

Lent arrives on Wednesday 14th February.



Fight global poverty by walking 200 km over 40 days.

Sign up for CAFOD Big Lent Walk and challenge yourself to try something new. Stand in solidarity with communities around the world by walking, running, rolling or strolling with friends and family, in your school, in your parish, or simply on your own.

[Sign up now](#)

This Lent, Family Fast Day is on Friday 23rd February.

Cycle of prayer during Ordinary Time (Winter).

Peace on Earth. Openness to the Word of God. Christian Unity.

The Sick and Those who Care for Them. Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it. The Unemployed.



Almighty God,

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!

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Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - www.ctlleicester.co.uk/ English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/			
Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914			
		Fourth Week of Ordinary Time 28th January – 4th February 2024 Racial Justice Day	Day of Special prayer for Racial Justice Day
Sunday 28.01	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass in the Syro-Malabar rite English Mass - Frances McLaughlin RIP Holy Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite	The Pope's prayer intentions for February 2024. For The Terminally Ill Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.
Monday 29.01	No Service		
Tuesday 30.01	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Rose Thomas Thanksgiving	
Wednesday 31.01	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - St. John Bosco, priest	
Thursday 1.02	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Vinod Thomas & family intentions	
Friday 2.02	9.30am 10am 5pm 5.30pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass Silent Adoration Holy Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite	
Saturday 3.02	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Sunday 4.02	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite English Mass Holy Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite	

Praying for an end of suffering caused by racism.

God of our past, present and future,
you created each one of us in your image and likeness,
help us to recognise you in each person.

As we pray for end to suffering caused by racism
lead us this day to walk with one another,
pray with one another and work together,
so that we create a future based on justice and healing,
where all can fulfil the hope you have for all peoples.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Induction Mass of Father Hans
will be on Saturday, 10th February 2024 at 2.00pm.

Background on the Gospel Reading Mark 1:21.28.

Jesus heals a man with an unclean spirit and his fame spreads throughout Galilee.

Today's Gospel continues our reading from Mark and describes what some believe was likely to have been a typical day in Jesus' ministry. Jesus and the disciples that chose to follow him in last week's Gospel arrive at Capernaum, a small village on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus teaches in the synagogue on the Sabbath. Mark reports that the people respond to Jesus' teaching with astonishment, noting Jesus' authority and contrasting it with the scribes. Early in Mark's Gospel we already find evidence of the tension that will manifest itself fully in Jerusalem.

After Jesus' preaching, an even more astonishing thing happens. A man possessed with an unclean spirit calls out to Jesus. As we see in this example and throughout Mark's Gospel, the spirits and demons seem to know Jesus and are often fearful of him. In fact, they seem to understand Jesus' identity better than his disciples. As we will read again and again in Mark's Gospel, Jesus orders the spirit to be quiet and drives the unclean spirit out of the man. Jesus' ability to heal those possessed by demons is an indication of his power over evil.

In the prescientific age of Jesus' time, all illnesses were understood to be manifestations of evil and sinfulness. Our modern understanding of illness is very different. Possession by unclean spirits may have been a way to describe what we might call mental illness today. It may have even been a way of describing certain kinds of physical conditions. There is evidence that there were many kinds of exorcists and healers in first-century Palestine. Jesus appears to be like these healers, but he heals with unique authority and connects his healing activities with the words of his preaching.

We are missing the point that Mark is trying to make in this Gospel, however, if we try to explain away the healing work of Jesus. The crowds see in Jesus' cure of the possessed man further affirmation of his authority. Jesus' power to heal gives greater credence to his teaching. Jesus impresses the crowds through his words, which are manifested with power in his deeds. Mark's Gospel tells us that because of the authority with which he healed; Jesus' fame spread throughout all of Galilee.

Reflection from Pope Francis for the Year of Prayer. If during prayer we feel sluggish and empty, we must at that moment beg that Jesus' prayer also become our own. "I cannot pray today, I don't know what to do: I don't feel like it, I am unworthy". In this moment Jesus is before the Father, praying for us; let us trust in this! If we are trustful, we will then hear a voice from heaven, "You are God's beloved, you are a child, you are the joy of the Father in heaven". To read the full reflection and find more resources at www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/yearofprayer.

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.

Last year, the 300 Club raised £7,500 (£2,500) for each church! Many thanks to everyone who is part of this fundraising parish lottery and an especially thanks to those who organise and promote it. A particular mention to Donna Brighton who died last year. May she rest in peace.
There is still time to join the Club, speak to John Gray after the 10.30am Mass on Sunday.

300 Club Draw 21st January 2024: £50 N D (257). £25 M A (138), H C (129).

Homes for Ukraine. Join us on Friday, February 2, at 2:30pm at The Frassati Centre, Holy Cross Priory, 45 Wellington St, Leicester LE1 6HW for a Homes for Ukraine gathering hosted by SJOG and CSAN. Nearly two years since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the number of those still wishing to evacuate and find refuge in the UK continues to be high. It is a programme run by St John of God Hospital Services in partnership with Caritas Social Action Network. We support people on their journey and provide opportunities to integrate into community life in the UK. You will find a wealth of useful information about hosting that will give you a clear understanding to help you decide if it is right for you. Please register on <https://forms.office.com/e/7p54vDsGbz>.

Leicester Council of Faiths is holding a series of Conversations About Cancer events where we can come together, in an informal and supportive environment, to talk about cancer, and help Macmillan Cancer Support to work with people affected by cancer. For the first Conversations about Cancer event members from the Christian faith are invited to Sacred Heart Guild Hall, 25 Mere Road, Leicester, LE5 3HS on Tuesday 6th February from 5.30pm for a 6pm start. Bookings are via projectofficer@leicestercounciloffaiths.org.uk.

Three Leicester cinemas are showing Christian films in February **The Chosen** - Season 4 episodes 1 to 3 is showing on Thursday 1st February at Leicester Odeon at 7.50pm. And Leicester Vue at 7.15pm and Leicester Showcase at 7pm. The Chosen is a major new drama series which has now reached the mid-point of Jesus' ministry. Season 4 - episodes 4 to 6 will then be showing at cinemas on Thursday 15th February only. Season 4 episodes 7 to 8 will be showing at cinemas on Thurs. 29th February. For details and to book go to: thechosentv.co.uk.

Please keep in your prayers all the sick and housebound people of the parish, also let's pray for the deceased 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 storm and flooding and have lost their home and livelihood.

FOODBANKS.

Thank you so much to all that donated food for the FOODBANKS. It is very much needed. Please continue to donate, if you can.