

**A message from Bishop Patrick regarding Sudan**

As the situation worsens, the Church in Sudan asks for our prayers. I invite you to join me in praying for the horrendous situation in Sudan, and especially for all God's children who are affected most deeply by it.

Lord, that there might be, in the short term, a ceasefire and in the long term, a complete end to this divisive fighting which is tearing the country and children apart.

Bring justice and healing to this divided land, we pray.

Our Lady Queen of Peace, pray for us

Saint Josephine Bakhita, pray for us

Saint Michael the Archangel, pray for us

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.

Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

On 21<sup>st</sup> April Kinga von Schierstaedt, Project Co-ordinator for ACN (Aid to the Church in Need) in Africa and Head of Projects in Sudan, gave an interview detailing the dangers and uncertainties facing our brothers and sisters in Sudan. Let it inform and guide our heartfelt prayers. Available to view on the diocesan website: [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/news/sudan](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/news/sudan)

**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.

**Feasts of the week:** Tuesday, St. Athanasius, Bishop and doctor. Wednesday, SS Philip and James, Apostles. Thursday, The English Martyrs.

**Today, at the 10.30 Mass, each person will be given a voting slip with the two Mass times, 10.00 and 10.30. Please make a cross or a tick in the box for your preference. The votes will be counted and the result announced next week. This is your opportunity to make a choice.**

**King Charles III Coronation - Saturday 6 May**

The coronation of King Charles III will take place in Westminster Abbey. This will be the first coronation for 70 years in our countries; indeed, the first since our late Queen, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, entered the ancient church as a young woman to take on the awesome responsibilities of monarchy. In his first address to our countries after the death of the Queen, His Majesty stated, in the context of the late Queen's unwavering service, "that promise of lifelong service I renew to you all today."

Pope Francis has gifted a relic of the True Cross to His Majesty King Charles III. It will be incorporated into the newly-made Cross of Wales which will lead the Coronation procession at Westminster Abbey on Saturday, 6 May.

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Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914			
	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> <b>30<sup>th</sup> April - 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023</b>		<b>Good Shepherd Sunday</b>
	Sunday 30.04	7am 10.30am 4pm	Malayalam Mass Holy Mass - David Collins RIP Malayalam Mass
Monday 1.05	No Service		<p><b>The Pope's prayer intention for May 2023.</b></p> <p><b>For church movements and groups</b></p> <p>We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.</p> <p><b>This week's Mass Intentions for all parishioners.</b></p>
Tuesday 2.05	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - David Collins RIP	
Wednesday 3.05	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Thursday 4.05	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - David Collins RIP	
Friday 5.05	9.30am 10am 5pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass Silent Adoration & Malayalam Mass	
Saturday 6.05	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Sunday 7.05	7am 10.30am 4pm	Malayalam Mass Holy Mass Malayalam Mass	

**SECOND COLLECTION TODAY FOR CLERGY FORMATION FUND.**

**Vocations Sunday:** The Fourth Sunday of Easter is Vocations Sunday or Good Shepherd Sunday. In the day's gospel reading, Jesus says, 'I am the Good Shepherd: the good shepherd is the one who lays down his life for his sheep'.



**Prayer for Vocations Sunday**

God our Loving Father, you called me by name through the sacrament of Baptism to holiness. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, you made me the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, are you calling me to be a priest, religious, consecrated, married or single. Grant me the grace to respond to the calling

'Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all the nations.'

Guide me in every step I take in life and lead me in every decision I make in responding to your call. Make me and mould me into the living image of Christ your Son, who was ever close to those in need. I make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

## Background on the Gospel Reading *John 10:1-10*.

Jesus is the gate for his sheep.

This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday because in each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In each cycle the reading is from the tenth chapter of John's Gospel. This chapter sets the framework for Jesus' teaching about himself as the Good Shepherd.

Today's reading falls between the stories of Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Both of these stories were proclaimed in the Gospels found in this year's season of Lent. Following the controversy that ensued when Jesus healed the man born blind, Jesus directs his allegory about the sheep and the shepherd toward the Jewish religious leaders of his time, the Pharisees.

