

The Eucharist - Receiving the Eucharist this Lent

During Lent, by almsgiving, prayer and fasting we reflect on the Kingly, Priestly and Prophetic Mission given to us in Baptism, when we became members of Christ's body, the Church, called to share his life to the fullest. Our communion with God and with one another is expressed most beautifully when we gather, in our parishes and other communities, to celebrate the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Church's life. We reflect on the centrality of the Eucharist in our lives, and to prepare us to receive the Precious Blood from the Chalice once again in our Diocese, beginning with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday this year. Pope Francis describes our parishes as places of welcome, 'schools of service and generosity, with their doors always open: to those who are excluded, and those included - to all.' Let us pray that our celebration of the Eucharist will lead them to be such places. Those nourished by the Eucharist are called to bring the joy of the gospel to those who have not received it. Strengthened by the living Bread we are called to bring hope to those who live in darkness and in despair.'

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.



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

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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			
		Third Sunday of Lent 3rd – 10th March 2024	 Stations of the Cross every Friday after morning Mass.
Sunday 3.03	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass in the Syro-Malabar rite English Mass - Sr Anna Patricia RIP Joseph Isaac RIP Holy Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite	The Pope's prayer intentions for March 2024. For New Martyrs Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.
Monday 4.03	No Service		
Tuesday 5.03	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Wednesday 6.03	5.30 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Thursday 7.03	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Friday 8.03	10am 5.30pm	Holy Mass & Stations of the Cross Syro Malabar Mass & Stations of the Cross	
Saturday 9.03	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Sunday 10.03	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite English Mass - Dulio, Belanita Lopes & Francisco Marta Rosario RIP Holy Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite	

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.

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.

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 John 2:13-25.

Jesus drives out the moneychangers from the Temple and says that he will destroy the temple and raise it up again.

In today's Gospel we read about how Jesus overturned the tables of the merchants and the moneychangers in the Temple at Jerusalem. In order to understand the relevance of Jesus' action, we must learn more about the activities that were going on in the temple area. Worship at the Temple in Jerusalem included animal sacrifice, and merchants sold animals to worshipers. Moneychangers exchanged Roman coins, which bore the image of the Roman emperor, for the temple coins that were needed to pay the temple tax.

Jesus' action at the Temple in Jerusalem is recorded in all four Gospels and is often understood to be among the events that led to Jesus' arrest and Crucifixion. The Gospel of John, however, places this event much earlier in Jesus' public ministry than do the Synoptic Gospels. In John's Gospel this event occurs at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, after his first miracle at the wedding feast at Cana.

We must read the Gospel of John carefully, especially in its presentation of Jesus' relationship to Judaism. The Gospel of John tends to reflect greater tension and animosity between Jesus and the Jewish authorities than the Synoptic Gospels. The Gospel of John was the last of the four Gospels to be written, and its narrative reflects the growing divide between the Jewish community and the early Christian community. Thus, greater emphasis on the distinction between Christianity and Judaism is found in John's Gospel.

Reflecting upon the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem (A.D. 70), John recalls Jesus' cleansing of the Temple and uses that story to interpret this later event. John explains to his audience, an early Christian community, that temple worship would no longer be necessary because it was surpassed in the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. With greater frequency than the other Evangelists, John intersperses post-Resurrection reflections of this Christian community in his narrative.

After clearing the Temple of the merchants and the moneychangers, John's Gospel tells us that the people asked for a sign of Jesus' authority to do such an audacious act. In response, Jesus predicted his death and Resurrection. Throughout John's Gospel, the language of signs is distinctive. Jesus' miracles are called signs, and the people look to these signs for proof of his authority. Here we learn that the sign par excellence will be Jesus' passion, death, and Resurrection.

During Lent we reflect upon the meaning of this sign for us and for our world. We might take this opportunity to consider the quality of our prayer and worship. In our prayers we seek to deepen our relationship with the person of Christ. In our worship with the community, we gather to experience anew the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus and its significance in our lives. Christ promises to be present with us when we gather for prayer.

Lenten Women's Pilgrimage in The Holy Trinity Parish, Newark on Saturday 9th March from 10am to 3.30pm. Please bring your own packed lunch. The cost is £12. **Men's Lenten Pilgrimage** on Saturday 23rd March from 10.30 am to 3.30pm at Mount St Bernard Abbey, Coalville. Bring your own packed lunch. The cost is £12. All events will focus on the year of Prayer. Bring your packed lunch. Please See dioceseofnottingham.uk/events to find out more about these and other events.

300 Club Draw 25th February 2024: £50 S O'D (68). £25 B P (255), Y S (113).

Cabrini (12A) is at Leicester's Vue cinema, Friday 8th March at 6pm. Catholic missionary Francesca Cabrini arrives in New York from Italy in 1889 and manages to convince the hostile mayor to secure housing, healthcare and schooling for the city's destitute orphans. Tickets from just £4.99. To view the trailer and to book go to: angel.com/cabrini. Take a look at this review: [youtube.com/watch?v=RxVjXEhgEHU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxVjXEhgEHU). If there are good advance bookings the cinema will probably put on extra showings - watch the cinema website...and please book!

Nottingham Cathedral is hosting a Lenten Chamber Concert on Friday 15th 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.

LACY "Big Lent Walk" for CAFOD: Sunday 17th March 2024 commencing from St. Mary's, Countesthorpe Road, South Wigston, LE18 4PG at 2pm. Calling all young people families and friends to be with us! Aid for all the conflicts taking place in Ukraine, Russia, Palestine and Israel. Walk as much as you can, trail to follow, craft time and light refreshments! Celebration of Youth Mass with Fr. Simon Gillespie at 4pm., praying for all those in the areas of conflict in the world. For more details of the afternoon e mail: Jo Shearer, joshearer@hotmail.com. Details of the LACY Just Giving Account are: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/lacy-sharing-cafods-big-lent-walk>. You might like to WALK! SPONSOR SOMEONE! or DONATE! to the amazing work of CAFOD. LET'S PUT OUR FAITH INTO ACTION THIS LENT!

Search for the Light at the Briars. 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 28th - Sunday 31st 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.

Rediscover Your Marriage - Retrouvaille offers you the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. 10s of 1000s headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. There is no group therapy or group work. The next programme commences with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk.

The Nottingham Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage will be led by Bishop Patrick between Monday 15th and Friday 19th 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 or email the Pilgrimage Deputy Director at simon.gillespie@dioceseofnottingham.uk.

Please support an amendment to reduce our abortion law from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Babies born premature at 22 weeks are thriving and there is a contradiction in our abortion law. Collect a postcard today from the back of the church and post it to your MP in support of this amendment!