

Words of the Holy Father: The Lord is not looking for perfect Christians; the Lord is not looking for Christians who never doubt and always flaunt a steadfast faith. When a Christian is like that, something isn't right. No, the adventure of faith, as for Thomas, consists of lights and shadows. Otherwise, what kind of faith would that be? It knows times of comfort, zeal and enthusiasm, but also of weariness, confusion, doubt and darkness. The Gospel shows us Thomas' "crisis" to tell us that we should not fear the crises of life and faith. Crises are not sins, they are part of the journey, we should not fear them. Many times, they make us humble because they strip us of the idea that we are fine, that we are better than others. Crises help us to recognize that we are needy: they rekindle the need for God and thus enable us to return to the Lord, to touch his wounds, to experience his love anew as if it were the first time. Dear brothers and sisters, is better to have an imperfect but humble faith that always returns to Jesus, than a strong but presumptuous faith that makes us proud and arrogant. Woe to those, woe to them!

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



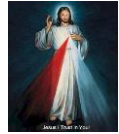
Pilgrimage to Lisieux by Coach June 5th - 8th 2023. (Pick up in Nottingham, Derby and Leicester). The cost of the Pilgrimage is £380 sharing and £410 for a single room. We will begin our Pilgrimage with a Guided visit to the Cathedral in Lisieux and then to the Basilica dedicated to St. Therese, to the 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.**

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.

	<p><i>Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</i></p> <p><i>(0116) 287 5232 mognoparish@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>NRCDT- Registered Charity</i></p>	
<p>Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - www.cktleicester.co.uk/ English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/</p>			
<p>Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914</p>			
	<p>First Week of Eastertide Divine Mercy Sunday</p> <p>16th – 23rd April 2023</p>		
<p>Sunday 16.04</p>	<p>7am 10.30am 4pm</p>	<p>Malayalam Mass Holy Mass - Volleny & Weston Rosario ints. Malayalam Mass</p>	<p>The Pope's prayer intention for April 2023.</p> <p><i>For a culture of peace and non-violence. We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.</i></p> <p>This week's Mass Intentions for all parishioners.</p>
<p>Monday 17.04</p>	<p>No Service</p>		
<p>Tuesday 18.04</p>	<p>9.30am 10am</p>	<p>Silent Adoration Holy Mass</p>	
<p>Wednesday 19.04</p>	<p>11am</p>	<p>Requiem Mass David Collins RIP No evening Service</p>	
<p>Thursday 20.04</p>	<p>9.30am 10am</p>	<p>Silent Adoration Holy Mass</p>	
<p>Friday 21.04</p>	<p>9.30am 10am</p>	<p>Silent Adoration Holy Mass</p>	
<p>Saturday 22.04</p>	<p>9am</p>	<p>Holy Mass</p>	
<p>Sunday 23.04</p>	<p>7am 10.30am 4pm</p>	<p>Malayalam Mass - David Collins RIP Holy Mass Malayalam Mass</p>	

Prayer of Entrustment to Divine Mercy

O Lord, our God. We place our trust in You,
Because you are mercy itself.
We repent of our sins and turn to You for mercy.
We trust You to provide for our every need, according to Your will.
Help us to forgive others as You forgive us.
We promise to be merciful by our deeds, words and prayers.
Though we have fears because of human weakness, we rely on Your infinite
goodness and mercy. We entrust to You the future of our planet, our Church,
our nations, our families and all our needs.
With loud cries we implore your mercy on us and on the whole world.
Look upon us, created in your image and likeness. Form us in the Heart of Mary
by the power of the Holy Spirit into the living images of mercy.
May all come to know the depth of Your mercy and sing the praises of Your mercy forever.
Amen!

Background on the Gospel Reading John 20:19-31.

Thomas believes because he sees Jesus.

The Gospels tell us that Jesus appeared to the disciples on several occasions after they discovered that his tomb was empty. Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. The bodily form was not one that the disciples recognized though. In John's Gospel, Mary of Magdala does not recognize that the figure standing before her is Jesus until he speaks to her. In Luke's Gospel the disciples who meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus do not recognize him until he breaks bread with them. The resurrected Jesus had a physical presence, but the disciples couldn't recognize Jesus unless he allowed them to. His resurrected body, nonetheless, showed the marks of his crucifixion.

From readings such as today's Gospel, we also see that in his resurrected body, Jesus seems to be free of physical constraints. He appears to the disciples despite the fact that the doors were locked.

Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, Jesus commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." During the meeting, Jesus also shows the integral connection between forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The story of Thomas illustrates our Christian experience today: We are called to believe without seeing. In fact, all Christians after the first witnesses have been called to believe without seeing. Thomas's doubt is hardly surprising; the news of Jesus' appearance was incredible to the disciples who had seen him crucified and buried. Thomas's human nature compelled him to want hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death was indeed the same Jesus who had been crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to act on that desire. He is our witness that Jesus is really risen.

Our faith is based on the witness of the Church that has preceded us, beginning with Thomas and the first disciples. Through Baptism we receive the same Holy Spirit that Jesus brought to the first disciples. We are among those who are "blessed" because we believe without having seen.

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

Talking Philosophy and Theology: A Carmelite Perspective will be held virtually at 8pm until till 10pm, on Wednesday 19th April (Theology); Wednesday 3rd May (Philosophy) and Wednesday 17th May (Theology). Also 1pm until 3pm 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.

300 Club Draw 9th April: £50 R Fernandes (218). £25 M Spedding (282), Fr J-J Maloney (300).

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 SPANED)
- 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

Loving the stranger. Becoming a hospitable Church to those from other shores. In partnership with the Sisters of St Joseph of Peace Wednesday 17 May 2023 7.00 - 8.30 p.m. Join an online conversation about what we can do to support those fleeing violence and destitution, or settling in our diocese for a better life. Meet others who want to help those in our asylum system recover their human dignity. Hear from Catholics who have volunteered in a variety of settings to support refugees and asylum seekers. Plan ways to engage MPs in a more compassionate asylum policy. Ensure that people from all over the world thrive in our parishes. We'll explore the potential of a network for advocacy and practical service in the diocese. [Book for the workshop on 17 May.](#)

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.



Please Join us for tea/coffee in the hall after the 10.30 Mass every Sunday.