to our clergy, religious and lay faithful who have served our parishes, schools and communities with dedication and distinction throughout this pandemic. Now we look forward with renewed faith and confidence.

In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Lord's Supper, the Lord Jesus entrusted to us the precious gift of Himself. With humility, we glory in being a Eucharistic people for whom attendance at Mass is essential. Looking forward to the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, we now invite all Catholics who have not yet done so to return to attending Mass in person.

As the Church needs the witness of the presence of each person, so too each believer needs to journey in faith and worship with their fellow disciples. Nourished by our encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, fed with His Word and His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, and supported by the presence of each other, we receive strength week by week, to serve the Lord and glorify Him with our lives.

Approved by the Plenary Assembly of the Bishops' Conference - Friday 6th May 2022

A **Blessed Sacrament Procession**, led by Bishop Patrick, will be celebrated on Corpus Christi, Sunday 19th June, starting from Saint Mary's church in Hyson Green, Nottingham (NG7 6FZ) at 2pm, and finishing at our Cathedral at around 4pm. All are very welcome - especially First Holy Communion children - see the poster for more details.

	<p><i>Mother of God</i> Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</p> <p>☎(0116) 287 5232 ✉mogparish@gmail.com www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</p>	<p><i>Parish Priest:</i> Fr. George Thomas gchelackal@gmail.com</p>  <p>NRCDT- Registered Charity</p>
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Our Schools:

Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**
 English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk

Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914

	<p align="center">5th Sunday of Easter</p> <p align="center">Jesus gives his disciples a new commandment: love one another.</p>	<p align="center">15th – 22nd May 2022</p>
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Sunday 15.05 7am 10am 4pm	Malayalam Mass Holy Mass Malayalam Mass	<p align="center">COVID Guidance</p> <p align="center">Hand sanitiser will be available at the entrance.</p> <p align="center">Please continue to wear a face mask. Do not attend church if you display any sign of illness. Full guidance displayed in church porch.</p>
Monday 16.05 No service		
Tuesday 17.05 9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Annie Wyeth RIP Frank & Otilia Mumbres	
Wednesday 18.05 5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Thursday 19.05 9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Friday 20.05 9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Saturday 21.05 9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Joseph Varghese RIP	
Sunday 22.05 7am 10.30am 4pm	Malayalam Mass Holy Mass Malayalam Mass	

<p align="center">PARISH CENSUS</p>	<p>We will soon be updating our Parish Census. If you are new to the parish, or your address has changed, please fill in a form with your details.</p> <p align="center">Forms will be available from the table in the church porch.</p>
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The Pope's prayer intention for MAY. For faith-filled young people. We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

Feast of the week: Monday, SS Philip and James, Apostles.

SECOND COLLECTION TODAY FOR THE CLERGY FORMATION FUND.

Gospel background for Sunday 15th May - John 13:31-33a-35

Today's Gospel again comes from the Gospel of John. Like last week, today we hear words spoken by Jesus before his death and Resurrection. Jesus is teaching at the Last Supper. John's Gospel does not include an institution of the Eucharist narrative; instead, Jesus washes his disciples' feet. Immediately after, Jesus predicts his betrayal by Judas. Today's Gospel follows that prediction. It can be read as a continuing explanation of Jesus' act of washing his disciples' feet. It begins with the announcement that this is the moment when the Son of Man will be glorified. This theme continues throughout John's Passion. Jesus will be glorified in his death on the cross and in his Resurrection, and the disciples will glorify Jesus in the love they show. John's Gospel does not present a sentimental view of love. This is a type of love that is shown in service and sacrifice. It is difficult to choose to love when faced with hatred and anger. Jesus tells the disciples that all will know that they are his disciples because of the love they show for one another. This description of the early Christian community will be repeated in the Acts of the Apostles: "See how they love one another." Christian love is the hallmark of Christianity. We see it lived in the witness of the martyrs. We see it in the example of the lives of the saints. We see it in the holy women and men who live and love daily, making small and large sacrifices for others.

300 Club Results 8th May: £50 W Campbell (286), £25 Mr G Patecki (43), B Stasiewicz (127).

Parish Council Business.

At the recent Parish Council meeting, we discussed issues of importance to all who attend Mother of God. These are the main thoughts and ideas regarding parish life at present.

Fr George wants to visit parishioners in their homes and bless each house. This is a long-standing Catholic tradition that helps to build up the contact between the Parish Priest and the community. If you would like a visit from Fr George, then give him your name and address or email him with your details. He will be delighted to call on you at home.

Ministry of Welcome: When people come through the doors of our church, it is important they be made to feel welcome immediately. Hospitality and welcome are central to our Christian community and faith.

