

**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.

*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.

**Stella Maris Prayer**

Let us ask God to protect all seafarers and fishers,  
 who work hard on the perilous sea,  
 to bring us so many of the goods that we rely on in our daily lives.  
 May they always feel the loving embrace of our Heavenly Father.

Let us pray for Stella Maris  
 and its mission to be the hands and feet of Christ,  
 bringing love, kindness and compassion to all those  
 who visit our ports and shores. We pray for Pope Francis  
 and all who lead the Church: that, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit,  
 they may continue to guide and shepherd us along the right,  
 just and true path of faith. Father, in your mercy,  
 accept the prayers we make for ourselves and our neighbours,  
 especially those who work at sea.  
 We make our prayer through Christ, our harbour of peace. **Amen**

Please keep in your prayers all the sick and housebound people of the parish.  
 We continue to pray for Ukraine and its people  
 for all the war-torn countries in the world.

	<p><i>Mother of God                  Greencoat Road                  Leicester LE3 6NZ</i></p> <p><b>(0116) 287 5232</b>                  mogparish@gmail.com                  www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</p>	<p><i>Parish Priest: Fr. George Thomas                  gchelackal@gmail.com                  george.thomas@dioceseofnottingham.uk</i></p>  <p><i>NRCDT- Registered Charity</i></p>
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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

	<p><b>Fourteenth Week of Ordinary Time</b>                  9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2023</p>	<p><b>This week's Mass Intentions for all parishioners</b></p>
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Sunday 9.07	6.30am 10.30am 4pm	Malayalam Mass Holy Mass Malayalam Mass
Monday 10.07	No Service	
Tuesday 11.07	No Service	
Wednesday 12.07	No Service	
Thursday 13.07	No Service	
Friday 14.07	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Ireneu & Julieta 25 <sup>th</sup> Wedd Anniversary Joseph Pullenkunnel RIP
Saturday 15.07	10am	Holy Mass
Sunday 16.07	6.30am 10.30am 4pm	Malayalam Mass Holy Mass - Katheen Quinn RIP Malayalam Mass

**The Pope's prayer intention for July 2023. For a Eucharistic life**

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.

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

**SUMMER FAYRE in the church hall  
 on Saturday 30th of September after the 10am mass.**

We need volunteers from both communities to manage the stalls.  
 There will a cake stall, bric a brac, tins and dried food, toys, used clothes, bottles and cans etc. We will also need volunteers to help serve the refreshments and to tidy up after the event.  
 Donations of unwanted gifts, toiletries, fashion jewelleryes, tins and dried food, boxes of chocolates and biscuits, drinks, such as wines, liquor & spirits etc. are very welcome.  
 Please contact Teresa and Terry Knott, Ian and Josephine MacKay for any enquiry.

**Raffle Tickets will be available soon.**

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY FOR STELLA MARIS**

**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](http://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.

**Feasts of the week:**

Tuesday, St. Benedict, Abbot, Patron of Europe. Saturday, St. Bonaventure, bishop and doctor.

## Background on the Gospel Reading Matthew 11:25-30.

Jesus prays in thanks to God, who has revealed himself to the lowly.

Today's reading from Matthew's Gospel comes after a discourse in which Jesus reproaches people who have witnessed his mighty deeds yet still lack belief. In this context, today's Gospel explains the reason for this unbelief and reveals what is necessary for faith. Today's Gospel also continues to enhance our understanding of discipleship as last week's Gospel did.

Jesus first prays in thanksgiving to God who has made himself known to Jesus' disciples. He praises God who has made himself known to the "little ones" and not to the wise and learned. As in other recent readings from Matthew's Gospel, a contrast is made here between the unbelieving Pharisees, who are wise and learned, and the faithful disciples, tax collectors, and sinners with whom Jesus keeps company.

The second part of this reading calls to our attention the unity between the Father and the Son. God has made himself known through Jesus, and in knowing Jesus, we come to know the Father. In Jesus' life and in his person, God reveals himself to us.

