

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.

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**

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.

Feasts of the week: Saturday, St. Mary Magdalene.

**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 be 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 jewellery, 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.

	<p>Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</p> <p>(0116) 287 5232 moogparish@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>Fifteenth Week of Ordinary Time 16th – 23rd July 2023</p>	<p>This week's Mass Intentions for all parishioners</p>
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Sunday 16.07	6.30am 10.30am 4pm	Malayalam Mass Holy Mass - Kathleen Quinn RIP Malayalam Mass	<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>
Monday 17.07	No Service		
Tuesday 18.07	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Wednesday 19.07	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Thursday 20.07	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Friday 21.07	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Saturday 22.07	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Novena to St. Alphonsa begins Joyal Tom Thanks	
Sunday 23.07	6.30am 10.30am 4pm	Malayalam Mass - Philip Varghese RIP Holy Mass - Malayalam Mass - Novena to St. Alphonsa 2 nd Day	

SECOND COLLECTION TODAY FOR STELLA MARIS

Rosvaldas and Rasvita Marcinkute, two young people from our Parish, will be making their First Holy Communion today at the 10.30am Mass. We wish them and their family all our very best wishes on their very special day.

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.**

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.

**English Martyrs letter to parents with important information is
 on the clipboard.**

Background on the Gospel Reading Matthew 13.1-23.

Jesus teaches that the kingdom of heaven is like seed that has been sown on good soil.

Today's Gospel marks the beginning of the third long discourse given by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. Over the next few weeks, the Gospel readings will consist of the entire 13th Chapter of Matthew's Gospel, a lengthy teaching discourse.

Throughout this discourse, Jesus will offer several parables to illustrate for his listeners what he means by the kingdom of heaven. He begins with the parable of the sower, which appears rather straightforward—of course seeds grow best in good soil. Seeds that miss the soil, are sown on rocky ground, or are sown among other plants will not grow. The surprise in the parable is the enormous yield of the seed that is sown on good soil.

Jesus then explains his use of parables. Jesus seems to suggest that he uses parables to teach because the meanings of parables are not self-evident. The hearer must engage in some degree of reflection in order to comprehend the message of a parable. In this way, the medium—the parable—models the point of the parable of the sower. Those who are willing to engage themselves in the effort to understand will be rewarded by the discovery of the message and will bear fruit.

To bring home the point, Jesus interprets the parable of the sower to his disciples. The different types of soil in which the seeds are sown are metaphors for the disposition with which each individual hears the teaching about the kingdom of heaven. Some will be easily swayed away from the kingdom of heaven. Some will receive it for a time but will lose it when faced with difficulties. Some will hear the word but will then permit other cares to choke it out. Yet some will receive it well, and the seed will produce abundant fruit.

Words of the Holy Father: This Parable of the Sower is somewhat the 'mother' of all parables, because it speaks about listening to the Word. It reminds us that the Word of God is a seed which in itself is fruitful and effective; and God scatters it everywhere, paying no mind to waste. Such is the heart of God! Each one of us is ground on which the seed of the Word falls; no one is excluded! The Word is given to each one of us. We can ask ourselves: what type of terrain am I? Do I resemble the path, the rocky ground, the bramble bush? If we want, with the grace of God, we can become good soil, ploughed and carefully cultivated, to help ripen the seed of the Word. It is already present in our heart, but making it fruitful depends on us; it depends on the embrace that we reserve for this seed. Often one is distracted by too many interests, by too many enticements, and it is difficult to distinguish, among the many voices and many words, that of the Lord, the only one that makes us free.

300 Club Draw 9th July: £50 G McK (232). £25 H S (256), D B (220).

PIONEER PARISHES. Plastic Free July. Take the Challenge. The link <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org> provides resources and ideas to help you (and millions of others around the world) reduce single-use plastic waste every day at home, work and school. Making a small change will collectively make a massive difference to our communities. You can choose to refuse single-use plastics in July (and beyond!). Best of all, being part of Plastic Free July will help you to find great alternatives that can become new habits forever. For more ideas, follow us on Twitter @STM_Pioneer.

Healing Retreat: Good Shepherd Prayer Group invites you to come and rest in the arms of Jesus. Monday 31st July/Wednesday 2nd 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.

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](#).

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.

VACANCY: PA to the Bishop of Nottingham, based at Bishop's House, Nottingham (or other diocesan curial offices as required). Purpose of role: To support the work of the Bishop of Nottingham. As no two days are the same, the bishop's P.A. is expected to respond to a variety of enquiries and needs, have a systems approach to all that is needed and be able to manage multiple priorities. They will ensure a warm and generous welcome is extended to all who come to visit the bishop; will thrive working alongside the bishop's private secretary in ensuring the bishop's office runs efficiently and smoothly; will be a natural at keeping calm; confident and good-humoured. 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). Apply by noon on Thursday 27th July 2023. To apply please complete the application form which can be found on the Diocese of Nottingham website: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers.



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