



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! 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!](#)

CAFOD Big Lent Walk - Josephine, from the Music Group, will be taking part in the Cafod Big Lent Walk, walking 200 kilometres over the 40 days of Lent. To sponsor Josephine and raise funds for the vital work of Cafod, visit her page on <https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/josephine> or fill in the form at the back of church. If you'd like to walk with Josephine for part of the way, please speak to her after Mass today.'

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.**

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.

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



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NRCDT- Registered Charity

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

Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914



Seventh week of Ordinary Time

19th – 26th February 2023



Stations of the Cross every Friday after morning Mass.

Sunday 19.02	10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass Malayalam Mass
Monday 20.02	5.30pm	Malayalam Mass Start of the fast (Lent)
Tuesday 21.02	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass
Ash Wednesday 22.02	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass
Thursday 23.02	9.30am 10am 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass Reception of the body - Helen Robinson RIP
Friday 24.02	10.30am 5pm 5.30pm	Funeral Mass - Helen Robinsons RIP Silent Adoration Malayalam Mass
Saturday 25.02	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass
First Sunday of Lent - 26.02	7am 10.30am 4pm	Malayalam Mass Holy Mass Malayalam Mass

The Pope's prayer intention for February 2023.
For parishes
We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.
This week's Mass Intentions for all parishioners.

ASH WEDNESDAY and beginning of LENT on Wednesday 22nd February.

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.

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 19th February – Matthew 5:38-48

My command to you is: love your enemies, pray for your persecutors.

The last two antitheses offered in the Sermon on the Mount deal with love of enemies. We should not look at “an eye for an eye” as an inordinately strict punishment. It is actually meant to limit acts of revenge by making sure the punishment is not excessive but fits the crime. However, Jesus asks his followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person, such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give him or her what he or she asks for. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God’s kingdom here on earth.

The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. There is no command in the Old Testament to hate individuals in a personal or vindictive way. But there is a religious stance that calls one to hate evil and to distance oneself from those who participate in evil. In contrast, Matthew emphasizes that love of God and love of neighbour are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God’s love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible?

The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word *telos*, which is probably better translated here as “complete.” We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly, that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness.

Words of the Holy Father: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. This is the Christian innovation. It is the Christian difference. Pray and love: this is what we must do; and not only with regard to those who love us, not only with regard to our friends or our own people. The love of Jesus knows no boundaries or barriers. The Lord demands of us the courage to have a love that does not count the cost. Because the measure of Jesus is love without measure. How many times have we neglected that demand, behaving like everyone else! Yet his commandment of love is not simply a challenge; it is the very heart of the Gospel. Where the command of universal love is concerned, let us not accept excuses or preach prudent caution. The Lord was not cautious; he did not yield to compromises. He asks of us the extremism of charity. This is the only legitimate kind of Christian extremism: the extremism of love.

Helen Robinson RIP died on 5th of February. Helen’s body will be received into the church at 6pm on Thursday 23rd February. Funeral Mass at 10.30am on Friday 24th, followed by committal at Gilroes Crematorium. Our deepest and sincere condolences to her family and friends.

VACANCY: Stella Maris is looking for a Chief Executive, Salary: Circa £77,000 depending on experience, Contract: Permanent, full-time 35 hours per week, Location: National role with Head Office in London though location can be flexible, Closing date: 09:00, Friday 3 March 2023. As well as a personal alignment with work and values of Stella Maris, the successful candidate will have experience of: Being a CEO or have worked at SMT level with wide-ranging responsibility at an organisation of comparable scale and complexity. Due to the values of this organisation this vacancy is open to practicing Catholics (exempt under the Equality Act 2010 Schedule 9, Part 1). [Stella Maris Candidate Information Pack](#). Please submit your completed application: executive@harrishill.co.uk

300 Club Draw 12th February: £50 K Fowkes (116). £25 J Jarvis (193) I McKay (125),

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 invite all young people, families and friends to join them on Sunday 12th March at 2pm in a social walk, doing laps of Knighton Park to raise funds for Inter Care which provides free access to medical aid for vulnerable patients across sub-Saharan Africa. All monies received will help towards medical aid for the people of Africa. 4pm hot drinks and cake at St. Thomas More Church, 75 Knighton Road, LE2 3HN. 5pm a Youth Mass will be celebrated for us by Fr. Simon Gillespie. 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 or for more information visit: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events, email 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!