

**Laetare Sunday** is the fourth Sunday in the season of Lent, in the Western Christian liturgical calendar. Traditionally, this Sunday has been a day of celebration, within the austere period of Lent. This Sunday gets its name from the first few words (*incipit*) of the traditional Latin entrance (Introit) for the Mass of the day. "Laetare Jerusalem" ("Rejoice, O Jerusalem") is Latin from Isaiah 66:10.

This Sunday is currently also known as **Mothering Sunday, Refreshment Sunday, mid-Lent Sunday and Rose Sunday** (either because the **golden rose** sent by Popes to Catholic sovereigns used to be blessed at this time, or because the use of rose-coloured rather than violet vestments was permitted on this day).

Historically, the day was also known as "the Sunday of the Five Loaves," from the story of the miracle of the loaves and fishes. Before the adoption of the modern "common lectionaries", this narrative was the traditional Gospel reading for this Sunday in Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, and Old Catholic churches.

The station church at Rome for this day was Santa Croce in Jerusalem, one of the seven chief basilicas; the Golden Rose, sent by Popes to Catholic sovereigns, used to be blessed at this time and for this reason the day was sometimes called *Dominica de Rosa*.

### 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)

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

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

Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914



**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
**Laetare Sunday**  
**19<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

† Stations of the Cross every Friday after morning Mass.

Sunday 19.03	7am 10.30am  4pm	Malayalam Mass Holy Mass - Roderick Hynes RIP Nancy Hynes Thanks. Malayalam Mass - St Joseph's Unit Thanks	<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>
Monday 20.03	No Service		
Tuesday 21.03	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Nancy Hynes Thanks	
Wednesday 22.03	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Thursday 23.03	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Friday 24.03	9.30am 10am 5pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass Lenten Retreat starts . Malayalam	
Saturday 25.03	9.30am 10am 4pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass -The Annunciation of the Lord Lenten Retreat Day 2	
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent - 26.03	10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass - David Collins ints. Malayalam Mass - Lenten Retreat Day 3	

### 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.

**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.



A very happy Mothers Day to all the Mothers of the Parish.

## Gospel background for Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March – John 9:1-41

Jesus heals the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man.

As we did last week, we are reading today from the Gospel of John. In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment.

The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.

As in last week's Gospel about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, today's reading has many allusions to Baptism. The washing of the man in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man's encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind.

**Words of the Holy Father:** At the centre of the Gospel this Fourth Sunday of Lent we find Jesus and a man blind from birth (cf. Jn 9:1-41). Christ restores his sight and performs this miracle with a type of symbolic ritual: first, He mixes dirt with saliva and spreads it on the blind man's eyes; then, He orders him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. The man goes, washes, and regains his sight. He was blind from birth. With this miracle, Jesus manifests himself, and He manifests himself to us as the Light of the World. The man blind from birth represents each one of us, who was created to know God; but due to sin has become blind; we are in need of a new light; we are all in need of a new light: that of faith, which Jesus has given us. Indeed, that blind man in the Gospel, by regaining his sight, is opened to the mystery of Christ.

**300 Club Draw 12<sup>th</sup> March:** £50 Mr P Flynn (145). £25 D Avery (194), Mrs J Feeney-McKay (246).

**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 29th March** from 7.00pm - 8.30pm. To book contact: Julie Sweeney at the Diocesan Education Service (julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk).

The Christian Heritage Centre's 2023 **Christian Leadership Formation Programme** for Sixth Formers is open for applications until Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Further information about the programme can be found at [www.christianheritagecentre.com/clf](http://www.christianheritagecentre.com/clf) or by emailing [admin@christianheritagecentre.com](mailto:admin@christianheritagecentre.com)

Following the success of the Saint Bernadette Relic Tour last October, the Diocese has produced a **Relic Tour Souvenir Book** recalling the Visit, with many photographs of the two days, the texts of the homilies preached, and prayerful reflections. Priced at just **£2.50**, orders can be placed with your parish priest / parish office, for delivery before Easter. Orders received by 3<sup>rd</sup> April will also receive a Complimentary Lourdes Prayer card.

**Talking Philosophy and Theology: a Carmelite Perspective** will be held virtually at 8.00pm until till 10.00pm, on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April (Theology); Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May (Philosophy) and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May (Theology). Also 1.00pm until 3.00pm on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April (Philosophy) and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May (Philosophy). For more information refer to the three explanatory documents.

**The SPUC Pro-Life Chain.** Take part in a nationwide act of witness to the lives of the 10 million unborn babies killed by abortion since the implementation of the Abortion Act in 1968. The Nottingham chain will be on Trent Bridge, West Bridgford, from 10am until midday on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**. Meet at the Brewhouse and Kitchen pub on the north side of the bridge, at 9.55am. For more information contact John on 07757 815 625 or email [SPUCnottingham@gmail.com](mailto:SPUCnottingham@gmail.com) Be a voice for the voiceless.

<b>PILGRIMAGES</b>	<p><b>Pilgrimage to Lisieux</b> by Coach June 5th - 8th 2023. (Pick up in Nottingham, Derby and Leicester). The cost of the Pilgrimage is £380 sharing and £410 for a single room. We will begin our Pilgrimage with a Guided visit to the Cathedral in Lisieux and then to the Basilica dedicated to St. Therese, to the house where she grew up and to the Carmel where she lived and died. In addition to this there'll be an optional excursion to Hon Fleur. For more information and a booking form please contact Fr. John McCay at <a href="mailto:jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk">jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk</a> or 07853068189.</p> <p><b>Nottingham Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage</b> 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 15th - Thursday 20th July. By air for 5 Nights from £709. For more details, please contact <a href="http://www.tangney-tours.com/nottingham">www.tangney-tours.com/nottingham</a> - 01732 886666.</p> <p><b>Pilgrimage to Lourdes and Nevers</b> by Coach September 23rd - 30th 2023. (Pick up in Nottingham, Derby and Leicester). The cost is £715 per person. This price includes Coach and Ferry travel, overnight stay with Bed and Breakfast at the Ibis Hotel in Orleans on the way out, full board at the Hotel Irlande in Lourdes, half board at the Kyriad Hotel in Nevers on the way back. In addition to this there's an optional excursion to Gavarnie, a Ski Resort in the Pyrenees. For more information and a booking form please contact Fr. John McCay at <a href="mailto:jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk">jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk</a> or 07853068189</p>
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**Please keep in your prayers all the sick and housebound people of the parish.**  
**We continue to pray for Ukraine and its people and**  
**for all the war-torn countries in the world.**