

Please note: Holy Water Fonts/Stoops are filled. Please use them.

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.

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

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.**

PEACE SUNDAY 14 JANUARY 2024

For his theme for the World Day of Peace in 2024, Pope Francis has chosen 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'. Whilst this might seem a strangely technical theme, we know that we do need to think about the consequences of the advances in AI for peace and justice.

New Year's Prayer

God, thank you for a new year.

May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate.

We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be Willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do.

Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

Amen



	<p>Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</p> <p>☎(0116) 287 5232 ✉mogparish@gmail.com www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</p>	<p>Parish Priest: Fr Hans Puthiakulangara e-mail: hansps83@gmail.com mob: 07428658756</p> <p>NRCDT- Registered Charity</p>
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Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - www.ctkleicester.co.uk/
English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/

Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914

	<p>The Holy Family 31st December 2023 – 7th January 2024 Second week of Christmastide</p>	
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Sunday 31.12	10.30am 10pm 4pm	Holy Mass in the Syro-Malabar rite English Mass Holy Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite	<p>The Pope's prayer intentions for January 2024. For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.</p>
Monday 1.01	9.30am 10am	Mary The Holy Mother of God Vinod Thomas Family ints	
Tuesday 2.01	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Vinod Thomas Family ints SS Basil the Great, & Gregory Nazianzen, bishops & doctors	
Wednesday 3.01	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Vinod Thomas Family ints Women's Forum ints / Roger Feeney RIP	
Thursday 4.01	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Vinod Thomas Family ints Stephy Tom Thanks	
Friday 5.01	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Vinod Thomas Family ints Anne Feeney-McGarr RIP	
Saturday 6.01	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Vinod Thomas Family ints Epiphany of the Lord	
Sunday 7.01	6.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite English Mass - Vinod Thomas Family ints Holy Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite	

A very big thank you to the choir who sang so well at the Vigil Mass, And to the Malayalam Community for decorating the church so beautifully and especially for the lovely Nativity Scene.

And also thank you to everyone

That throughout the year, have contributed to clean, vacuum and polish the church. The Choir, The Music Players, The Flower Ladies, The Catechists, The Church Committee, The Readers, The Special Ministers, The Altar Servers, and all our Supporters.

To all Parishioners and our Supporters

Best wishes for a wonderful and peaceful New Year 2024.



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, Background on the Gospel Reading Luke 2.22-40.

Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the Temple in accordance with the Law of Moses.

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. This celebration is assigned to the Sunday within the octave of Christmas. The Gospel for today is taken from the Gospel according to Luke and is part of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Today's Gospel describes the presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple and shows Joseph and Mary as devout Jews, following the prescriptions of the Law of Moses. The Gospel alludes to several aspects of the Law of Moses: circumcision, the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord, and the purification of a woman after childbirth.

According to the Law of Moses as presented in the Book of Leviticus, a woman was considered ritually unclean during her menstrual period and for a prescribed period of time following the birth of a child. After the birth of a son, a woman was considered ritually unclean for 40 days. After the birth of a daughter, a woman was considered unclean for 80 days. In order to be restored to ritual purity, a Jewish woman performed the appropriate rites of purification and made the prescribed ritual offering.

Today's Gospel notes that Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day after his birth, in accordance with the Mosaic Law. At that time, he was called Jesus, the name he was given by the angel Gabriel. On the 40th day after Jesus' birth, Mary performed the appropriate purification rites and made her offering at the Temple. Although the Law of Moses required an offering of a lamb, those who could not afford a lamb could substitute two turtledoves or two pigeons. In this scene, Luke identifies Joseph and Mary as being poor, and indeed throughout Luke's Gospel, Jesus will show special concern for the poor. Another Jewish rite referenced in this Gospel is the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord. In remembrance of the feast of Passover, when the firstborn children of the Israelites in Egypt were saved from death, the Law of Moses prescribed that all firstborn males of Israel should be consecrated to the Lord. In this tradition, Mary and Joseph present the infant Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem, Luke reports that Mary and Joseph encounter two devout Jews, Simeon and Anna, who recognize the infant Jesus as the fulfilment of Israel's hope for redemption. In Simeon's words we find a prediction of Mary's witnessing of Jesus' death on the cross. The Canticle of Simeon, also called by its Latin name, *Nunc Dimitis*, is prayed at night prayer, or compline, during the Liturgy of the Hours.