In the concluding sentences of today's Gospel, Jesus' teaching is again contrasted to the teaching of the Pharisees. This common theme of Matthew's Gospel probably reflects tension that existed between Jesus and the Pharisees and between the Pharisees and the community of Christians for whom Matthew wrote. Pharisaic Judaism became the predominant form of Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem about 70 A.D. Here that tension is expressed as alternative paths of holiness. The careful observance of the Mosaic law taught by the Pharisees could be experienced by some as difficult and burdensome. In contrast, Jesus' way of holiness is presented as uncomplicated and even restful.

**Words of the Holy Father:** The Lord does not reserve this phrase for certain friends of his, no; he addresses it to "all" those who are weary and overwhelmed by life. And who could feel excluded from this invitation? The Lord knows how arduous life can be. He knows that many things weary the heart: disappointments and wounds of the past, burdens to carry and wrongs to bear in the present, uncertainties and worries about the future. In the face of all this, Jesus' first word is an invitation, a call to move and respond: "Come". The mistake, when things go wrong, is to stay where we are, lying there. It seems obvious, but how difficult it is to respond and open ourselves! It is not easy. In dark times it feels natural to keep to ourselves, to ruminate over how unfair life is, over how ungrateful others are, how mean the world is, and so on. We all know it. We have had this awful experience a few times. But in this way, locked up inside ourselves, we see everything as grim. Then we even grow accustomed to sadness, which becomes like home: that sadness overcomes us; this sadness is a terrible thing. Jesus, however, wants to pull us out of this "quicksand" and thus says to each one: "Come! — Who? — You, you, you". The way out is in connecting, in extending a hand and lifting our gaze to those who truly love us.

**300 Club Draw 2<sup>nd</sup> July:** £50 S Sibson (224). £25 C Sarmiento (279), Sr S Perks (188).

**FUNDraiser Day at the Briars.** Briars Lane, Crich DE4 5BW. Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July. Morning Mass with Bishop Patrick at 10am followed by Cake and Refreshments in our refurbished Hebron Lounge. Then from 12pm to 5pm: lots of Activities, Hot Food & Bar, Raffle Draw with over £750 worth of prizes, Exclusive on the day offers for Saints' Meadow Luxury Retreat Cabins. For all enquiries about the fun day, to book the escape room, stalls or buy raffle tickets, please email [hannah.brown@ndcys.com](mailto:hannah.brown@ndcys.com).

**Racial Justice in the Church.** 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](#)

**Domestic Abuse and Faith.** Bringing People Together LCOF Open Meeting: Tuesday 11th July, Domestic Abuse and Faith FREE open meeting, on Domestic Abuse and Faith, will be taking place on Tuesday 11th July at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 15 Peebles Way, Rushey Mead, Leicester, LE4 7ZB, from 6.30pm for 7.00pm start. Keynote speakers: Imam Shafi Chowdhury (City Retreat, Leicester), Meena Kumari (H.O.P.E Training and Consultancy) and Tina Kenworthy in a discussion about the issues of domestic abuse and faith. Free onsite parking is available and light refreshments will be served. Please book your FREE ticket via WhatsApp 07512 893613 or LCOFdomesticabuse.eventbrite.co.uk to let us know you will be attending.

**English Martyrs' 60th Anniversary of the school.** 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 start with a photography exhibition with pictures from across all the decades of the school. 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](mailto:60years@englishmartyrs.org) This event will take place on Monday 10th July star 4.00 - 6.00pm.

**Mission Unleashed:** an event with Cardinal Tagle. The Church has a mission but what is it? And how should we do it? Cardinal Tagle of the Philippines has responsibilities for evangelisation and mission in the Vatican and is an inspirational speaker. Join CAFOD online for Mission Unleashed: Embracing the Social Dimension of Evangelisation hosted by CAFOD on 14 July 7:00-8:30pm. Please see [www.bigmarker.com/cafod/evangelisation](http://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/evangelisation) to book your place for this webinar and be sent the recording. All welcome.

**Healing Retreat: Good Shepherd Prayer Group** invites you to come and rest in the arms of Jesus. Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July/Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August from 2pm to 7pm. At Early Learner Nursery School, 78 Uppingham Road LE5 0QE. Limited places, admission only by seat reservation. Book your place on Whatsapp by submitting your full name and contact number on 074 7784 1227. Your seat will be reserved when you receive a reply of confirmation.

**FOODBANKS.....** You may have seen, or read in the news recently, that FOODBANKS are running out of food. 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.