



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. [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.enthus.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.**

#### 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>.**

#### The Pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving



Saint Augustine described "Prayer, fasting and almsgiving" as the Pillars of Lent. The role of any pillar is to support, from the soft pillar we rest our head on each night to the pillars of the buildings we live and work in; they all support something. Pillars of Lent support our way of living the Gospel. The ideals of prayer, fasting and almsgiving support us on our whole Christian journey rather than are something we inflict on ourselves for just forty days of the year. Jesus summed up the pillars of discipleship - "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Prayer) "You shall love your neighbour (almsgiving) as yourself (fasting)" Matt 22:37,39. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving remind us to put our relationships right again (conversion).

Prayer places us into right relationship with God

Fasting places us into right relationship with our self (our body)

Almsgiving places us into right relationship with others (almsgiving)

**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.

	<p><i>Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</i></p> <p><i>(0116) 287 5232 mogparish@gmail.com www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</i></p>	<p><i>Parish Priest: Fr. George Thomas gchelackal@gmail.com george.thomas@dioceseofnottingham.uk</i></p> <p><i>NRC DT - Registered Charity</i></p>	
<p>Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - <a href="http://www.ckleicester.co.uk/">www.ckleicester.co.uk/</a> English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - <a href="http://www.emschool.co.uk/">www.emschool.co.uk/</a></p>			
<p>Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914</p>			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>First Sunday of Lent</b></p> <p><b>26<sup>th</sup> February – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b></p> </div>  <div style="text-align: right;"> <p><b>Stations of the Cross</b> every Friday after morning Mass.</p> </div> </div>			
<p>Sunday 26.02</p>	<p>7am  10.30am 4pm</p>	<p>Malayalam Mass -Paulose Mathew RIP - Paulgi &amp; Family thanks. Holy Mass - Neville Barkshire RIP Malayalam Mass</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Pope's prayer intention for March 2023.</b></p> <p><i>For victims of abuse We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>This week's Mass Intentions for all parishioners.</b></p>
<p>Monday 27.02</p>	<p>No Service</p>		
<p>Tuesday 28.02</p>	<p>No Service</p>		
<p>Wednesday 1.03</p>	<p>5.30pm 6pm</p>	<p>Silent Adoration Holy Mass</p>	
<p>Thursday 2.03</p>	<p>9.30am 10am</p>	<p>Silent Adoration Holy Mass</p>	
<p>Friday 3.03</p>	<p>9.30am 10am 5pm</p>	<p>Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Joseph Issac RIP Silent Adoration &amp; Malayalam Mass</p>	
<p>Saturday 4.03</p>	<p>9.30am 10am</p>	<p>Silent Adoration Holy Mass</p>	
<p>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent - 5.03</p>	<p>7am 10.30am 4pm</p>	<p>Malayalam Mass Holy Mass Malayalam Mass - Lukose Joseph RIP</p>	

#### FRIDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH CAFOD LENT FAST DAY.

Please use an envelope for your donation.

*Throughout Lent we are asked to pray for the following intentions:*

Candidates for the Sacraments. The Needy and Hungry of the World. Women's World Day of Prayer. Survivors of Sexual Abuse. Penitents and Wanderers

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

**Feasts of the week:** Wednesday, St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales. Saturday, St Casimir.



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.

## Gospel background for Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February – Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus fasts for 40 days in the desert and is tempted by the devil.

In each of the three Synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew, and Luke), after Jesus' baptism by John, Jesus is reported to have gone to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. In each case, while in the desert, Jesus is tempted by the devil.

Matthew and Luke give more detail than Mark does, but each one tells how the devil tempts Jesus in the desert. In Matthew, as in Luke, the devil presents three temptations to Jesus. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger; he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test; and he offers Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship the devil. In each case, Jesus resists the temptation, rebuking the devil with words from Scripture.