300 Club Draw 17th December: £50 M S (106). £25 Mrs A P (86), G H (120).

English Martyr's Start of term letter available from the church porch. If you have a child attending the school, please take a copy.

English Martyr's Preloved School Uniforms. A reminder that we are continuing with our Pre-Loved Uniform shop which will be open once a month. We would welcome any clean, good quality uniform — any donations please hand in to our Reception.

The Year of Prayer... 2024 being the second year of preparation for Jubilee Year 2025. Reflections from Pope Francis for the Year of Prayer: To God who blesses, we too respond by blessing — God has taught us how to bless and we must bless — through the prayer of praise, of adoration, of thanksgiving. The Catechism writes: "The prayer of blessing is our response to God's gifts: because God blesses, the human heart can in return bless the One who is the source of every blessing" (n. 2626). Very often it happens that we do not pray, we don't feel like praying, or many times we pray like parrots, with the mouth, but our heart is not in it. This is the moment to say to the Spirit: "Come, come Holy Spirit, warm my heart. Come and teach me to pray, teach me to look to the Father, to look to the Son. Teach what the path of faith is like. Teach me how to love and, above all, teach me to have an attitude of hope." The diocese is producing a monthly podcast for the Year of Prayer called Encounter Prayer. Each month a different type of prayer will be showcased; this first episode is given by Bishop Patrick who introduces the Year of Prayer, his hopes for it, and shares insights from his own prayer life. The Podcasts can be found on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Amazon Music and Audible by searching Diocese of Nottingham; they are also on the diocesan website: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/yearofprayer.

Diocesan Catechist Formation Courses. We have just finished our first pathway (Encounter Catechesis), with 20 catechists/potential catechists really enjoying the course and growing in confidence by the week. Our second pathway will begin at the end of January (Discipleship Catechesis) see below for more information. Discipleship Catechesis - this course is six sessions and is a crash course in the fundamentals of Catholic belief. It is aimed to give you a broad knowledge of Catholic theology and how to present it. Missionary Catechesis - this course is also four sessions and explores whys to advance your parish catechesis, to go beyond sacramental preparation and to adapt catechesis for those with special or additional needs. The cost for Discipleship Catechesis is £50 and Missionary Catechesis is £25, it is normal for parishes to cover the cost of Catechist training so please speak to your parish priest about funding. See our flyer [here](#). Encounter Catechesis will be starting on Wednesday 24th January - 7pm on Zoom. You can sign up/request more information from: [get in touch](#). For more information on the courses please email: adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Marriage Care are delighted to announce the launch of our Certificate in Relationship Counselling (CRC) training for 2024 in partnership with our sister organisation, ACCORD NI. This is a unique opportunity for those with the right skills to train and volunteer with us as relationship counsellors even if they do not have any previous counselling experience or qualifications. The CRC course will train and equip selected volunteers to safely and effectively counsel couples. They will then be able to join one of our local centres and support our mission to provide low cost counselling services to those in need - volunteering just two sessions a week that will make a huge difference to couples and families. The CRC is planned to start in April 2024 with the first training weekend held on the weekend of 19th & 21st April in Crossgar, Downpatrick. We will be selecting applicants from both Northern Ireland and England and Wales. The deadline for applications is Wednesday 20 December. If shortlisted, you will be invited to attend an initial interview via webcam or in person. The national Selection Day for England and Wales applicants will take place on Saturday 17 February 2024. Full information about the CRC can be found on our webpage: marriagecare.org.uk/crc.