



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.
CAFOD Envelopes for your donations will be distributed next Sunday.**

Please bring your old, blessed palms to church.

Ash Wednesday is the doorway into our Lenten season of renewal - a day rich in associations and symbolism. It marks the beginning of Lent - a time for turning again to the practice of our faith, in prayer, self-denial (fasting) and practical generosity (almsgiving). Although it is not a Holy Day of Obligation, many Catholics consider it important to receive ashes on this day. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of a period of 40 days (Sundays excluded) in which Catholics prepare for Eastertide. This period also represents the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert as well as the 40 years that the Israelites spent in exile. The ashes themselves come from the burned palms from last year's Palm Sunday celebration: thus, bringing us full circle to our last celebration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. On Ash Wednesday, we are reminded that we are called to turn away from sin, to repent and to believe the Good News of our salvation through Jesus Christ.

Receiving Ashes: an outward sign of an inner step "As we cross this threshold, we customarily receive ashes on our foreheads, in the sign of the cross. This is a public mark of our turning again to God, seeking his mercy, forgiveness and help. "We use these words: 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return'. Yes, we cannot pretend otherwise. Or: 'Repent, and believe in the Gospel'. Yes, we seek the one thing that is absolutely necessary: the grace of God."







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.

		Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ ☎(0116) 287 5232 ✉ nogparish@gmail.com www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk	Parish Priest: Fr Hans Puthiakulangara e-mail: hansps83@gmail.com mob: 07428658756  NRCDT- Registered Charity
Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - www.ckleicester.co.uk/ English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/			
Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914			
		Sixth Week of Ordinary Time 11th – 18th February 2024	 Stations of the Cross every Friday after morning Mass.
Sunday 11.02	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass in the Syro-Malabar rite English Mass - William & Catherine McHugh 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 12.02	5.30pm	Syro Malabar rite Mass (Start of Lent) Private Intentions	
Tuesday 13.02	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Thanksgiving	
Wednesday 14.02	10am 6pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Mass - Women's Forum intentions Holy Mass	
Thursday 15.02	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Violet Saddington RIP	
Friday 16.02	10am 5.30pm	Holy Mass & Stations of the Cross Thanksgiving - Veronica Merrigan Syro Malabar Mass & Stations of the Cross	
Saturday 17.02	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Uthuppan Ulahannan RIP	
Sunday 18.02	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	First Week of Lent Holy Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite English Mass - Private Intentions Holy Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite	

Cycle of prayer during Lent.

Candidates for the Sacrament. Women.
The Needy and Hungry of the World. Penitents and Wonderers.

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.

Father Hans would like to thank all the parishioners and participants who contributed to make his Induction Mass such a special occasion. He will keep us all in his prayers.

Background on the Gospel Reading Mark 1:40-45.

Jesus cures a person with leprosy, who reports his cure to everyone.

In today's Gospel, we continue to hear Mark report the miraculous healings that Jesus performed in Galilee. The Gospel begins with Jesus healing a man with leprosy. Leprosy is a disfiguring, infectious skin disease that has been surrounded by many social and religious taboos throughout history. In 1873, the cause of leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, was identified. We now know that leprosy is caused by a bacterial infection. Although it is infectious, modern medical studies have shown that transmission is more difficult than previously thought. Since the 1940s, medical treatments have been available, and the patient no longer needs to be isolated once long-term treatment has begun.

In Jesus' time, however, religious and social taboos dictated the behaviour of those with leprosy and other skin diseases. The Law of Moses provided for the examination of skin diseases by the priests, and if leprosy was identified, the person was declared unclean. People with leprosy lived in isolation from the community. They were instructed to rip their clothes and to announce their presence with loud cries when moving in the community. If the sores of leprosy healed, the Law of Moses provided a purification rite that permitted the person to return to the community.

In today's Gospel, the man with leprosy took the initiative, approaching Jesus and asking for healing. In doing so, the leper violated the religious customs of the day by approaching a person who was clean. His request to Jesus can be interpreted as a courageous and daring act. The confidence of the leper in Jesus' ability to heal him is evident in the words of his request. But his words can also be read as a challenge to Jesus, asking just how far Jesus was willing to extend himself in order to heal someone. While healing the man, Jesus touched him, which also violated established social norms. This is an important sign of the depth of Jesus' compassion for the man and an important statement about Jesus' interpretation of the Law of Moses.

Although Jesus touched the leper, he did not break completely with the Law of Moses. He instructed the man not to tell anyone about the cure and told him to present himself to the priests as prescribed by the Law of Moses. The first instruction sounds nearly impossible to honour. Certainly, the man would want to share the good news of his healing, and his quick improvement would require an explanation. The second instruction honours the Law of Moses.

Mark's Gospel tells us that after this healing, it became difficult for Jesus to travel freely. There are several possible explanations for this. There might have been concern about the repercussions of Jesus' breach of social and religious norms. In touching the man with leprosy, Jesus made himself unclean. Mark's narrative, however, leads to the conclusion that Jesus' movement was hampered by his popularity. Despite his instructions, the cured man spread the word about Jesus' healing power. Even when Jesus was in deserted places, people sought him out in search of his healing.

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. 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.

300 Club Draw 28th January 2024: £50 Mrs M U (17). £25 M G (56), H p (176).

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.

LACY Walk for CAFOD. Sharing in the "Big Lent Walk". **SUNDAY 17TH MARCH 2024.** Young People come and join us! Bring your families and friends. Enjoy a short walk commencing from St. Mary's, Countesthorpe Road, South Wigston, LE18 4PG at 2.00 p.m. Walk as much as you can - route supplied - trail to follow with prizes for correct answers! A craft opportunity for younger children who don't want to walk too far and refreshments. Celebration of Mass at 4.00 p.m. praying for all those in the areas of conflict in the world. Calling all young people to support! LET'S PUT OUR FAITH INTO ACTION THIS LENT! Looking forward to seeing you! More details of the afternoon? e mail: paulinepayne@hotmail.com for sponsor forms and details of Just Giving Account or just turn up at 2.00 p.m. where this information will also be available.

Three Leicester cinemas are showing Christian films in February **The Chosen** - 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.



caritas. Sjog-homesforukraine.uk, has send us this prayer.

*Mary, Our Lady of Kiev, Mother of God,
we ask you to intercede for the people of Ukraine, for their government,
and all who suffer as a result of war. Be with them as you stood beside your Son,
suffering on the cross at Calvary. Give them strength and courage through faith,
hope and justice. May we, in our turn, support them through prayer and generosity
that human lives may be saved, that the injured may be healed,
that the dead may rest in peace, that there will be peace after war.*

Amen.

Please take a prayer card from the church porch.

FOODBANKS. We are extremely grateful to all the parishioners who donates food for the FOODBANKS. It is very much needed. Please continue to donate, if you can.
A huge thank you to all of you!



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