

## 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!**

*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:** Thursday, St. Bede the Venerable, priest and doctor.

Saturday, SS Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs of Uganda.



### World Communication Day Prayer

O God,

whose word is truth and in whose light we see light,  
guide those who tell the story of our times through word and image.

Make them seekers after truth and advocates of human dignity.

Grant discernment to all who rely on their labours,  
and, as we confront the pain and promise of this world,  
awaken in us a sense of wonder at your presence  
and of longing for your peace.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever. Amen



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NRCDT- Registered Charity

Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - [www.ckleicester.co.uk/](http://www.ckleicester.co.uk/)  
English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - [www.emschool.co.uk/](http://www.emschool.co.uk/)

Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914



## Seventh Sunday of Easter

21<sup>st</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>  
May 2023

### World Communication Day

Sunday 21.05	7am 10.30am  4pm	Malayalam Mass Holy Mass - Margaret and Frank Quinn RIP Krystyna Patecka RIP Malayalam Mass	<p><b>The Pope's prayer intention for May 2023.</b></p> <p><i>For church movements and groups</i></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>
Monday 22.05	No Service		
Tuesday 23.05	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Krystyna Patecka RIP	
Wednesday 24.05	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Krystyna Patecka RIP	
Thursday 25.05	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Friday 26.05	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Saturday 27.05	10am	Holy Mass	
Pentecost Sunday 28.05	7am 10.30am 4pm	Malayalam Mass Holy Mass - Krystyna Patecka RIP Malayalam Mass	

### SECOND COLLECTION for World Communication Day.

In a letter Bishop John Arnold, Lead Bishop for Communications, writes: This year's World Communications Day is celebrated on Sunday, 21 May 2023. The theme comes from Ephesians 4:15, Speaking with the heart - 'The truth in love'. In his message to mark the day, Pope Francis stresses the need to listen before speaking truth with a pure heart to "see beyond appearances and overcome the vague din which, in the field of information, does not help us discern in the complicated world in which we live." The Holy Father, warning against indifference and indignation, hails the example of the great Doctor of the Church, St Francis de Sales, in particular his commitment to patient, heartfelt dialogue. A gifted theologian, his phrase 'Heart speaks to heart' inspired many, none more so than the recently canonised Saint John Henry Newman, who chose the phrase as his cardinalatial motto, 'Cor ad cor loquitur'. Catholics in England and Wales will remember with affection that 'Heart speaks unto heart' was also the theme for Pope Benedict XVI's historic visit to the UK in 2010.

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.

## Background on the Gospel Reading *John 17:1-11a*

Jesus prays for his disciples.

Today's reading is a prayer, which appears at the conclusion of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. At the end of the prayer, Jesus is arrested in the garden. The prayer might be read as Jesus' final commendation of himself to the Father. In the prayer, Jesus also expresses care and concern for his disciples.

Jesus' prayer reaffirms the complete union between Jesus and the Father. Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus has been presented as the Word, who pre-existed with the Father and was sent to do the Father's work on earth. In this prayer we learn that Jesus' life and ministry have been directed toward one purpose, revealing the Father. When this work is accomplished, Jesus is to return to the Father to be glorified. Regardless of what happens to Jesus, in John's Gospel, Jesus and the Father are in charge. Even in the description of Jesus' death, Jesus does not simply die but instead hands over his spirit.

In today's Gospel we also note the distinction found in John's Gospel between the world and the disciples. The disciples are in the world, but they are separate from it because they have been given to Jesus. They are chosen from the world to be in service to the world for its salvation. This salvation has been accomplished in Jesus because Jesus has revealed the Father to the world, but the disciples will be sent by Jesus to make both the Father and Jesus known to the world. Jesus' prayer is for the disciples' work in the world.

**Words of the Holy Father.** "I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Mt 28:20). These final words of the Gospel of Matthew recall the prophetic announcement that we find at the beginning: "His name shall be called 'Emmanuel' (which means, God with us)" (Mt 1:23; cf. Is 7:14). God will be with us, every day, until the end of time. Jesus will walk with us, every day, until the end of time. The entire Gospel is enclosed within these two passages, words which communicate the mystery of a God whose name, whose identity is to be with. He is not an isolated God; He is a 'God-with'. In particular, with us, namely, with human beings. Our God is not an absent God, confined to a far-off heaven; he is instead a God "impassioned" with man, so tenderly in love as to be incapable of being separated from him. We humans are experts at severing bonds and bridges. He, however, is not. If our heart cools, His remains ever incandescent. Our God accompanies us always.

**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.

**Mrs Krystyna Patecka RIP.** Her funeral mass will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**Diocesan Caritas... Faith and Footprint:** Monday 5th June at 7.00pm - 8.30pm. Caritas invite you to their next online workshop with CAFOD on caring for Creation in our parishes and homes. The session is a chance to meet others who are praying and working for a greener Church, or interested in the parish earning the Livesimply Award. This time we'll focus on:

- Planning for activities for the Season of Creation, which starts on 1st September
- Designing a 'campaign journey' and assembling resources to engage parishioners
- Hosting a screening in your parish of The Letter, a film about putting Laudato Si into action.

To receive the Zoom link book your place at [bit.ly/FaithandFootprint](https://bit.ly/FaithandFootprint)

**300 Club Draw 14<sup>th</sup> May:** £50 C Fisher (117). £25 Mr S Varghese (73), T Watts (190)

**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](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://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: 17<sup>th</sup> June at Our Lady, Rushey Mead. For details and to book visit [bit.ly/new-thing](https://bit.ly/new-thing).**

**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](http://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](mailto:jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk) or 07853068189.



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