

Bidding farewell to Benedict XVI.

Thousands paid their respects in St Peter's ahead of his funeral last Thursday. The body of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI lied in state in St Peter's Basilica, where the faithful payed their final respects and offered their prayers for the repose of the soul of the late Joseph Ratzinger. A long line of the faithful and other well-wishers had already formed early Monday morning before the viewing officially began at 9 am Rome time.

On Thursday, Pope Francis will become the first pope in modern history to preside as Pope at the funeral of his predecessor. The Requiem Mass is set to take place Thursday morning in St Peter's Square, beginning at 9:30 am Rome time.

Benedict XVI will then be laid to rest, as he requested, in the Grottoes beneath the Basilica, in the tomb where St John Paul II had been buried before his beatification. In accordance with the wishes of the late Pope Emeritus, the funeral and the accompanying rites and ceremonies will be marked by the same simplicity that characterized the life of this "humble servant in the Lord's vineyard."

A prayer for the soul of Pope Benedict XVI:

Father, eternal shepherd,

hear the prayers of your people for your servant Benedict, who governed your Church with love. In your mercy, bring him with the flock once entrusted to his care to the reward you have promised your faithful servants. May he who faithfully administered the mysteries of your forgiveness and love on earth, rejoice with you for ever in heaven. In your wise and loving care, you made your servant teacher of all your Church.

He did the work of Christ on earth. May your Son welcome him into eternal glory. May your servant whom you appointed high priest of your flock be counted now among the priests in the life of your kingdom.

Give your servant the reward of eternal happiness and let your mercy win for us the gift of your life and love. We entrust your servant to your mercy with faith and confidence. In the human family he was an instrument of your peace and love. May he rejoice in those gifts for ever with your saints. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.




'PEACE SUNDAY' - 15th January 2023

This year the message from Pope Francis tells us: 'No one can be saved alone'.

'Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace'. He asks us: 'What did we learn from the pandemic? What new paths should we follow to cast off the shackles of our old habits, to be better prepared, to dare new things? What signs of life and hope can we see, to help us move forward and try to make our world a better place?'

A vaccine has been found for Covid-19, says the Holy Father, but we still need to tackle the virus of war, and of inequality, and this can only be done together. In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi, which aims at working together to promote peace through parishes, schools and social media. Their website suggests ways we can all become better peacemakers. There are activities for families to do at home, including a peace liturgy for young children. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2023>. Pax Christi needs our support to keep going. If you'd like to make a donation, small or large, here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/yxfcw67x> or send a cheque payable to 'Pax Christi' to: Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, London NW4 4TY - Tel: 0208 203 4884

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Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - www.ckleicester.co.uk/
English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/

Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914




First week of Ordinary Time

8th - 15th
January 2023

The Baptism of the Lord

Sunday 8.01.2023	7am 10.30am 3pm	Malayalam Mass Holy Mass - Margaret O'Connor RIP John Murphy, Sheila & John Murphy Aimee MacKangu Thanks Malayalam Mass	<p>The Pope's prayer intention for January 2023.</p> <p>For educators</p> <p>We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.</p> <p>This week's Mass Intentions for all parishioners.</p>
Monday 9.01	No service		
Tuesday 10.01	No service		
Wednesday 11.01	No service		
Thursday 12.01	No service		
Saturday 14.01	No service		
Sunday 15.01	10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass Malayalam Mass	

 Please keep in your prayer all the sick and housebound people of the parish. If you know of anybody who would like a visit from Fr. George, please let him know.

Cycle of Prayer during Ordinary Time Winter:

Peace on Earth. Openness to the Word of God. Christian Unity. The Sick and Those who Care for Them. Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it. The Unemployed.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK FOR SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS.



Please join us in the Hall for tea and coffee after the 10.30 Mass on Sunday.

Gospel background for Sunday 1st January 2023 – Mt 3:3-17

This Is My Beloved Son. Jesus' baptism in the Jordan is the occasion to make him known as the promised Savior: the Father calls him his beloved Son; the Holy Spirit will guide him.

John the Baptist baptism is a baptism of **repentance**. John is hesitant to baptise Jesus because he recognises Jesus is the Lamb of God in no need of forgiveness. But John obeys Jesus' will **even if he doesn't fully understand the request**. Are we ready to do the same when Jesus asks something of us?