To ensure this is a reality we are asking you to consider being part of this ministry of 'Welcome' on a Sunday. If interested (all ages welcome from children to the most senior of citizens) contact me after Mass, or email Fr George or myself on ian.mckay50@gmail.com.

On Sunday September 4th we shall be celebrating the feast of **Mary and the Bishop** will join us in the celebration of Mass that day.

We are looking to make it an International Mass with readings and music in several languages. This will be a real festival of faith for our community from many nations and cultures. Please contact me if you will like to be a reader or to join the choir we are setting up for this event. All ages welcome.

Charity Dance Raising funds for Ukraine, on Friday 20th May 2022 at St. Patrick's Parish Centre, Beaumont Leys Lane, LE4 2BD. Music by Irene and Tom. Entry by ticket or pay at the door £7. Contact details: Tony Smith 07905790325 or Jo Edwards 07977351901.

"I was in Prison..." on Saturday 21st May will be a lively and nourishing day to listen to the lived experience of prisoners and their families, and discover simple ways you can help individually or as a parish. Pact, the Catholic prison charity, are joining forces with Caritas for the conference at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Bulwell, Nottingham. The day will

Mother of God First Holy Communion Programme.

1. **Meeting for parents**-in the church hall on **Tuesday 17th May at 6.30pm.**
2. **Session 16 for the children**-in the church hall on Sunday 22nd May from 9 till 10.
3. **First Confessions**-in the church on **Thursday 26th May** from 5.45.
4. **Rehearsal for the First Holy Communion**-in the church on **Sunday 5th June** from 9 till 10...this meeting will involve just the children and their parents who will be making their First Holy Communion at the English mass. The children and their parents from the Malayalam community will attend their own rehearsal for their special day.
5. **First Holy Communion Day-(English mass)** in the church on **Sunday 12th June** at 10.30.
First Holy Communion- (Malayalam mass) in the church on **Saturday 18th June.**

Celebrating Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee at Nottingham Cathedral, Bishop Patrick warmly invites people from across the diocese to Saint Barnabas Cathedral on Thursday 2nd June for a musical celebration to mark the Platinum Jubilee of HM The Queen. Tickets for the evening are available at www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events/jubilee Come and join HM's Lord Lieutenant and other guests as we give thanks to God for The Queen.

Social Theology and the Common Good is a series of events organised by Lincoln Cathedral in partnership with the Diocese of Nottingham. Join leading national speakers to explore how Catholic Social Teaching and Anglican Social Theology can renew public life. The first lecture is on Tuesday 7th June with Jenny Sinclair, founder director of Together For The Common Good: "Just Responsibility? How can social theology help us play our part in spiritual and civic renewal?" Find out more at <https://bit.ly/CommonGoodLincoln>.

Study, Reflect, and Celebrate our Synodal Journey - Thursday 9th June. To be held on the Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest at the Doubletree by Hilton, Nottingham and led by Father James Hanvey SJ, for clergy, parishioners, curial staff, pastoral assistants and others. This event includes a complimentary supper and time for discussion:

- 6.00pm - Arrivals and finger buffet
- 6.30pm - Father James Hanvey SJ "The Synod: Where do we go from here?"
- 7.15pm - Small group discussions / reflections on what Father James has said
- 7.30pm - Question and Answer session with Father James
- 8.00pm - Progress from the February Evening Prayer ideas (each deanery is asked to nominate one parish which has definitely put into action an idea from the February Synodal Evening Prayer) - 9.00pm - Close

For further information, and to book places, contact Father Simon Gillespie at simon.gillespie@dioceseofnottingham.uk. Bookings close on Monday 30th May.

COME WITH LACY to join Bishop Patrick on the Diocesan Pilgrimage at Walsingham on Saturday 11th June 2022. Pilgrimage Mass, Picnics, Holy Mile Procession and Benediction. We are hoping to provide a coach to Walsingham, departing approximately 8am, returning by 9pm (including a stop off for chips!). Pick up and drop offs at Wigston, Knighton and Oadby. We need young people to carry our LACY banner! Cost: £12 per person or £30 per family of 4 people plus. (Deposit of £7.00 per person or £15 per family required by Saturday 29th May.) Contact details: paulinepayne@hotmail.com or mobile: 07885 187374.

Retreat for Young Adults in Walsingham 10th -11th June Christus Vivit (the Diocese's Young Adult Ministry) is organising a retreat for Young Adults (18-35) to coincide with the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham. The cost is £60 (full board including transport from the diocese), there are also a limited number of 50% funded places. Please email cv@dioceseofnottingham.com. for more information, or to sign up by Monday 16th May.