

**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 jewellerys, 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.**



**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.**

**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:**

Tuesday, St. James, Apostle. Wednesday SS Joachim and Anne, parents of the BVM. Saturday, SS Martha, Mary and Lazarus.

**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.**

		<b>Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</b>  <b>☎(0116) 287 5232 ✉mogparish@gmail.com www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</b>	<b>Parish Priest: Fr. George Thomas gchelackal@gmail.com george.thomas@dioceseofnottingham.uk</b>   <b>NRCDT- Registered Charity</b>
Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - <a href="http://www.ckleicester.co.uk/">www.ckleicester.co.uk/</a> English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - <a href="http://www.emschool.co.uk/">www.emschool.co.uk/</a>			
Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914			
		<b>Sixteenth Week of Ordinary Time 23<sup>rd</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> July 2023</b>	<b>This week's Mass Intentions for all parishioners</b>
Sunday 23.07	6.30am 10.30am 4pm	Malayalam Mass - Philip Varghese RIP Holy Mass - 26 <sup>th</sup> Wedd anniv Chris&Netsai Mukopfa Thanks Malayalam Mass Novena to St. Alphonsa 2 <sup>nd</sup> Day K.I. Sunny & K.C. Inasu RIP/ Daly Shibu Thanks	<b>The Pope's prayer intention for July 2023. For a Eucharistic life</b>  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.
Monday 24.07	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass-Novena to St.Alphonsa 3 <sup>rd</sup> Day	
Tuesday 25.07	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass- Novena to St. Alphonsa 4 <sup>th</sup> Day	
Wednesday 26.07	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass- Novena to St.. Alphonsa 5 <sup>th</sup> Day	
Thursday 27.07	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass- Novena to St. Alphonsa 6 <sup>th</sup> Day Jacob George RIP	
Friday 28.07	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Novena to St. Alphonsa 7 <sup>th</sup> Day	
Saturday 29.07	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Novena to St. Alphonsa 8 <sup>th</sup> Day	
Sunday 30.07	6.30am 10.30am 4pm	Malayalam Mass Holy Mass - Patrick & Margaret Regan RIP Malayalam Mass - Feast of St. Alphonsa	

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be  
celebrated Today Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July.**

**PS: If any of our young people would like to have their Confirmation on July 4<sup>th</sup> 2024,  
please contact St. Peter's Church at [stpetersleicester@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersleicester@gmail.com).  
Please also communicate with Father George.**

**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 13:24-43.

Jesus offers parables about the Kingdom of Heaven and explains them to his disciples.

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers three parables to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. He also explains why he speaks to the crowds in parables and interprets the parable of the sower for the disciples. This reading is a continuation of Jesus' discourse that we began reading last Sunday.

All three parables use commonplace experiences to describe aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven. The first parable is longer and more detailed than the next two, and it alerts us to the two-fold reality of the Kingdom of Heaven. The beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven can be found in this world. The fruition of the Kingdom of Heaven, however, will not be realized until the final judgment. In the meantime, as Jesus' explanation to the disciples cautions, any effort to judge the progress of the Kingdom of Heaven is premature. Only God, in the final judgment, will distinguish the fruit of the Kingdom of Heaven and offer its reward.

The second and third parables call to our attention the abundance that will result from the small beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven. Just as a mustard seed—the smallest of all seeds—will become a large bush, so too God will bring his Kingdom to full bloom. As a small amount of yeast will leaven the entire batch of bread, so too God will bring about the expansion of his Kingdom. In each case the image is of the superabundance that God brings out of even the smallest of signs of the Kingdom.

Contained within these parables are words of caution as well as words of consolation. In the parable of the sower we are warned against judging others. To judge and uproot the “weeds” prematurely will harm the wheat; final judgment rests with God. In the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, we are consoled by the message that God can work wonders and produce abundance from even the smallest beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven.

**Words of the Holy Father:** Today's Gospel presents two ways of acting and of experiencing history: on the one hand, the vision of the master who sees far; on the other, the perspective of the servants who see the problem. The servants care about a field without weeds; the master cares about good wheat. The Lord invites us to adopt his vision, one that is focused on good wheat, that knows how to protect it even amid the weeds. It is not those who are always searching for others' limitations and flaws who cooperate well with God but, rather, those who know how to recognize the good that silently grows in the field of the Church and history, cultivating it until it becomes mature. And then, God, and he alone, will reward the good and punish the wicked.

**300 Club Draw 16<sup>th</sup> July:** £50 S O'D (68). £25 N D (257), B J (277).

Congratulations and best wishes to **Chris and Netsai Mukopfa** who have celebrated their 26<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on 19<sup>th</sup> July.

**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 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.

**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 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023. To apply please complete the application form which can be found on the Diocese of Nottingham website: [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers).



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