



Challenge yourself and take on The Big Lent Walk! Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends. Raise money to help people as they overcome poverty. CAFOD's Lent walking challenge is back, and this year it's the Big Lent Walk! We are very excited and would love for you to join us as we walk to help fight global poverty. Whether you're taking on the **40-day** challenge on your own or part of a school or community/parish group, we'd love to have you as part of CAFOD's Big Lent Walk. This Lent CAFOD is supporting families with the skills and tools they've asked for to fight the climate crisis. In Bangladesh, 14-year-old Dristy and her Mum Rupali are building seed beds and planting palm trees to protect their crops from flooding and cyclones. [Sign up now!](#)

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.

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

Feasts of the week:

Monday, SS Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs of Japan. Friday, St. Scholastica, virgin.

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 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.

Please collect your weekly envelope donations boxes from the back of the Church for the next tax year. If anyone would like one, please add your name to the sheet. An alternative method of donating would be by standing order- direct into our bank account. This can be weekly, monthly or annually to suit your circumstances. Our account details are: Sort code 30-94-97 Lloyds Bank, Account no 01538822. Account name Mother of God Leicester RCP. If you are a tax payer a Gift Aid Declaration only requires one signature for an additional 25% of every donation - **25p of tax for every £1 you donate, at no extra cost to you.** All donations in this challenging financial time are greatly appreciated.



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NRCDT- Registered Charity

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



Fifth week of Ordinary Time

Racial Justice Sunday

**5th -12th
February 2023**

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| Sunday 5.02 | 10.30am 4pm | Holy Mass Malayalam Mass | <p>The Pope's prayer intention for February 2023.</p> <p><i>For parishes</i></p> <p>We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.</p> <p>This week's Mass Intentions for all parishioners.</p> |
| Monday 6.02 | No service | | |
| Tuesday 7.02 | No service | | |
| Wednesday 8.02 | No service | | |
| Thursday 9.02 | No service | | |
| Friday 10.02 | No service | | |
| Saturday 11.02 | No service | | |
| Sunday 12.02 | 10.30am 4pm | Holy Mass- Malayalam Mass | |

Racial Justice Sunday is the day the church focuses on the need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. The theme for Racial Justice Sunday is: "All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church. Let us walk together, pray together and work together" It reflects the role each of us must play in promoting the mission of Christ and His Church. This was inspired by conversations around last year's Racial Justice Sunday and Pope Francis' visit to Canada in July 2022 when he spoke about looking towards a future of 'Justice, healing and reconciliation'.



God of our past, present and future, you created each one of us in your image and likeness, help us to recognise you in each person. As we pray for end to suffering caused by racism lead us this day to walk with one another, pray with one another and work together, so that we create a future based on justice and healing, where all can fulfil the hope you have for all peoples. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

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

Gospel background for Sunday 5th February – Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus teaches that his disciples are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Following upon the teaching of the Beatitudes, Jesus uses the now familiar metaphors of salt and light to describe the life of discipleship. We take salt and light for granted in our society, but these commodities were more precious in ancient cultures. Just as now, salt was used in Jesus' time for flavouring, as a preservative, and as a healing agent. Similarly, the widespread use of electricity in the modern world makes us less aware of the value and importance of light in our lives.

Still, our familiarity with this passage from Matthew's Gospel speaks well to the abiding power of the imagery that Jesus presented. Jesus' call to be salt for the earth and light for the world powerfully states our mission as Church and as Christians. Our commitment to social justice flows from the exhortation that Jesus gives us in today's Gospel. Some of the activities that this commitment leads us to are given more concrete expression as the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. When we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, console those who mourn, and so on, we show ourselves to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. When we do these things with the community of faith, the Church, we are indeed acting as "a city set on a mountain" that cannot be hidden!

Words of the Holy Father: Salt is the element that gives flavour and which conserves and preserves food from corruption. The disciple is therefore called to keep society far from the dangers, the corrosive germs which pollute the life of people. It is a question of resisting moral degradation, sin, bearing witness to the values of honesty and fraternity, not giving in to worldly flattery of careerism, of power, of wealth. (...) "Salt" is the disciple who does not look for consensus and praise, but strives to be a humble, constructive presence, faithful to the teachings of Jesus who came into the world not to be served, but to serve. And there is a great need for this attitude! The second image that Jesus proposes to his disciples is that of light: "You are the light of the world". Light disperses darkness and enables us to see. Jesus is the light that has dispelled the darkness, but it [darkness] still remains in the world and in individuals. It is the task of Christians to disperse it by radiating the light of Christ and proclaiming his Gospel.