The account of Jesus' temptation in the desert is filled with allusions and parallels to the Old Testament, including the story of the people of Israel. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert in Exodus, for example, and Jesus spends 40 days in the desert. As the Israelites were tempted during the Exodus, so too is Jesus tempted.

Each temptation offers insight into both God and the human condition. Jesus' rejection of the temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil, confident in God's protection and faithfulness. As we start our journey through Lent, our Sunday readings call us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice; God's promise of protection can be trusted; God alone is God.

**Words of the Holy Father:** Jesus, personally facing these trials, overcomes temptation three times in order to fully adhere to the Father's plan. And he reveals the remedies to us: interior life, faith in God, the certainty of his love – the certainty that God loves us, that he is Father, and with this certainty we will overcome every temptation. But there is one thing to which I would like to draw your attention, something interesting. In responding to the tempter, Jesus does not enter a discussion, but responds to the three challenges with only the Word of God. This teaches us that one does not dialogue with the devil; one must not discuss, one only responds to him with the Word of God.

**Mrs Rosemary Lane nee Finnegan RIP**, died in January. In the 1960's the family were parishioners of MOG. She made a donation £66.40 to our church. Our deepest and sincere condolences to her family and friends.

**300 CLUB DIVIDEND.** Thank you to all our 300 Club members for your continued and new support for this valuable fundraising initiative for our parishes of Mother of God, The Most Blessed Sacrament and St Peter. The committee is happy to announce a total dividend of £7,200 for the year ending October 2022, to be split evenly between our three churches, as before, and cheques will shortly be issued to the value of £2,400 per church. Not a member? Please see the photographed poster on the Notice Board in each church porch - any queries, contact Marian on 0116 2246 258. Existing members: Please call if you wish to advise of any change of address since you became a member, as we can then be sure any winning cheques will be correctly addressed.

**VACANCY: Stella Maris is looking** for a Chief Executive, Salary: Circa £77,000 depending on experience, Contract: Permanent, 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 [Stella Maris Candidate Information Pack](#). Please submit your completed application: [executive@harrishill.co.uk](mailto:executive@harrishill.co.uk).

**300 Club Draw 19<sup>th</sup> February:** £50 K Patecka (176). £25 A Valente (178), Mrs A Pipes (86).

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.

**Share, inspire, support: sharing good news, building resilience-** parishioners and clergy in Leicester and Leicestershire are invited to the third bi-monthly meeting of Caritas Leicester hub, to share ideas and experience, to inspire and support each other and to explore new ways of working together. Please come along to St Peter's parish, [Hinckley](#) (Mary Forryan Centre) on Thursday March 9th from 7-9pm, when there will be a short presentation of local projects and an opportunity to discuss how to support resilience in projects which take off. (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 [cmdanaher66@gmail.com](mailto:cmdanaher66@gmail.com)).

**Faith and Footprint: Caring for Creation** - Tuesday 7 March 2023 at 7pm on Zoom. If you're looking to develop an eco-initiative in your parish, however modest, this Caritas workshop is for you. Join us for inspiration from CAFOD's Livesimply scheme and our own Pioneer Parishes. Caritas supports a network of people like you who see how our faith calls us to live on the Earth. Join us to answer the call of Pope Francis in Laudato Si to care for our common home. We'll explore how to: 'join the dots' between faith and footprint and help our fellow parishioners do the same reduce our parishes' own carbon footprint, and our own help to restore nature at our church and at home contribute to the renewal of our parish and our own faith in harmony with creation. A warm welcome to you and to Will Cruddace who will be joining us from CAFOD. We are planning three of these get-togethers through the year which you are very welcome to join. The others are as follows - make a note in your diary: Monday 5 June, World Environment Day. Tuesday 3 October, eve of St Francis' Day. [Book for Faith & Footprint, 7 March](#)

**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 or for more information visit: [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events), email [adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham](mailto:adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham) or call 0115 953 9841.

**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](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>.