

**Sunday 10th December - Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle B** - John the Baptist appears in Judea preaching repentance.

**Sunday 17th December - Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle B.** The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.

**Sunday 24th December - Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle B** - Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the kingdom that are being worked through him and praises John as more than a prophet.

**Monday 25th December - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass at Dawn** - The shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the infant in the manger.

**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.**

**Mass Intentions.** 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.**

**Cycle of prayer: during Advent and Christmastide we pray for these intentions: Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers.**



**Prayer for the Advent Wreath**

Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ,  
 for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people.  
 He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us.  
 He is the Saviour of us all. O Lord,  
 let your blessing come upon us  
 we light the first (purple) candle of this wreath.  
 May the wreath and its light be a sign  
 of Christ's promise of salvation.  
 May He come quickly and not delay.  
 We ask this in His holy name.  
 Amen.



	<p><i>Mother of God                  Greencoat Road                  Leicester LE3 6NZ</i></p> <p><b>☎(0116) 287 5232</b>                  ✉<a href="mailto:nogparish@gmail.com">nogparish@gmail.com</a>                  www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</p>	<p><i>Parish Priest: Fr Hans Puthiakulangara</i>                  e-mail: <a href="mailto:hansps83@gmail.com">hansps83@gmail.com</a>                  mob: 07428658756</p>  <p><i>NRC DT- Registered Charity</i></p>
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Our Schools: **Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - [www.ctkleicester.co.uk/](http://www.ctkleicester.co.uk/)**  
**English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - [www.emschool.co.uk/](http://www.emschool.co.uk/)**

Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914

	<p><b>First Sunday of Advent</b>  <b>3<sup>rd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023</b>  <b>Day of Special Prayers for Migrants</b></p>	<p>Jesus tells his disciples that they are to always be ready for the day of the Lord.</p>
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Sunday 3.12	6.30am 10.30am  4pm	Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite Holy Mass - Taylor/Quaini Family RIP Roderick Hynes RIP Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite	<p><b>The Pope's prayer intentions for December 2023.</b>  <b>For persons with disabilities</b>                  We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.</p>
Monday 4.12	No Service		
Tuesday 5.12	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Wednesday 6.12	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - St. Nicholas, Bishop	
Thursday 7.12	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass- St Ambrose, bishop & doctor	
Friday 8.12	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass-Tu Jose RIP <b>The Immaculate Conception of the BVM</b>	
Saturday 9.12	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Aliamma Thomas RIP	
Sunday 10.12	6.30am 10.30am  4pm	Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite Holy Mass - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite	

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY FOR POOR AND NEEDY PRISHES.**

**THE FOUR WEEKS OF ADVENT.** During the first two weeks of Advent, we light the first two purple candles. The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. On this day we celebrate that our waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas day is almost over. Rose is a liturgical colour that is used to signify joy, so we light the single pink candle on the third Sunday of Advent. Then on the fourth Sunday of Advent, the final purple candle is lit to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait expectantly for the soon-coming birth of the King of Kings. In modern day adaptations, the white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. The colour white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Saviour.

The first candle symbolizes hope and is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival. The purple colour symbolises royalty, repentance, and fasting.

**Background on the Gospel Reading Mark 13:33-37.**

Jesus warns his disciples to be watchful so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes.

Today we begin the season of [Advent](#), which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel—Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year’s first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark’s Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord’s return at the end of time and John the Baptist’s preparation for Jesus.

Today’s Gospel is taken from the end of Mark’s Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark’s account of Jesus’ Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples—Peter, James, John, and Andrew—who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face.

Today’s passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus’ warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Scholars believe that Mark’s Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark’s audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus’ warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.

Today’s Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church’s celebration of Christ’s birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ’s return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark’s community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.

**Mrs. Eve McEaney RIP.** Her funeral will be held at MOG church on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 10am, followed by burial at Gilroes Cemetery. Our sincere and deepest condolences to her family and friends.

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Our Christmas Bazaar has been a huge success. **We raised £2,677**, thanks to the hard work of the organisers and the helpers. We would like to thank you all and also a special thank you to our supporters who made it possible for it to be a success. We had a lovely time and was especially nice to see so many people in our church hall. **Thank you again!**  
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**300 Club Draw 18<sup>th</sup> November:** £50 P F (244). £25 Mrs S O’D (68), W M (196).

**LACY (Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth).** Calling all young people, families and friends at St. Thomas More Church, 75 Knighton Road, Leicester, LE2 3HN for an afternoon of craft and liturgy, on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023** creating cards with Christmas messages to be distributed to the sick and housebound, both at home and in hospital. Help us to pass on the Christmas message of hope, love and peace. Our afternoon begins at 3.00 p.m. and ends with a short liturgy at 4.30pm. The LACY team will be joined by one of the Chaplains from the Leicester Hospitals, Ed Pike, and your presence will make the afternoon very special. Christmas treats, mince pies and drinks will be served in the hall during the afternoon. **We’re looking forward to seeing YOU!** More information from Pauline Payne - Tel: 07885 187374 or e mail [joshearer@hotmail.com](mailto:joshearer@hotmail.com)/[paulinepayne@hotmail.com](mailto:paulinepayne@hotmail.com).

**VACANCIES: Join the team.** We’re looking for an Outreach and Communications Assistant! The recent diocesan consultation found a strong desire across the diocese in becoming a more outward-facing Church. We are seeking to recruit a skilled, enthusiastic and creative communicator to work three days a week with Caritas, and two days with the Communications Department. This role will interest anyone keen to foster a more mission-minded Church and to support parishes in their outreach. The role may be fulfilled on a job-share or part-time basis, with hybrid working (at our office in Nottingham and at home) a possibility. Applications close on 11 December. The Diocese is also recruiting for a Young Adult Ministry Lead, to develop the diocese’s work among those aged 18-35. Applications for this role close on 6 December [Visit the diocesan vacancies page.](#)

**Prayer for peace in Israel and Gaza**

Let us pray for the many people whose lives have been torn apart by conflict in Gaza and Israel.

We remember especially those who have died, those who are grieving, the injured and those now without food, shelter or medical supplies.

We pray also for those who have the power to bring peace. May they be touched by a spirit of compassion and kindness.

Lord, hear us.

Our Lady of Palestine, pray for us

	Please bring your red MISSIO box to church to emptied. Thank you. If you would like a Red Box, please speak to Maila Taylor.
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**The need for food banks in the UK is higher than ever before.**

In the wake of food poverty and often struggling with financial distress, our parish, this year would like to encourage parishioners to donate to food banks. **Please help by donating an item of dry food, tin etc. this Christmas or, if you prefer, there will be a box in the church porch for your donations, which will be taken to the nearest food bank. Thank you.**

