

Words of the Holy Father: God asks us to view life as he views it, for in each of us he never ceases to see an irrepressible kernel of beauty. In sin, he sees sons and daughters to be restored; in desolation, hearts to be revived. Easter, is the feast of tombstones taken away, rocks rolled aside. God takes away even the hardest stones against which our hopes and expectations crash: death, sin, fear, worldliness. Human history does not end before a tombstone, because today it encounters the “living stone” (cf. 1 Pet 2:4), the risen Jesus. We, as Church, are built on him, and, even when we grow disheartened and tempted to judge everything in the light of our failures, he comes to make all things new, to overturn our every disappointment.

Cycle of prayer during Eastertide, we pray for these intentions:
 New members of the church. Human work. Vocations. Survivors of abuse.
 The Right Use of the Media. The Church.

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.



PILGRIMAGES

Pilgrimage to Lisieux 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 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 15th - Thursday 20th July. By air for 5 Nights from £709. For more details, please contact www.tangney-tours.com/nottingham - 01732 886666.



Pilgrimage to Lourdes and Nevers 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 jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk or 07853068189.

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.

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

Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914

	<p>Easter Sunday First Week of Eastertide 9th – 16th April 2023</p>	
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Sunday 9.04	10.30am	Holy Mass - David Collins RIP No Malayalam Service	<p>The Pope's prayer intention for April 2023.</p> <p><i>For a culture of peace and non-violence.</i> We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.</p> <p>This week's Mass Intentions for all parishioners.</p>
Monday 10.04	No Service		
Tuesday 11.04	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Wednesday 12.04	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Thursday 13.04	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Friday 14.04	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Saturday 15.04	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Divine Mercy Sunday 16.04	7am 10.30am 4pm	Malayalam Mass Holy Mass - Volleny & Weston Rosario ints. Malayalam Mass	

Please note that there will be no Children's Liturgy and no refreshments in the hall TODAY Easter Sunday. Both events will take place as usual next Sunday.

EASTER PRAYER

Gracious God,
 We praise you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus.
 We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witness of resurrection.
 We praise you for the light of new life that continues to shine in our hearts today.
 We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy, we live in us each day; and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others. Amen.



Background on the Gospel Reading John 20:1-9.

Mary of Magdala finds that the stone has been removed from Jesus' tomb.

Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.

Louise McKay, one of our parishioners, will be confirming her faith during the Easter Vigil Mass. Warm congratulations and welcome to Louise on this very special day.

David Collins RIP. We offer our sincere and deepest condolences to his wife Mairead, his family and friends. His Funeral Service will take place at MOG on Wednesday 19th April at 11am, followed by burial at Gilroes Cemetery at 12.30am.

300 Club Draw 2nd April: £50 E Morton (292). £25 L McKay (166), L Moore (53).

Raffle Tickets Results: Thank you so much to our parishioners and supporters for their generous donations, in total we raised £1,226.65. The first prize was won by Josephine McKay.

A message from Josephine McKay. Thanks for all the support, encouragement, kindness and generosity. It means a great deal to me but even more to those who are supported by CAFOD.' Thanks to all those who sponsored me for the **CAFOD Great Lent Walk**. I have walked over 235 kilometres and raised over £1500.

Well done Josephine!

Talking Philosophy and Theology: A Carmelite Perspective will be held virtually at 8.00pm until till 10.00pm, on Wednesday 19th April (Theology); Wednesday 3rd May (Philosophy) and Wednesday 17th May (Theology). Also 1.00pm until 3.00pm on Thursday 13th April (Philosophy) and Wednesday 3rd 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 22nd 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. Be a voice for the voiceless.

Neophyte Mass on Sunday 21st May. The Neophyte Mass is celebrated by Bishop Patrick every year for those who have recently been baptised or received into the Catholic Church. This year St Mary's South Wigston will be hosting the Mass at 3pm please do come along and invite those in your parish who have joined the Church recently. Secondly it is not too late to sign up for the final course in our Catechesis pathway for this spring. It is a hybrid course so you can join in-person or online. The four sessions are:

- Monday 17th April - Creating your own Resources and Leading a team of Catechists
- Monday 24th April - Ongoing formation and Catechesis
- Monday 8th May - Catechesis for those with special or Additional Needs - Led by the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph and Fr Frank Daly (Founder of the Diocesan Charity SPANNED)
- Monday 15th May - Family Focused Catechesis - Led by the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph.

For more information or to sign up please do so here: forms.office.com/r/Q6QnN7yYzV

An opportunity to volunteer at Leicester Prison. PACT is looking to strengthen their support for families visiting their loved ones at Leicester Prison. A smile and a welcome can make a big difference. If you are interested, please contact Theresa Alessandro at parish.action@prisonadvice.co.uk to find out more about the roles and the training they offer. Pope Francis says 'No one can face life in isolation, we need a community that supports and help us.'



RED BOX 2022: Thank you

In 2022 our Parish of Mother of God, raised £412.74 through our Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you! Our missionary community here at MOG is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries through prayer and financial assistance. Your support of projects such as the Fundong Mission station in Cameroon has enabled Fr Leon, A Mill Hill Missionary to help children learn in a safe environment and instil values that empower them to turn away from conflicts and towards faith in God. Visit mission.org.uk to find out more about how your support changes life for the better.

Please bring your red MISSIO box to church to emptied and collect your free magazine.

Thank you. If you would like a Red Box, please speak to Maila Taylor.