

**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.**

**Feasts of the week:**

Monday, St Pius X, Pope. Tuesday, The Queenship of Mary.  
Thursday, St. Bartholomew, Apostle.

**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.**

**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.

**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 note: If intention is for a living person they must sign the envelope for permission to print their name on newsletter or intention will be listed as Private Intention and initials of intention.**

**FOODBANKS.....** Please continue to help your local FOODBANK. More people are in need to supplement their food shopping with items of prime necessity to feed their families. This current economic crisis is affecting a lot of families, especially families with young children. Please help, if you can.



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**NRCDT- Registered Charity**

**Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - [www.ctlkeicester.co.uk/](http://www.ctlkeicester.co.uk/)  
English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - [www.emschool.co.uk/](http://www.emschool.co.uk/)**

**Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914**



**Twentieth Week of Ordinary Time**

**20<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

|                    |                          |  |  |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| Sunday<br>20.08    | 6.30am<br>10.30am<br>4pm | Malayalam Mass<br>Holy Mass - David Collins RIP / Alaine Ruzivo Birthday<br>Malayalam Mass | <b>The Pope's prayer<br/>intention for<br/>August 2023.</b>  |
| Monday<br>21.08    | No<br>Service            |  |  |
| Tuesday<br>22.08   | 9.30am<br>10am           | Silent Adoration<br>Holy Mass  | <b>For World Youth Day<br/>We pray the World<br/>Youth Day in Lisbon<br/>will help young people<br/>to live and witness<br/>the Gospel in their<br/>own lives.</b> |
| Wednesday<br>23.08 | 5.30pm<br>6pm            | Silent Adoration<br>Holy Mass  |  |
| Thursday<br>24.08  | 9.30am<br>10am           | Silent Adoration<br>Holy Mass  |  |
| Friday<br>25.08    | 9.30am<br>10am           | Silent Adoration<br>Holy Mass  |  |
| Saturday<br>26.08  | 9.30am<br>10am           | Silent Adoration<br>Holy Mass  |  |
| Sunday<br>27.08    | 6.30am<br>10.30am<br>4pm | Malayalam Mass<br>Holy Mass -<br>Malayalam Mass  | <b>This week's Mass<br/>Intentions<br/>for all parishioners</b>  |

**Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. September 1- 8 2023.**

The celebration of the Feast of the BVM at Leicester is now in its fifth year. A traditional form of piety for the Syrian Christians, towards our heavenly mother, this period consists of eight days of prayer and fasting - popularly known as Ettu-Noimpu. Like past years, this year as well as parishioners of Mother of God church, St. Alphonsa mission, Leicester other like-minded community members, will jointly celebrate this festal period. We must take this opportunity to thank our heavenly mother who, through her continual heavenly intercessions, helped us spiritually, mentally and physically to overcome our personal difficulties. We can express our sincere gratitude through our prayers and participation in the liturgical celebrations. All are welcome.

**To sponsor a mass, please contact the parish priest.**

**Timetable for celebration will be published on the website.**

**Also see poster in the church porch**

## Background on the Gospel Reading Matthew 15:21-28.

Jesus heals the daughter of the Canaanite woman because of her great faith.

Today we move ahead in our reading of Matthew's Gospel. Last week we read about [Jesus walking on the water](#) and the disciples' confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God. If we were reading Matthew's entire Gospel, we would have read about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees about Jewish purity laws. Jesus argues that it is not what goes into us that makes us unclean; he is referring to the strict Jewish dietary rules. Instead our words and our actions—what comes out of us—make us unclean because they emerge from a heart that is unclean.

Knowing about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees helps us to understand today's Gospel. In fact the story heightens the surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus' exchange with the Canaanite woman. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone.

The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles, "dog." But the woman cleverly turns Jesus' insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter.

Jesus' unresponsiveness to this woman may strike us as uncharacteristic or shocking. Yet in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' ministry is directed primarily to the people of Israel. At only a very few points, such as the one found in today's Gospel, do we find Jesus anticipating the later Christian ministry to the rest of the world.

Behind Matthew's text we can hear this early Christian community's struggle to understand how God's selection of Israel is consistent with two events: Israel's rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles' acceptance of Jesus. Just as Jesus was surprised by the faith expressed by the Canaanite woman, so too the first Christians were surprised that the Gentiles would receive the salvation God offered through Christ. In today's second reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, we hear the apostle Paul considering this same concern.

The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God's abundant mercy. Yes, salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all.

**Annual Diocesan Altar Servers' Mass.** The Guild of Saint Stephen in Nottingham Diocese would like to invite all Altar Servers to join for the Annual Diocesan Servers' Mass, on Saturday 23rd September at 11.30am at Saint Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham. The Principal Celebrant will be Bishop Patrick, and all are invited to be part of the day. Please email James Noakes for further details [JNoakes@englishmartyrs.org](mailto:JNoakes@englishmartyrs.org).

**Our Lady Queen of Peace Pilgrimage to Walsingham.** Monday 28th August 2023 led by Fr Zvonimir OFM (Parish Priest of St James, Medjugorje) 1.15pm Gathering, Rosary and Litany, Talk by Fr Zvonimir Sacrament of Reconciliation available. 3.45pm Mass, Adoration and Benediction and 5.30pm Depart. Full details of local coach from Paul 077 1056 7183 or email [pilgrimsmary@hotmail.com](mailto:pilgrimsmary@hotmail.com).

**Women's Pilgrimage to Lincoln Cathedral.** The Diocese of Nottingham is organising a pilgrimage for Women to Lincoln Cathedral on Saturday 9th September. We will meet at 10:30am at the Cathedral, to be ready to celebrate Mass together at 11am, following Mass we will have Lunch together. After lunch we will have a private tour of this historic Church, built by our diocesan co-patron St Hugh and where he was laid to rest. The day should finish by 2pm. Please note that this is an event for those aged 18 and over. For more information and to book your place please click [here](#).

300 Club Draw 13<sup>th</sup> August: £50 S V (179). £25 P K (18), J D (78).

**Call of creation: Reading the signs of the times.** You are invited to join this webinar hosted by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, CAFOD and St. Mary's University in conversation with Archbishop Peter Loy Chong of Fiji and Sr Margaret Atkins. On Tuesday 12 September at 7:00pm. Duration: 1hour. This September marks a year since the Bishops of England and Wales republished The Call of Creation, a document that encourages us to repair our relationship with God's creation. It recognises the interconnectedness of the biggest challenges of our times and urges each of us to ask ourselves how we can protect our common home.

Register at <https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/signsoftimes>

**Thought for the week:** 'Human greatness does not lie in wealth and power, but in character and goodness. People are just people, and all have faults and shortcomings, but all of us are born with a basic goodness'. Anne Frank



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.



### 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.



Tea/coffee after the 10.30am Mass every Sunday in the hall. Please join us!