

Stella Maris. Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. In the last year, more crews have been abandoned by their employers than ever before. Many are still being denied the right to leave their ships for even a short break away from the relentless noise and pressure onboard. Many are reporting more stress and poorer mental health. Sea Sunday is Sunday 9th July. It is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, by visiting www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) to continue its important work - so please give generously. Thank you.

Just as Jesus offers rest to those who are burdened and weary, Stella Maris offers refuge and support to seafarers who are facing the challenges of life at sea. Its chaplains and volunteers are the hands and feet of Jesus in this world, bringing comfort to seafarers.



Almighty God,

**Creator of the earth in which we live,
 Help us today in our search for peaceful ways
 To avoid wars, to eliminate terrorism and tyranny and
 to establish justice for peoples of all races and faiths.
 We pray that the billions of peace-loving
 People of goodwill throughout the nations,
 Will join together in prayer and action
 To bring love where there is hatred,
 Friendship where there is enmity,
 And justice where there is oppression.
 Amen.**

Important information about FOODBANKS.

You may have seen, or read in the news recently, that FOODBANKS are running out of food and rely on the generosity of their volunteers. Unfortunately, more and more people are in need to supplement their food shopping with items of prime necessity to feed their families and rely heavily on FOODBANKS. This current economic crisis is affecting a lot of families, especially families with young children. Please help, if you can, by donating an item of dry food/tins/cereals/rice/pasta in the box of your local supermarket or in the box in the church porch. Thank you for your generosity!

	<p>Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</p> <p>(0116) 287 5232 4nogparish@gmail.com www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</p>	<p>Parish Priest: Fr. George Thomas 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>Twelfth Week of Ordinary Time 25th June - 2nd July 2023</p>	<p>This week's Mass Intentions for all parishioners</p>
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<p>Sunday 25.06</p>	<p>6.30am 10.30am 4pm</p>	<p>Malayalam Mass - Thomas Varkey RIP Holy Mass - Thomas Varkey RIP Malayalam Mass - Thomas Varkey RIP</p>	<p>The Pope's prayer intention for July 2023. For a Eucharistic life</p> <p>We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.</p>
<p>Monday 26.06</p>	<p>No service</p>		
<p>Tuesday 27.06</p>	<p>9.30am 10am</p>	<p>Silent Adoration Holy Mass</p>	
<p>Wednesday 28.06</p>	<p>5.30pm 6pm</p>	<p>Silent Adoration Holy Mass</p>	
<p>Thursday 29.06</p>	<p>10am</p>	<p>Holy Mass /Holy Day of Obligation Christ the King School children for Holy Mass</p>	
<p>Friday 30.06</p>	<p>9.30am 10am</p>	<p>Silent Adoration Holy Mass</p>	
<p>Saturday 1.07</p>	<p>9.30am 10am</p>	<p>Silent Adoration Holy Mass</p>	
<p>Sunday 2.07</p>	<p>6.30am 10.30am 4pm</p>	<p>Malayalam Mass Holy Mass Malayalam Mass</p>	

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.

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 Ordinary Time, we pray for these intentions:
 A Deeper understanding between Christians and Jews. Those who suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights. Europe. Human Life. Seafarers.
SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY FOR PETER'S PENCE

Feasts of the week: St. Irenaeus, bishop and martyr. Thursday, SS Peter and Paul, apostles.

Background on the Gospel Reading *Matthew 10:26-33*.

Jesus assures the Twelve that God cares about them.

We read today's Gospel in the context of last week's Gospel in which Jesus sent the twelve disciples to proclaim the kingdom of heaven. In between last week's reading and today's reading, Jesus has predicted that the disciples will face difficulties in their mission. Many people will not receive them well, even within the land of Israel. Even family members will turn away from the disciples because of the disciples' commitment to Jesus and the kingdom. Today's Gospel offers the disciples consolation against this difficult truth.

This section of Matthew's Gospel should be read in the context of Matthew's intended audience, a Jewish-Christian community. The Gospel alludes to the dangers and persecutions that this community has most likely already faced and will continue to face. To reassure this community, Matthew recalls for them the encouraging words of Jesus that we read today.

In this Gospel passage, Jesus might be understood as putting suffering in perspective. The disciples of Jesus are called upon to keep their focus on God. Those who can harm the body do not have ultimate power; God does. Still persecution and suffering cannot be avoided or prevented. But Jesus reassures his disciples that God knows and cares about what happens to his children.

We might not face the same type of persecution, but we do experience difficulties as we endeavour to live a Christian life. Sometimes we let the opinions of others prevent us from doing what we know to be right. We need the reminder that what God thinks about us is more important. We are reassured by the promise that God cares for us and protects us.