The Family of Margaret O'Connor RIP would like to thank all parishioners/friends for their kind messages of condolences.

CAFOD community rosary. Every Thursday morning, 9:00am-9:40am. Join us every Thursday morning at 9:00 am on Zoom, as we pray the Joyful mysteries of the rosary for the Care of Creation together as a CAFOD community. We offer these joyful mysteries, nourishing our commitment to care for the earth. Join us as together in prayer, guided by Mary, Mother of God, we let these mysteries penetrate deep within us and respond with reverence for all God's creation. **Register to join us.**

300 Club Draw 29th January: £100 Quarterly Draw M Yep (48). £50 J O'Grady (180). £25 Mr P McCreesh (107), F Dempsey (22).

CAFOD's Lent Family Fast Day is coming soon on Friday 3rd March. If you would like to find out more about how CAFOD support our brothers and sisters around the world and this year's appeal, please feel free to come along to our Find Out More Session at Saint Peter's Church, Leicester, LE3 0TA on Tuesday 7th February. We will start with Mass at 10.30am, followed by a talk and shared lunch. For more details contact Will Cruddace, the Diocesan CAFOD worker, on 077100 94455 or nottingham@CAFOD.org.uk

English Martyr's Preloved School Uniforms. As a school we will be running a pre-loved uniform shop. We invite all parents to take advantage of this shop to help replace and part of uniform their children might be missing. The shop will be open between 3 and 4 in our main reception on the following dates: **15th March, 19th April, 17th May, 14th June.** **See poster in church porch.**

Open Hearts Becoming a hospitable Church for a hostile environment. Tuesday, 28 February at 7pm. An informal online conversation to explore how we can support those fleeing violence and destitution, or settling in our diocese for a better life. Meet others who want to help those seeking asylum recover their human dignity. Explore the potential of a network for advocacy and practical service to those who are arriving in our diocese from overseas. We'll seek out solutions for action, whether as individuals, as parishes or as a diocese. [Book for Open Hearts on 28 February.](#)

INTER CARE WITH LACY: Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth warmly invite all young people, families and friends to join them on Sunday 12th March at 2.00 p.m. in a social walk, doing laps of Knighton Park, Leicester to raise funds for Inter Care which provides free access to medical aid for vulnerable patients across sub-Saharan Africa. Take on board as short or long a walk as you wish. All monies received will help towards medical aid for the people of Africa. 4pm hot drinks and cake will be provided at St. Thomas More Church, 75 Knighton Road, LE2 3HN. 5pm a Youth Mass will be celebrated for us by Fr. Simon Gillespie. (Lifts available from Knighton Park to the Church if required). The Mass will be offered for the vulnerable people of sub-Saharan South Africa. Sponsor forms available from paulinepayne@hotmail.com and fundraising@intercare.org.uk. All donations to Just Giving: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/lacysponsoredwalk2023>.

Retrouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages. Help Your Marriage - Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Face-to-Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 24 - 26 February 2023, or a Virtual weekend on 6 - 9 July 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk. See poster in church porch.

Retreats in the Diocese of Nottingham this Lent - After the great success of last year, the Diocese of Nottingham is again offering day retreats to help you grow closer to God this Lent. There is a FREE Young Adults (18-35) retreat in Derby on Saturday 11th a Men's Retreat on Saturday 18th March and a Women's Retreat on Saturday 25th March. The Men's and Women's Retreat will be held at the Rosmini House of Prayer (LE7 4SJ) and cost £20 which will include lunch and a light breakfast. To book your place or for more information visit: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events, email adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham or call 0115 953 9841.

Catechist Course. At St Patrick's Catholic Church, Beaumont Leys Ln, Leicester LE4 2BD, Cost: £35. **Who is it for?** These four sessions will help identify key principles to develop a culture of ongoing catechesis, formation and discipleship. Ideal for those more experienced catechists or anyone who would like to take their parish catechesis further. **Dates Topics:** 17/4/23 Leading a team of catechists and creating your own resources. 24/4/23 Family Focused Catechesis. 15/5/23 Catechesis for those with Special & Additional Needs. 22/5/23 Ongoing Formation and Discipleship. <https://forms.office.com/r/Q6QNn7yYzV>.