

**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.**

**A prayer for our earth**

All powerful God,  
you are present in the universe and in the smallest of your creatures.  
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us  
the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.  
Fill us with your peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters,  
harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned  
and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.  
Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world  
and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty,  
not pollution and destruction.  
Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain  
at the expense of the poor and the earth.  
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe  
and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united  
with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.  
We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray,  
in our struggle, or justice, love and peace.

**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.

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.

Let's also pray for all the people who are suffering from wildfires  
and floods and have lost their home and livelihood.



**Mother of God  
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www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk**

**Parish Priest: Fr. George Thomas  
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george.thomas@dioceseofnottingham.uk**



**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**



**Seventeenth Week of Ordinary Time  
30<sup>th</sup> July - 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

**This week's Mass  
Intentions  
for all  
parishioners**

Sunday 30.07	6.30am 10.30am 4pm	Malayalam Mass Holy Mass - Patrick & Margaret Regan RIP Malayalam Mass - Feast of St. Alphonsa Lissamma Joseph Family ints./Shibu & family Thanks.	<b>The Pope's prayer intention for August 2023.</b>  <b>For World Youth Day</b>  We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.
Monday 31.07	No Service		
Tuesday 1.08	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - George Jacob RIP	
Wednesday 2.08	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Saju Thoppilon Ouseph Ints	
Thursday 3.08	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Noah Continho Thanks	
Friday 4.08	9.30am 10am 5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Peter & Kathleen McCreesh ints Silent Adoration Malayalam Mass -Silent Adoration until 8pm	
Saturday 5.08	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Sunday 6.08	6.30am 10.30am 4pm	Malayalam Mass Holy Mass Malayalam Mass	

**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.

**Congratulations and best wishes to Bishop Patrick as he celebrates his 45<sup>th</sup> priestly ordination on Saturday. Let's keep him in our prayers as he travels to Lisbon for World Youth Day.**

**Feasts of the week:**

Monday, St. Ignatius of Loyola, priest. Tuesday, St. Alphonsus Liguori, bishop and doctor.  
Friday, St. John Vianney, priest.

## Background on the Gospel Reading Matthew 13:44-52.

Jesus teaches about the Kingdom of Heaven.

Today's Gospel concludes three weeks of readings from the 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Matthew's Gospel. Throughout these three weeks we have heard Jesus teaching crowds about the kingdom of heaven, and we have heard Jesus interpret some of his teachings for the disciples. In this week's Gospel, Jesus offers three more short parables.

The first two parables describe the great value of the kingdom of heaven. In the first parable, Jesus says that the kingdom of heaven is like a buried treasure that is worth possessing even if it means giving up everything else. In the second parable, Jesus proposes that the kingdom of heaven is like a pearl of great worth for which one will sell everything else to possess. These parables teach us that we are to place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God.

The third parable that Jesus proposes in today's Gospel is different from the first two, but it is reminiscent of the parable of the sower heard in last week's Gospel. The kingdom of heaven is compared to fishing with a wide net. After the fish have been collected, the good fish are kept and the bad fish are thrown away; so too, in the final judgment, will the wicked and the righteous be separated.

Today's Gospel concludes with a curious statement about the scribe who understands the kingdom of heaven. Here a metaphor is offered: this scribe is like the head of a household who "brings from his storeroom both the new and the old." The scribes referred to here are experts of Mosaic law. It is possible that Jesus is here instructing the early Christian community on how to proceed in the interpretation of Jewish law with respect to Jesus' "new" teaching. Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of heaven does not replace the Jewish tradition; it interprets it in a different light.

**Words of the Holy Father:** With these two similes, Jesus proposes to involve us in the building of the Kingdom of Heaven, presenting an essential characteristic of Christian life, of the life of the Kingdom of heaven: those who fully pledge themselves to the Kingdom are those who are willing to stake everything, who are courageous. We are called upon to assume the attitude of these two Gospel figures, so that we too may become healthily restless seekers of the Kingdom of Heaven. In our times, as we are all aware, the lives of some people can end up mediocre and dull because they probably do not go in search of a true treasure: they are content with attractive but fleeting things, glittering flashes that prove illusory as they give way to darkness. Instead, the light of the Kingdom is not like fireworks, it is light: fireworks last only an instant, whereas the light of the Kingdom accompanies us all our life. Jesus, who is the hidden treasure and the pearl of great value, cannot but inspire joy, all the joy of the world: the joy of discovering a meaning for one's life, the joy of feeling committed to the adventure of holiness.

**300 Club Draw 23<sup>rd</sup> July:** £50 G A-G 219. £25 J C (197), M A (138).

**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.

**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.

**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. For the first time in many years a group of Young Adults from the Diocese of Nottingham will attend WYD, accompanied by Bishop Patrick and Fathers Neil, Liam and Limnyuy. Follow this historical journey of our young diocesan pilgrims by visiting [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/news/wyd](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/news/wyd) which features links to live streams, reflections, schedules and more. Read Pope Francis' full message [here](#).

## VACANCIES

**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](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers).

**St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP).** Director of public Communication, Public Affairs and Marketing. Full Time, permanent - Location: Remote. Closing date for CVs: 14<sup>th</sup> August. Deadline for Application Forms 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Interviews: W/C 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023. **SVP England & Wales National Office**, St Vincent de Paul Society, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB [Click here for contact numbers](#)

**FOODBANKS.....** Please continue to help your local FOODBANK. 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 during the school holiday. Please help, if you can.



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