

**Mother of God First Holy Communion Programme 2023-2024.** Children from the parish who have been baptised, are in school year 3 or older and NOT from the Malayalam community, are now invited to enrol for our First Holy Communion Programme. The Malayalam children from our Parish will be prepared for the sacrament by their own special catechist. Application forms are now available at the back of church please fill them in and return them in a sealed envelope, then return them to the basket by Sunday 22nd October at the very latest. Thank you. Looking forward to meeting you all very soon!

	<p><b>Mother of God</b> Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</p> <p>☎(0116) 287 5232 ✉<a href="mailto:nogparish@gmail.com">nogparish@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk">www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</a></p>	<p>Parish Priest: Fr. George Thomas <a href="mailto:gchelackal@gmail.com">gchelackal@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:george.thomas@dioceseofnottingham.uk">george.thomas@dioceseofnottingham.uk</a></p>  <p>NRCDT- Registered Charity</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

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE** in the church hall

**THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE** will be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November after Holy Mass. We need volunteers to mind the stalls. Please bring your donations to church. For any enquiry, please contact Teresa & Terry Knott or Ian & Josephine McKay. Raffle tickets will be available soon.

**Twenty-Eighth Week of Ordinary Time**

**15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023**




Sunday 15.10	6.30am 10.30am 4pm	Malayalam Mass Holy Mass Malayalam Mass	<p><b>The Pope's prayer intentions for October 2023.</b></p> <p><i>For the Synod.</i> We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.</p> <p><b>This week's Mass Intentions for all parishioners</b></p>
Monday 16.10	No Service		
Tuesday 17.10	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Wednesday 18.10	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Thursday 19.10	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Friday 20.10	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Saturday 21.10	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Sunday 22.10	6.30am 10.30am 4pm	Malayalam Mass Holy Mass - James Sweeney RIP Malayalam Mass	

Please keep in your prayers all the sick and housebound people of the parish. We continue to pray for Ukraine and its people, for the people of Israel and Palestine and for all the war-torn countries in the world. Let's also pray for all the people that have been affected by climate change and have lost their home and livelihood.

**Feasts of the week:**  
Tuesday, St. Ignatius of Antioch, bishop and martyr. Wednesday, St. Luke, Evangelist.

**West Leicester Catholic 300 Club**

Thank you to all members for your continued support for this valuable fundraising for our three churches. All members are invited to this year's Grand Prize Draw, which will take place:

On: Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
At: St Peter's Church Hall  
Time: After 11.15 am Mass, with welcome refreshments

Only fully paid-up members are eligible for each draw and our 300 Club year starts again in November when Standing Order subscriptions remain in place, but the monthly/yearly subscriptions become due. Members who currently pay by cash/cheque may switch to Standing Order at any time, as this is the easiest and safest way to subscribe. Grand Prize Draw for this year end October: 1<sup>st</sup>: £1,000 - 2<sup>nd</sup>: £400 - and six at £100, as well as the usual end of quarter/weekly prizes.

Prizes for the new year remain at £100 x 1 every quarter, £50 x 1, plus £25 x 2 every week. Please advise us if you have changed address, or if you would like to join the 300 Club for £5 per month. Contact any of the committee members (please see photographed Poster in our church porches for names) or see John Gray after the 10.30 Mass on Sunday.

Good luck with the draw.  
300 Club Committee

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK FOR WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**

**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY - Pray with the Global Church**

World Mission Sunday is our chance to show love and solidarity to our brothers and sisters overseas who share our faith. In offering our prayers, we join with missionaries everywhere in communion and compassion to support them in spreading the Good News, and by giving a donation we respond to Christ's call to feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

**Why WMS is so important to us.** Missio is responsible for coordinating World Mission Sunday and provides new, young or poor dioceses with the essential support they need on their journey to becoming self-sufficient. Donations are collected at these worldwide Masses and they go, in their entirety, to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor.

**Share Your Faith - Give Life.** We work through local bishops, churches and missionary congregations to ensure that resources are distributed equitably and justly - on the basis of need. The money goes directly from England and Wales to the bishops in the mission territories - local Church directly helping local Church! **Donate here>>**

**CAFOD Harvest Fast Day.**  
Thank you for your generous donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal.

## Background on the Gospel Reading Matthew 22:1-14 (shorter form Matthew 22:1-10)

Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a wedding feast.

Immediately after criticizing the religious leaders through the parable of the tenants in [last Sunday's Gospel](#), Jesus proceeded to tell another parable, again directed at the religious leaders. We hear this parable in today's Gospel.

