

## Holy Week Celebrations

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April Mass at 10am followed by Confessions until 12.30pm.**

**Wednesday 5 April at 11.30am** - The Chrism Mass at St. Barnabas Cathedral. Bishop Patrick is joined by the priests of the Diocese to manifest their unity. The Blessing of the Oils for Catechumens and the Sick and the consecration of the Oil of Chrism take place during this Mass and then brought back to our parishes at the Mass of the Lord's Supper to be used throughout the coming year. **Wednesday: - No Mass at MOG**

### The Sacred Triduum... Three Most Holy Days of our Liturgical Year

**Holy Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April, Maundy Thursday -**

9.30am Malayalam Service 6.30pm English Service.

One of the most important days in the church's liturgical year in which many important events took place.

1. The last Supper was the **first place where mass** was celebrated. Every mass we celebrate even to this very day re-enacts the celebration of the Last Supper, our priest is in the place of our blessed Lord we, the people take the place of the apostles round the table, now in the form of our altar. Therefore, on Holy Thursday we celebrate the anniversary of the very first mass.

2. At the Last supper **First Holy Communion was instituted** for the very first time when Jesus takes just ordinary bread and wine and consecrates into His Own Body and Blood. "Then he took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to them, "This is my body, which is given for you" Luke 22:19 and "this cup is the new covenant sealed with my blood, which is poured out for you." Luke 22:20. So therefore Holy Thursday is the anniversary of the blessed sacrament of Holy Communion.

3. Thirdly at the Last Supper, Jesus made **his apostles his first priests** when he gave them the special gift of being able to consecrate bread and wine into His Blessed Body and Blood in all future masses when he said the words "Do this in memory of me." Luke 22:20.

**Good Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> April** - Commemoration of the Lord's Passion and Death.

9.30am Malayalam Service - 3pm English Service - A collection is taken for the Holy Places.

**Holy Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April** - Easter Vigil

9.30am Malayalam Service - 6.30pm Easter Vigil - 9pm Malayalam Service

Although celebrated Holy Saturday evening, it is the dramatic Easter vigil liturgy that marks the beginning of Easter. The vigil is divided into four parts:  
Service of Light, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of Baptism, Liturgy of the Eucharist.




**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April, Easter of the Resurrection of the Lord** - Holy Mass at 10.30am.

**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

'CAFOD's 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 SECOND COLLECTION raised £152.81.**

	<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.ctkleicester.co.uk/">www.ctkleicester.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>Fifth Sunday of Lent Passion Sunday</b></p> <p><b>26<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023</b></p>	<p>† Stations of the Cross every Friday after morning Mass.</p>																							
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### 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.

**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.**

## Gospel background for Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March – John 11:1-45

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

Our Gospel on this day, the fifth Sunday of Lent, is again taken from the Gospel according to John. The reading from John continues the break from Cycle A's focus on the Gospel of Matthew. Today's Gospel reading recounts another sign, or miracle, found in John's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus. As our catechumens move closer to the celebration of their Baptisms at the Triduum, today's reading invites us to reflect upon what it means to call Jesus the Resurrection and the life.

The context for the story of the raising of Lazarus is the Jewish leaders' growing animosity toward Jesus. Jesus has been in Jerusalem, taking part in the feast of the Dedication, which we have come to know as Hanukkah. The people have been pressing him to declare plainly whether he is the Messiah. Jesus tells them to look to his works, which testify to his coming from God. Many do not believe Jesus, however, and some try to stone him for blasphemy.

Into this scene of confrontation, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, send word to Jesus that his friend is ill. Jesus is said to love Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, but he delays his journey for two days. The delay heightens the drama and shows Jesus' obedience to God, who is to be glorified through Lazarus's resurrection. When Jesus finally declares that he will journey to Bethany, his disciples fear for his life. Thomas declares that he and the other disciples should prepare to die with Jesus.

The scene described at Bethany is a sad one. Martha meets Jesus weeping and saying that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Yet she remains confident that God will do whatever Jesus asks. Martha affirms her belief that there will be a resurrection of the dead in the last days. Then Martha's sister, Mary, comes to Jesus with the same confidence, saying that Jesus could have cured Lazarus. Jesus asks to be brought to Lazarus's tomb where he prays and calls Lazarus out from the tomb. At this sign, many come to believe in Jesus, but others take word of the miracle to the Jewish authorities, who begin their plans for Jesus' death.

Set against the backdrop of Jesus' impending death, many elements of the raising of Lazarus foreshadow the good news of Jesus' own Resurrection. Jesus, facing the conflict with the Jewish authorities, acts in complete obedience to God. In raising Lazarus, Jesus shows his power over death so that when Jesus dies, those who believe in him might remember that and take hope. Just as Jesus calls for the stone to be rolled away from Lazarus's tomb, so too will the disciples find the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb. With our catechumens preparing for their Baptism at Easter, the Gospel today calls us to reflect on Baptism as a dying and rising with Jesus. In Baptism we die to sin's power over us, rising as children of God. In Baptism we join ourselves with Christ, who conquered death once and for all so that we who believe in him may have eternal life. With Martha and Mary, we are called to profess our belief that Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life.

**300 Club Draw 19<sup>th</sup> March:** £50 Mrs S Deevey (27). £25 J Cadden (226), B Ambler (201).

**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)).

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.

**Vacancy:** Office Manager. Missio have an opportunity for an outstanding Office Manager to support our operational effectiveness, managing all aspects of administration. Missio works alongside global communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. We work with some of the poorest communities in the world to create a vibrant Catholic Church for the future. [Apply Here](#)

**Vacancy:** JRS - Communications & Marketing Officer. The Communications and Marketing Officer is a varied and dynamic role developing written and visual content which: raises awareness of the situation faced by people seeking asylum and held in immigration detention in the UK; the work JRS does in response; and the difference supporters' donations makes to individuals' lives. [Apply Here](#)

### PILGRIMAGES

**Pilgrimage to Lisieux** by Coach June 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 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 [jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk) or 07853068189.

**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](http://www.tangney-tours.com/nottingham) - 01732 886666.

**Pilgrimage to Lourdes and Nevers** by Coach September 23<sup>rd</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> 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 [jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk) or 07853068189