Jesus knows how important it is to human beings to set examples. No one but John had any true insight into who Jesus is. Jesus insists John baptizes Him so others may imitate Him in the baptism of repentance... **Repent and believe in the Gospel...**

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus takes on the sins of the world... sin has no more dominion over mankind...we now can **repent** too and have our sins washed clean, thanks to Jesus...He has shown us the **way!**

The Spirit of God descended like a dove in blessing and affirmation...a **Savior is here...**The Father affirms the Son's mission..."*This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased...* Thank you, Jesus, for being my Savior...help me turn to you and away from sin...help me to know **my mission** in this life and accept it so that I may come home to you, the Father, and the Holy Spirit for all eternity...Amen

Words of the Holy Father: With their act of adoration, the Magi bear witness that Jesus has come to earth to save not one people alone but all peoples. Therefore, on today's feast our gaze broadens to the horizons of the whole world in order to celebrate the "manifestation" of the Lord to all peoples, which is the manifestation of the love and *universal salvation* of God. He does not reserve his love to the privileged few, but offers it to all. As the Creator and Father is of all people, so the Savior wants to be for all people. That is why we are called to always nourish great faith and hope for every person and his or her salvation: even those who seem far from the Lord are followed – or better yet "chased" – by his passionate love, by his faithful and also humble love. For God's love is humble, very humble!

Mrs. Margaret O'Connor RIP. Our deepest and sincere condolences to her family and friends. Funeral arrangements details to follow.

300 Club Draw 1st January: £50 J Jarvis (193). £25 Mr E Nugent (19), C Scranney (200).

United 'Praying for Leicestershire' for leaders, plus their teams and intercessors. This will be on Monday 9th January at 7.30pm at the One Centre, 10 Frog island, LE3 5AG. We will gather to pray together for our City and County. This is a key season to be alert and responsive to the Holy Spirit. We are all aware that our City needs Jesus more than ever and at the start of a New Year we are urging you to join us in united praise and prayer as we stand together. This promises to be an evening where the kingdom of God will be advanced, so please prioritise it in your diaries and invite those in your circle who need to be there.

A second online Warmer Welcome Workshop takes place on Tuesday 10th January at 4.00pm. Anyone involved in running a 'warm hub', community café or drop-in is welcome. It will be an opportunity to exchange ideas and good practice, and ask for advice from peers and from diocesan staff, with a focus on defining volunteer roles and safe recruitment. Further workshops are planned for 13th February and 14th March at 7.00pm. To book visit bit.ly/WarmerWelcome.

The Synod - Continental Stage Consultation. All the Synod feedback from parishes, dioceses, and national Bishops' Conferences around the world has been gathered, considered, discerned, and distilled into a Report which is now being given to each continent to consider in light of their own tradition, history, experience, and religious perspective. Within Europe we now have the opportunity to consider the Synodal feedback from around the world and to report on:

- What we feel resonates with our own experiences - list the top three priorities from those given
 - Consider what are the challenges and tensions in each of those three areas
 - Define the next steps which move us (parish, deanery, diocese, the Church) forward
- Please engage with this consultation by completing the form available in church. Complete the feedback form on-line at: <https://forms.office.com/e/2Yfs77hHsp> Follow the QR code and access the on-line diocesan consultation.

All responses should be received by 9th January 2023 so they can be included in the overall diocesan response. Let us dream of the Church the Holy Spirit is calling us to become.

Share, Inspire, Support: Tuesday 17 January 2023, 7.00 -9.00 p.m. St Peter's Church, 21 Hinckley Road, Leicester, LE3 0TAParishioners and clergy in Leicester and Leicestershire are invited to the second bi-monthly meeting of the Leicester Hub of Caritas. We'll share ideas and experience, inspire and support each other, and explore new ways of working together for outreach and mission. This time our themes are:

- Communication and Inclusion
 - Reflecting on our experiences during the pandemic and beyond.
- Share, Inspire, Support is a friendly and informal opportunity for Catholics in Leicester and Leicestershire to reach out, both to each other and to those in need. Come and hear what is happening in our parishes and discuss with others your thoughts and ideas. Just turning up is fine, but it would be helpful to have some idea of numbers, so if you're able to let us know, drop an email to Karen at karencott070663@gmail.com.

Towards a politics of communion on Wednesday 18th January at 7.00pm on Zoom: an ideal taster for anyone who wants to know about Catholic social teaching but was afraid to ask! Paul Bodenham from Nottingham Caritas is hosting a talk by Dr Anna Rowlands, professor of Catholic social thought and practice at the University of Durham, and one of the most engaging experts on the topic in Britain today. To book a place visit bit.ly/AnnaRowlands

 **Almighty God,**

*Creator of the earth in which we live,
Help us today in our search for peaceful ways
To avoid wars, to eliminate terrorism and tyranny
And to establish justice for peoples of all races and faiths.
We pray that the billions of peace-loving
People of goodwill throughout the nations,
Will join together in prayer and action
To bring love where there is hatred,
Friendship where there is enmity,
And justice where there is oppression. Amen.*

**We continue to pray for Ukraine and its people
and for all the war-torn countries in the world.**