



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.](#)

**Please bring your old, blessed palms to church.**

**The Pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving**

Saint Augustine described “Prayer, fasting and almsgiving” as the Pillars of Lent. The role of any pillar is to support, from the soft pillar we rest our head on each night to the pillars of the buildings we live and work in; they all support something. Pillars of Lent support our way of living the Gospel. The ideals of prayer, fasting and almsgiving support us on our whole Christian journey rather than are something we inflict on ourselves for just forty days of the year. Jesus summed up the pillars of discipleship - “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Prayer) “You shall love your neighbour (almsgiving) as yourself (fasting)” Matt 22:37,39. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving remind us to put our relationships right again (conversion).

**Prayer**, places us into right relationship with God.

**Fasting**, places us into right relationship with our self (our body).

**Almsgiving**, places us into right relationship with others (almsgiving).

**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.**



**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

	<p><b>Mother of God</b>          Greencoat Road          Leicester LE3 6NZ</p> <p>☎(0116) 287 5232          ✉<a href="mailto:mogparish@gmail.com">mogparish@gmail.com</a>  <a href="http://www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk">www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Parish Priest: Fr Hans Puthiakulangara</b>          e-mail: <a href="mailto:hansps83@gmail.com">hansps83@gmail.com</a>          mob: 07428658756</p> <p>NRCDT- Registered Charity</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 Week of Lent</b>  <b>18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024</b></p>	<p><b>Stations of the Cross every Friday after morning Mass.</b></p>
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Sunday 18.02	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass in the Syro-Malabar rite English Mass - Teresa Knott ints. Holy Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite	<p><b>The Pope's prayer intentions for February 2024.</b>  <b>For The Terminally Ill.</b>          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.</p>
Monday 19.02	No Service		
Tuesday 20.02	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Wilfred Pedeo do Rosario (B'day)	
Wednesday 21.02	5.30 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Jean Hidelavatchi RIP	
Thursday 22.02	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration The Chair of St. Peter (Feast) Holy Mass - Thanks giving - Betty Tom	
Friday 23.02	10am 5.30pm	Holy Mass & Stations of the Cross Syro Malabar Mass & Stations of the Cross	
Saturday 24.02	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Sunday 25.02	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite English Mass - Guest speaker from CAFOD Holy Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite	

**This Lent, Family Fast Day is on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. CAFOD Envelopes for your donations will be distributed today and will be collected next Sunday.**

**LENT PRAYER**

Loving God, when our boat is rocked by poverty, illness or disaster,  
 you quiet the waves, and lead us safely to shore.  
 When we work hard, but still go hungry, you walk beside us,  
 calling “cast your nets”, there is enough for all.  
 Lead us, Lord to play our part in calming the storm  
 and sharing your gifts so all people may look to the future with hope.  
 Amen.

**Cancellation details. Please note that there will be no Children's Liturgy today. Also, refreshments will not be available in the hall today. Both these activities will continue as usual next Sunday.**

**Repository Items**

The repository has now been restocked with new religious items and cards. If you need to buy anything, please contact Teresa Knott, Vincy Jacob or Sheena Cuerian.

## Background on the Gospel Reading Mark 1:12-15.

Jesus is tempted in the desert by Satan.

On the first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel reading in each Lectionary cycle is about Jesus' temptation in the desert. This event in the life of Jesus is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—but it is not found in John's Gospel. This year we read Mark's account of this event.

Compared to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the details throughout Mark's narrative are sparse. This is evident in Mark's account of Jesus' temptation in the desert. Mark tells us only that Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and that for 40 days he was tempted by Satan. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke explain that Jesus fasted while in the desert, that Satan presented him with three temptations, and that Jesus refused each one, quoting Scripture. Only the Gospels of Matthew and Mark report that angels ministered to Jesus at the end of his time in the desert.

In each of the Synoptic Gospels, the temptation of Jesus follows his baptism by John the Baptist. In Mark's Gospel, we are told that Jesus went into the desert immediately after his baptism, led by the Spirit. Jesus' public ministry in Galilee begins after his temptation in the desert. Mark's Gospel makes a connection between the arrest of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Jesus' preaching about the Kingdom of God is in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist, but it is also something new. As Jesus announces it, the Kingdom of God is beginning; the time of the fulfilment of God's promises is here.

