

## The Eucharist - Receiving the Eucharist this Lent

During Lent, by almsgiving, prayer and fasting we reflect on the Kingly, Priestly and Prophetic Mission given to us in Baptism, when we became members of Christ's body, the Church, called to share his life to the fullest. Our communion with God and with one another is expressed most beautifully when we gather, in our parishes and other communities, to celebrate the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Church's life. We reflect on the centrality of the Eucharist in our lives, and to prepare us to receive the Precious Blood from the Chalice once again in our Diocese, beginning with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday this year. Pope Francis describes our parishes as places of welcome, 'schools of service and generosity, with their doors always open: to those who are excluded, and those included - to all.' Let us pray that our celebration of the Eucharist will lead them to be such places. Those nourished by the Eucharist are called to bring the joy of the gospel to those who have not received it. Strengthened by the living Bread we are called to bring hope to those who live in darkness and in despair.'

### 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)




**Words of the Holy Father:** Whoever thirsts for salvation can draw freely from Jesus, and the Spirit will become a wellspring of full and eternal life in him/her. The promise of living water that Jesus made to the Samaritan woman becomes a reality in his Passion: from his pierced side flowed "blood and water" (Jn 19:34). Christ, the Lamb, immolated and risen, is the wellspring from which flows the Holy Spirit who remits sins and regenerates new life. (...) If our quest and our thirst are thoroughly quenched in Christ, we will manifest that salvation is not found in the "things" of this world, which ultimately produce drought, but in he who has loved us and will always love us: Jesus, our Saviour, in the living water, that he offers us.

**CAFOD Big Lent Walk** - "Josephine invites you to walk part of the Big Lent Walk with her after the morning Mass on Thursday 16th March. We'll walk around Western Park, sticking to the paths, so a pair of trainers or comfortable shoes and a waterproof coat will be all you need. Looking forward to seeing you then."

**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.**

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<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>			
 <p><b>LENT</b></p>	<p><b>Third Sunday of Lent</b> <b>12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b></p>	<p>† Stations of the Cross every Friday after morning Mass.</p>	
<p>Sunday 12.03</p>	<p>7am 10.30am 4pm</p>	<p>Malayalam Mass Holy Mass Malayalam Mass</p>	<p><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><b>This week's Mass Intentions for all parishioners.</b></p>
<p>Monday 13.03</p>	<p>No Service</p>		
<p>Tuesday 14.03</p>	<p>9.30am 10am</p>	<p>Silent Adoration Holy Mass - C J Varghese RIP</p>	
<p>Wednesday 15.03</p>	<p>5.30pm 6pm</p>	<p>Silent Adoration Holy Mass</p>	
<p>Thursday 16.03</p>	<p>9.30am 10am</p>	<p>Silent Adoration Holy Mass</p>	
<p><b>Friday 17.03 Feast of St. Patrick's</b></p>	<p>11am  5.00pm</p>	<p>No morning Mass at MOG Mass at St. Patrick's Church LE4 2BD with Bishop Patrick McKinney Silent Adoration &amp; Malayalam Mass</p>	
<p>Saturday 18.03</p>	<p>9.30am 10am</p>	<p>Silent Adoration Holy Mass</p>	
<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent - 19.03</b></p>	<p>7am 10.30am 4pm</p>	<p>Malayalam Mass Holy Mass Malayalam Mass</p>	

### CAFOD SECOND COLLECTION TODAY

Please use an envelope for your donation, if you are a tax-payer.

### LENTEN PRAYER

Almighty and Everlasting God, You have given the human race Jesus Christ our Saviour as a model of humility. He fulfilled Your will by becoming man and giving His life on the Cross. Help us to bear witness to You by following His example of suffering and make us worthy to share in His Resurrection. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.

**Please take a copy of the document from Bishop Patrick, Re: receiving the Eucharist this Lent.**

**Important Notice!!! Raffle tickets on sale**, proceeds will go towards the financial needs of our church. Prizes: 2 nights break at a 4star hotel including a sumptuous breakfast for 2 at Stratford upon Avon. Consolation prizes: £20, bottle of wine, box of chocolate.

## **Gospel background for Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March – John 4:5-42**

Jesus reveals himself to the Samaritan woman at the well.

On this Sunday and the next two Sundays, we break from reading the Gospel of Matthew to read from John's Gospel. The Gospel of John is the only Gospel not assigned to a particular liturgical year. Instead, readings from John's Gospel are interspersed throughout our three-year liturgical cycle.

In today's Gospel, the dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the most lengthy and most theological found in Scripture. The most startling aspect of the conversation is that it happens at all. Jesus, an observant Jew of that time, was expected to avoid conversation with women in public. The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should have prevented the conversation as well. The woman herself alludes to the break from tradition: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law.

The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is better understood if we consider the importance of water, especially in the climate of Israel. At first, the woman understands Jesus' promise of "living water" in a literal sense: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." With no running water, the daily trip to the well by the women of the community was of paramount importance. The women of the town would have travelled to the well in the early morning, but this woman came to the well at noon, the hottest time of the day. The timing of her visit is a clear sign that she is an outcast within the Samaritan community. We learn in her conversation with Jesus that she is an outcast because of her "many husbands."

Behind the conversation lies the animosity and rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans. Samaritans shared Jewish ancestry, but Samaritans had intermarried with foreigners when they lived under the rule of the Assyrians. Samaritan religion included worship of Yahweh, but was also influenced by the worship of other gods. When the Jews refused Samaritan help in the building of the Temple at Jerusalem, the Samaritans eventually built a temple for themselves at Mt. Gerizim (the same mountain mentioned by the woman at the well). Like the Jews, the Samaritans believed that a Messiah would come.

The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah. His answer to the Samaritan woman's questions about worship is meant to predict a time when worshiping in truth and spirit will become the way to worship.

After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him.

The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels. The first is personal: The woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus as Messiah because he knows her sin but speaks with her just the same. The second is social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people. The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. The disciples return from their shopping quite confused to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan, and a woman at that! But the conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be created among those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

**300 Club Draw 5<sup>th</sup> March:** £50 T Dwyer (268). £25 B Joseph (150), A Woolley (38).

**CAFOD community rosary.** Every Thursday morning, 9am-9:40am. Join us every Thursday morning at 9am 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.**

**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.

**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.

**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. 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:** invite all young people, families and friends to join them on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 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. 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. Sponsor forms available from [paulinepayne@hotmail.com](mailto:paulinepayne@hotmail.com) and [fundraising@intercare.org.uk](http://fundraising@intercare.org.uk). All donations to Just Giving: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/lacysponsoredwalk2023>.

**Calling Catholic Teachers.** If you are a Catholic teacher currently working outside of Catholic education and would like to find out more about the joys of working in a Catholic school within the Diocese of Nottingham, a virtual information session will take place on **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March** from 7.00pm - 8.30pm. To book contact: Julie Sweeney at the Diocesan Education Service ([julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk](mailto:julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk)).

**Nottingham Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage** under the leadership of Bishop Patrick McKinney. The Lourdes Theme for 2023 is "Go and tell the priests to build a chapel here" We look forward to welcoming you on pilgrimage! Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July. By air for 5 Nights from £709. For more details, please contact [www.tangney-tours.com/nottingham-01732-886666](http://www.tangney-tours.com/nottingham-01732-886666).