Throughout John's Gospel the Pharisees fail to accept Jesus' ministry and teaching. They show themselves to be "robbers and thieves" because they try to lead the sheep without entering through the gate, Jesus. Through these metaphors, Jesus is telling his listeners that those who follow him and his way will find abundant life. He identifies himself both as the shepherd and the gate. The shepherds who are faithful to him are the ones whom the sheep (Jesus' disciples) should follow.

The relationship between the sheep and their shepherd is based on familiarity. Sheep recognize their shepherd and will not follow a stranger. At the end of the day, shepherds lead their sheep from pastures to a common gated area called a sheepfold. There, one shepherd protects all of the sheep until the next day when each shepherd returns to lead his own sheep to pasture. As shepherds move among the sheep, the sheep follow only their shepherd.

Today's Gospel also gives us the opportunity to reflect on Christian leadership. Jesus' words suggest to us that those who will lead the Christian community will be known by their faithfulness to Jesus. The leaders will recognize that Jesus is the gate for all of the sheep and that having a good relationship with Jesus is the primary characteristic of a Christian leader. Jesus' allegory also suggests that faithful Christian leadership requires a good relationship with the community: the shepherd knows his sheep, and they know him. Christian leaders follow the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by being faithful to him and by being a good shepherd.

**Words of the Holy Father:** Jesus, Good Shepherd and door of the sheep, is a leader whose authority is expressed in service, a leader who, in order to command, gives his life and does not ask others to sacrifice theirs. One can trust in a leader like this, as the sheep who heed their shepherd's voice because they know that with him one goes to good and abundant pastures. A signal, a call suffices, and they follow; they obey; they begin to walk, guided by the voice of the One whom they feel as a friendly presence, strong and mild at once, who calls, protects, consoles and soothes. This is how Christ is for us.

**Mairead Collins and her family** would like to thank everyone who sent Mass cards, cards, flowers, cakes and donations following the death of her **dearest Husband, David Collins**, may he RIP. Over £600 has been raised for Marie Curie nurses. The family appreciate all the kindness they have received from parishioners and would like to thank Fr George and all who participated in and attended his Requiem Mass. God bless.

**Mrs Kristyna Patecka** RIP died last week. Our deepest and sincere condolences to her family and friends. Funeral detail to follow.

**300 Club Draw 23<sup>rd</sup> April:** £50 M Fox (260). £25 Mrs B O'Rourke (189), A Fox (264).

**Safeguarding Sunday.** The Diocese has designated Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup> as Safeguarding Sunday. This is an opportunity for the Diocese to reflect on the theology and spirituality of safeguarding and to express gratitude for the work of all our parish safeguarding representatives, who assist us in assuring that our Church is a safe place for all children and vulnerable adults. To inform congregations of the journey of the Catholic Church and how safeguarding has evolved over the years and the current changes that have now been implemented.

**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](mailto: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.'

**Neophyte Mass on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 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. For more information or to sign up please do so here: [forms.office.com/r/Q6QNn7yYzV](https://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.](#)

**News from NDCYS!** We are holding an **Open Evening Event** here at The Briars. We would love to invite young people to come along to see what a gap year at the Briars is all about. It will be a relaxed evening where they can get more information, ask lots of questions, meet the Team, explore The Briars and eat plenty of pizza! On **Friday 5th May 2023 at 6:00pm - 8:00pm.** Please see Posters for the event, a printable booklet for Gap Year and an online PDF for the Gap year too. Spaces can be booked on this link: <https://www.ndcys.com/gap-year-open-evening/>

**VACANCY:** The Diocese of Nottingham Property Department seeks to appoint two conscientious and hardworking individuals, a **Property Administration Assistant** and an **Estates Officer**, who will join the small property team based at Saint Hugh's House, Nottingham. It will be the role of the post-holders to offer further support and guidance to parish priests, parish administrators, and volunteers across the Diocese; more information can be found at: [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers). The deadline is 12 noon on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May.



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