The fact that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert is significant. This recalls the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the desert after being led from slavery in Egypt. The prophet Elijah also journeyed in the desert for 40 days and nights, making his way to Horeb, the mountain of God, where he was also attended to by an angel of the Lord. Remembering the significance of these events, we also set aside 40 days for the season of Lent.

In Mark's Gospel, the desert marks beginning of Jesus' battle with Satan; the ultimate test will be in Jesus' final hours on the cross. In a similar way, our Lenten observances are only a beginning, a preparation for and a reinforcement of our ongoing struggle to resist the temptations we face in our lives. During Lent, we are led by the Holy Spirit to remember the vows of Baptism in which we promised to reject sin and to follow Jesus. Just as Jesus was ministered to by the angels, God also supports us in our struggle against sin and temptation. We succeed because Jesus conquered sin once and for all in his saving death on the cross.

**300 Club Draw 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024:** £50 R K (109). £25 S O'B (228), A G (296).

**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.

**SJOG Homes for Ukraine.** As an official provider of the government scheme, SJOG Homes for Ukraine acts as a matching, training, and support pathway for guests from Ukraine and hosts in the UK who are willing to provide much-needed support. Our programme operates collaboratively with the esteemed Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN). At SJOG Homes for Ukraine, we offer a range of services to ensure fulfilling experience for both guests and hosts. These services include matching, training for hosts and guests, transportation assistance, a Welcome Box for Ukrainian guests upon arrival, and support during the placement. More information on the project can be found at the following links. Website: <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk>. E-mail: [homesforukraine@sjog.org.uk](mailto:homesforukraine@sjog.org.uk). Facebook: [facebook.com/sjoghomesforukraine](https://www.facebook.com/sjoghomesforukraine). YouTube: [youtube.com/@sjoghomesforukraine](https://www.youtube.com/@sjoghomesforukraine).

**Young Adults Evening Leicester.** An evening of prayer, witness & community for those aged 18-35. At Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Leicester on Thursday 22.2.24. We meet at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Leicester, from 6.15PM. We are delighted to be able to welcome Canon John Cahill, who has spoken at both our Nottingham and Derby gatherings. He is the Parish Priest of St Peter's and Blessed Sacrament in West Leicester. He is originally from Nottingham but has been ministering in Leicester for about 12 years and have been a priest for 30 years. While studying in Rome he specialised in Dogmatic Theology - that is the fundamental teachings of the Church and how to explain them to others. As it is the feast of the Chair of St Peter, Canon John will be explaining what is the role of the Pope and why we have one! 6.15pm Eucharistic Adoration - 6.30pm Confessions available - 7.00pm Talk / Guest Speaker and Reflection - 8.00pm Night Prayer and Social.

**Search for the Light at the Briars.** Search for the Light is back again this year! Take some time out this Easter to come to The Briars for an amazing retreat experience. You can come by yourself or with your friends, no parents or teachers needed, and take part in fun activities and opportunities to learn more about and deepen your faith alongside other like-minded young people. This retreat is open to all in years 10 to 13, between Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March, and costs £55 per person (with bursaries through the St Francis of Assisi fund). Get in contact on our Instagram (@NDCYS) or Facebook (NDCYS - The Briars) or call (01773 852044). Volunteer year at the Briars Applications for The Briars Team 24/25 are now open! Contact email [programmeleader@ndcys.com](mailto:programmeleader@ndcys.com).

**Nottingham Cathedral is hosting a Lenten Chamber Concert** on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm, featuring Buxtehude's *Membra Jesu Nostri*, and other Lenten Music, performed by the Cathedral Choir, Boys' Choir, Girls Choir and Arculo Consort. Tickets are available from [www.nottinghamcathedral.co.uk/what-s-on/upcoming-events/concert-buxtehude-s-membra-jesu-nostri/?d=638461260000000000](http://www.nottinghamcathedral.co.uk/what-s-on/upcoming-events/concert-buxtehude-s-membra-jesu-nostri/?d=638461260000000000).

**The Nottingham Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage** will be led by Bishop Patrick between Monday 15<sup>th</sup> and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July. By air from East Midlands Airport directly to Lourdes, prices for the full-board five-day pilgrimage start at £819, including a full liturgical programme, and medical care and assistance for those who need it. For more details visit [www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events/lourdes](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events/lourdes) or email the Pilgrimage Deputy Director at [simon.gillespie@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:simon.gillespie@dioceseofnottingham.uk).

**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!**