Words of the Holy Father: Fear is one of the most terrible enemies of our Christian life. Jesus exhorts: "have no fear", "fear not". And Jesus describes three tangible situations that they will find themselves facing. First and foremost, the hostility of those who would like to stifle the Word of God, by sugar-coating it, watering it down, or by silencing those who proclaim it. (...) The second difficulty that Christ's missionaries will encounter is the physical threat against them, that is, direct persecution of them personally, to the point of being killed. This prophesy by Jesus is realized in every age: it is a painful reality, but it attests to the faithfulness of witnesses. How many Christians are persecuted even today throughout the world! They suffer for the Gospel with love, they are martyrs of our days. (...) The third type of test that the Apostles will have to face, the sensation, which some may feel, that God himself has abandoned them, remaining distant and silent. Here too, Jesus exhorts them not to fear, because even while experiencing these and other pitfalls, the life of disciples lies firmly in the hands of God who loves us and looks after us.

300 Club Draw 18th June: £50 B Preston (55). £25 M O'Callaghan (90), M Letts (34).

Racial Justice in the Church Tuesday 11 July 2023. Bishop Paul McAleenan will be hosting a free webinar this summer to build upon the work that has taken place around Racial Justice Sunday in recent years on 11th July at 14:00 - 15:30 - Online via Zoom. This includes the [Image and Likeness of God](#) initiative which celebrates images of Our Lady and the Child Jesus from a range of countries and cultures, and the [Walking Together, Praying Together, and Working Together](#) project, which reflects on the role that each of us has to play in

promoting the mission of Christ and His Church. Both projects have been well received in dioceses, parishes, and schools. [Register Here](#)

English Martyrs' 60th Anniversary of the school. Dear Parents, as you will be aware from previous correspondence, English Martyrs' will be celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the official opening of the school; 4th May 1965, as such, we will be building up to this important milestone in the school's history, culminating in celebration events in the summer of 2025. I have over the last terms held assemblies with all year groups looking back over the history of the school and setting students challenges. From September 2023 each group will begin fundraising for our 60th Anniversary, we plan to publish a photo book looking over the history of the school along with many other events. To begin our 18 months of celebrations we are starting with a photography exhibition with pictures from across all the decades of the school. I invite you to come and see if you can spot people you may know in our vast range of photographs and reminisce. Also, if you know of any previous students or parents who wish to attend, please invite them. If you would like more details of events or have any memories or photographs you wish to share, please email 60years@englishmartyrs.org This event will take place on Monday 10th July starting at 4.00 - 6.00pm.

World Youth Day - 1 - 6 August 2023. World Youth Day (WYD) is the gathering of young people from all over the world with the Pope. It is also a pilgrimage, a celebration of youth, an expression of the universal Church and an intense moment of evangelisation for the youth world. Although its Catholic identity is clearly evident, WYD opens its doors to everyone, no matter how close to or distant from the Church they are. "Mary arose and went with haste" (Lk 1:39) is the bible quote chosen by Pope Francis as the motto of the World Youth Day that will be held for the first time in the capital city of Lisbon, Portugal. Mary of Nazareth is the great figure of the Christian journey. She teaches us to say yes to God. She was the protagonist of the last edition of WYD and will be so once again in Lisbon. In the biblical episode of the Visitation, the action of standing up presents Mary as both a woman of charity and a missionary woman. Leaving in haste represents the attitude depicted in Pope Francis' indications for WYD Lisbon 2023: "may young people's evangelisation be active and missionary, for this is how they will recognize and witness the presence of the living Christ." Addressing young people in particular, and challenging them to be courageous missionaries, the following was written by the Pope in the Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit*: "Where does Jesus send us? There are no borders, no limits: he sends us everywhere. The Gospel is for everyone, not just for some" (CV 177). Read Pope Francis' full message [here](#).

VACANCY: PA to the Bishop of Nottingham. To apply please complete the application form to be found on the Diocese of Nottingham website: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers Personal Assistant to the Bishop of Nottingham. Please submit applications by email, using the Diocesan Application Form, to: office@dioceseofnottingham.uk by midday on Monday 26 June 2023. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview to take place on Thursday 6 July. 20Hours of work: 20-30 hours per week (to be negotiated) worked over 4 days per week. Hourly Rate: £27-£35k p.a. pro-rata (depending upon qualifications and experience). The Bishop's Personal Assistant is crucial to enabling him to fulfil these roles and responsibilities efficiently, effectively and courteously. The post is a key part of his immediate support staff and the wider Diocesan Curia (central services). The person we seek, therefore, needs to be willing and able enthusiastically to support the mission of the Catholic Church and must have knowledge of its organisation and functions.



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