




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!](#)



**Pope Francis reflects on a six-day trip to DRC and South Sudan**, with a plea for an end to conflict in South Sudan. In a bid to spur the process along, Francis was joined on an ecumenical peace mission by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and the moderator of the Church of Scotland, the Rt. Rev. Iain Greenshields. Francis celebrated the resilience of South Sudanese women as he bet the country's transformation on them. He also called for an end to war in the mineral-rich country. We have to get rid of the idea that Africa is to be exploited. The papal trip put a global spotlight on the plight of 2 nations, where humanitarian needs are soaring.

**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.


**Feasts of the week:**  
Tuesday, SS Cyril, monk and Methodius, Bishop, Patrons of Europe.

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.

	<p><i>Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</i></p> <p><b>(0116) 287 5232</b> <a href="mailto:Emogparish@gmail.com">Emogparish@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk">www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</a></p>	<p><i>Parish Priest: Fr. George Thomas</i> <a href="mailto:gchelackal@gmail.com">gchelackal@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:george.thomas@dioceseofnottingham.uk">george.thomas@dioceseofnottingham.uk</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> NRC DT- Registered Charity</p>
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Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - [www.ckleicester.co.uk/](http://www.ckleicester.co.uk/)  
English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - [www.emschool.co.uk/](http://www.emschool.co.uk/)

Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914

	<p><b>Sixth week of Ordinary Time</b></p>	<p><b>12<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> February 2023</b></p>
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Sunday 12.02	10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass Malayalam Mass	<p><b>The Pope's prayer intention for February 2023.</b></p> <p><i>For parishes</i> <b>We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.</b></p> <p><b>This week's Mass Intentions for all parishioners.</b></p>
Monday 13.02	No service		
Tuesday 14.02	No service	Priest's Retreat	
Wednesday 15.02	No service	Priest's Retreat	
Thursday 16.02	No service	Priest's Retreat	
Friday 17.02	No service	Priest's Retreat	
Saturday 18.02	10am	Holy Mass	
Sunday 19.02	10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass Malayalam Mass	

**Cycle or 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.**

**CAFOD Syria-Turkey Earthquake Appeal**

CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. Let us join CAFOD in praying for our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather. Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.

## Gospel background for Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Matthew 5:17-37

I have not come to abolish the law and the prophets but to fulfil them.

Matthew continues the Sermon on the Mount with a three part instruction by Jesus on the Way of Life in the kingdom of heaven. Today's reading is part one and deals with the Law. Part two deals with worship and religious practice and contains the Lord's Prayer. Part three deals with trusting God and deeds of loving service to our neighbour.

When Matthew speaks of "the Law and the prophets" he means the whole Scripture. When the Messiah brings the fullness of the kingdom none of scripture will be done away with. Instead it will be fulfilled. Matthew's Jesus does not overturn the Law of Moses, nor does he set his followers free from the Law. He requires his followers to go beyond the Law by doing more than the Law requires.

The Law condemned murder. Jesus condemns anger. The Law condemned adultery. Jesus condemns even lustful looks. As Jewish Christians who had always been faithful to the Law Matthew's community need a way to understand the difference Jesus and the kingdom he brings have made. They affirmed that God had always been at work in history through "the Law and the prophets." But God's work goes beyond that to be embodied by the Messiah who reveals the definitive will of God. The written scriptures and their interpretation in tradition are surpassed by Jesus whose life and teaching are the definitive revelation of the will of God.

**Words of the Holy Father:** Jesus did not want to do away with the Commandments that the Lord had given through Moses; rather, he wanted to bring them to fulfilment (...) Jesus offers the perfection of love to those who follow him: love is the only measure that has no measure, to move past judgements. Love of neighbour is a fundamental attitude that Jesus speaks of, and he says that our relationship with God cannot be honest if we are not willing to make peace with our neighbour. (...) In all of this we see that Jesus does not give importance simply to disciplinary compliance and exterior conduct. He goes to the Law's roots focusing, first and foremost, on the intention and the human heart, from which our good and bad actions originate. (...) In the light of Christ's teaching, every precept reveals its full meaning as a requirement of love, and they all come together in the greatest commandment: to love God with all of your heart and to love your neighbour as yourself.

**Helen Robinson RIP** died on 5<sup>th</sup> of February. Our deepest and sincere condolences to her family and friends. Funeral arrangements to follow.

**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.**

**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: **15<sup>th</sup> March, 19<sup>th</sup> April, 17<sup>th</sup> May, 14<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:paulinepayne@hotmail.com) and [fundraising@intercare.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://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 11<sup>th</sup> a Men's Retreat on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March and a Women's Retreat on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events), email [adult.formatio@dioceseofnottingham](mailto:adult.formatio@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>.



~ Tea/coffee after the 10am Mass every Sunday in the hall. Please join us!