In the parable of the wedding feast, Jesus offers an image of the kingdom of heaven using the symbol of a wedding banquet. In today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah and in today's psalm, the Lord's goodness is evident in the symbol of a feast of good food and wine. Jesus' listeners would have been familiar with the image of a wedding feast as a symbol for God's salvation. They would consider themselves to be the invited guests. Keeping this in mind helps us to understand the critique Jesus makes with this parable. The context for this parable is the growing tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders in Jerusalem. This has been the case for the past two Sundays and will continue to be true for the next several weeks.

The parable Jesus tells is straightforward. The king dispatches his servants to invite the guests to the wedding feast that he is planning for his son. The listeners would have been surprised to learn that the first guests refused the invitation. Who would refuse the king's invitation? A second dispatch of servants follows. Again, to the listeners' great surprise, some guests ignore the invitation. Some of the invited guests even go so far as to mistreat and kill the servants. The king invokes his retribution against these murderers by destroying them and burning their city.

We might stop here for a moment. Why would some guests kill the servants sent to invite them to the king's wedding feast? It might be possible that the king was a tyrant, evidenced by the destruction of the city of those who refused his invitation. But if we follow this idea, then the allegory seems to be about something other than the kingdom of heaven. It is more likely that the destruction of the city would have been a powerful image corresponding to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70, which would have been an important event for Matthew's audience.

With the invited guests now deemed unworthy to attend the king's wedding feast, the servants are sent to invite whomever they can find. The guests arrive, but it appears that accepting the king's invitation brings certain obligations. The guest who failed to dress in the appropriate wedding attire is cast out of the feast. We are reminded that while many are invited to the kingdom of heaven, not all are able to meet its requirements. God invites us to his feast, giving us his salvation. Yet he asks us to repent for our sins.

Jesus' message in the parable cautions against exclusive beliefs about the kingdom of heaven. The parable also teaches about humility. Those who assume that they are the invited guests may find that they have refused the invitation, and so others are invited in their place. To accept the invitation is also to accept its obligations. God wants our full conversion in complete acceptance of his mercy.

**300 Club Draw 1<sup>st</sup> October:** £50 E N (19). £25 J F (82), M W (137).

Are you looking for a Reception place for your child starting school in September 2024? **Christ the King is your local Catholic School.** It is rated outstanding by OFSTED and by the Diocese of Nottingham. We would love to meet you and show you around our vibrant school at our upcoming Open Days. We are holding our Open Days on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October @ 13:30 and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October @ 10.00. If you would like further information, please ring the school office on 0116 285726.

## Join Courses organised by the Light of Truth Apostolate and The Jesuit Institute.

The Dominican Sister of St Joseph are offering the following online talks and courses through their Light of Truth Apostolate: 24th October - 7:30pm-9:00pm - The Four Last Things: 4 Sessions to discover what Catholics believe about judgement, heaven, hell and purgatory 16th November - 7:30pm-9:00pm - Catechesis for the Third Millennium: 5 sessions to cover the main themes of the 2020 Directory for Catechesis, and discuss the challenges faced by catechists today. To sign up for these courses or to discover more that is being offered please visit: <https://www.lightoftruth.uk/join>

**Gathering for Young Adults** - Christus Vivit is the diocesan ministry to Young Adults aged 18-35. We will be starting a new group here in Leicester meeting on the fourth Thursday of every month at Sacred Heart, Mere Road. With a time of prayer, a talk, group discussion, and a social time at a local pub. Our first gathering will be on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 6:15pm, come along to meet other Young Catholics in Leicester and grow in faith. You can join our mailing list by emailing: [cv@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:cv@dioceseofnottingham.uk)

**Leicester Friends of Bethlehem** and The N'Ukes ukelele band invite you to an evening of music at St Anne's Church Hall, Letchworth Road LE3 6HS on Saturday 28 October at 7:00pm. All money raised will go towards the travel costs of The Hakaya Band of young dancers, singers and drummers from the Ghirass Children & Young People's Cultural Centre in Bethlehem, Palestine who are visiting Leicester next summer. Tickets £10 Contact: Claire Wintram (E: [claire.delune2021@outlook.com](mailto:claire.delune2021@outlook.com) or tel: 07534 618768).

### *Cycle of prayer during Ordinary Time-Autumn; we pray for these intentions:*

Students and Teachers. The Spread of the Gospel. The Harvest. The Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation. Justice and Peace in the World.  
All Victims of War. Young People, Prisoners and their Families.

### FOODBANKS

Please continue to support 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, with donations of dried food, tins, cereals etc.  
There is a box in the church porch for your donations. Thank you.



*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.*



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