

May: Month of Mary.

It is a centuries-old custom of Catholics to dedicate the month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The month of May is always part of the Easter season, the fifty days we celebrate in the liturgy the Resurrection of Our Lord, a time also of awaiting the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The celebration of May as a Marian month fits well with the liturgical celebrations of Easter and Pentecost as we recall Mary's great joy in her Son's victory over death as well as her presence with the apostles in the upper room prayerfully awaiting the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

When we think of our Blessed Mother, we recognize that she is indeed *blessed*, not only because she was the Mother of Jesus, but because she believed in the Lord's words. She believed with all her heart and said "yes" to become the Mother of the Messiah and Son of God. She allowed herself to be led by God's grace throughout her life, a life rooted in a deep faith in God. She became her Son's first and most perfect disciple.

In 1965, Pope Paul VI wrote a short encyclical on the month of May. He wrote that May is an occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world pay to the Queen of Heaven. Of course, the holy rosary is always a wonderful prayer to enter more deeply into the mysteries of Christ's life with Mary.

We all probably have our favourite images of Mary as well as our favourite devotions: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Lourdes, Mother of Perpetual Help, the Miraculous Medal, etc. The many images and devotions express various aspects of Our Lady's vocation and mission. They help us to know the virtues of Mary and remind us to turn to her for her intercession. Let us especially commend to her our prayers for life, marriage, and religious liberty. Let us all place ourselves in the school of Mary to learn from her how to love God more fervently and to love one another as her Son has loved us.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for us and draw us closer to Christ her Son!

Feasts of the week: Thursday, The Ascension of the Lord.

At the 10.30 Mass last Sunday, people voted regarding changing the Mass time to 10am instead of 10.30 am. The votes were counted in the hall after Mass and there were several people watching the count so all is in order.

Those in favour of Mass at 10.00am - 66 votes.

Those in favour of keeping the Mass at 10.30am - 131 votes.

So, there is quite a substantial majority in favour of keeping Mass at the same time as now, 10.30am.

Safeguarding Sunday. The Diocese has designated Sunday May 14th 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.

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.



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NRCDT- Registered Charity

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



Sixth Sunday of Easter

14th – 21st May 2023

Sunday 14.05	7am 10.30am 4pm	Malayalam Mass Holy Mass Malayalam Mass	<p>The Pope's prayer intention for May 2023.</p> <p>For church movements and groups</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>This week's Mass Intentions for all parishioners.</p>
Monday 15.05	No Service	Priest's Conference	
Tuesday 16.05	No Service	Priest's Conference	
Wednesday 17.05	No Service	Priest's Conference	
Thursday 18.05	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Friday 19.05	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Saturday 20.05	10am	Holy Mass	
Sunday 21.05	7am 10.30am 4pm	Malayalam Mass Holy Mass Malayalam Mass	



Spirit of unity

God our Father, we bring before you our world - a world filled with divisions among nations, religions and ethnic groups all as a result of the struggle for power, wealth and might.

These divisions have caused the destruction of lives and properties.

Wars have destroyed homes and separated families.

In all of this your Trinity is a unique symbol of your unity and solidarity for us all.

In all these challenges, Lord, you remain united and in solidarity with us;

yes Lord we thank you for this.

We ask you God our Father to send us your spirit of unity among nations, ethnic groups and among religions to inspire us to be in solidarity with one another.

May we remain united in solidarity as you, Father, Son and Spirit are one.

Amen.

Second Collection on next Sunday 21 May 2023 for World Communications

Background on the Gospel Reading *John 14: 15-21*.

Jesus promises his disciples that he will send them another advocate, the Spirit of truth.

Today's Gospel is a continuation of last week's Gospel: Jesus is speaking to his disciples at the Last Supper. In today's reading Jesus offers encouragement to his disciples, who will soon see him crucified. He reassures them that even though he will leave them, he will not abandon them. Instead he will send them the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, through whom the disciples will continue to live in union with Jesus.

Jesus uses the term *Advocate* to describe the Holy Spirit, whom the disciples will receive. Another word used to describe the Holy Spirit is *Paraclete*, a legal term meaning "one who offers defence for another." Note that Jesus says that he will send "another Advocate." Jesus himself is the first advocate, interceding for his disciples with the Father. In today's reading Jesus contrasts his impending departure with the permanence of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus will leave to return to the Father, but the Holy Spirit will remain with the disciples.

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the disciples will come to know and appreciate the unity of the Son and the Father. They will also understand that they too participate in the communion between the Father and the Son: "On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you" (John 14:20).

Today's reading is one example of the contrast that John's Gospel presents between the community of disciples, to whom God will reveal himself, and the unbelieving world, which will remain in darkness. The unbelieving world cannot accept the "Spirit of truth," whom the disciples will receive. Only through the Spirit will God's revelation and love be known.

Words of the Holy Father. By meditating on these words of Jesus, we perceive with the sense of faith that we are the People of God in communion with the Father and with Jesus through the Holy Spirit. The Church finds the inexhaustible source of her very mission, which is achieved through love, in this mystery of communion. Jesus says in today's Gospel: "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him" (Jn 14:21). So, love introduces us to the knowledge of Jesus, thanks to the action of this "Advocate" that Jesus sent, that is, the Holy Spirit. Love for God and neighbour is the greatest commandment of the Gospel. The Lord today calls us to respond generously to the Gospel's call to love, placing God at the centre of our lives and dedicating ourselves to the service of our brothers and sisters, especially those most in need of support and consolation... Every day we must learn the art of loving. every day we must patiently follow the school of Christ. Every day we must forgive and look to Jesus, and do this with the help of this "Advocate," of this Counsellor whom Jesus has sent to us, who is the Holy Spirit.

Mrs Kristyna Patecka RIP. Her funeral mass will be on 22nd of May at St Paul Polish Church, Wakerley Road, Leicester, LE5 6AR at 12.30pm with committal at Gilroes Cemetery at 2pm. Our deepest and sincere condolences to her family and friends. Funeral detail to follow.

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.

300 Club Draw 7th May: £50 L Moore (53). £25 S Chettupally (225), C Harrold (37).

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.](#)

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

Retrouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages. Help Your Marriage - Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 6 - 9 July 2023 or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 13-15 October 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk.

See, I Do a New Thing - Bringing our church's social mission to life in 2023 is a workshop near you to celebrate the impact you've had over the last year, discover God at work in it, share what we're learning, and invest in the future. We will take time to listen afresh to God's call, and focus on developing two things which many people around the diocese have told us they need:

Self-confidence and practical skills for outreach

Parish and diocesan structures to help lay leaders pray, plan and act.

The workshop will introduce a wider project called Paving the Way. Much is said about 'missionary discipleship', but what do you and your parish need for this outward turn to happen in practice? And how might Catholic social teaching, often called the Church's 'best kept secret' become an engine of grassroots renewal across the diocese? With your help, at this workshop and over the next two years, we will find answers to these questions - and put them into practice for the common good and the kingdom of God. **Leicester: 17th June at Our Lady, Rushey Mead.** For details and to book visit bit.ly/new-thing.

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.



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