

Laetare Sunday is the fourth Sunday in the season of Lent, in the Western Christian liturgical calendar. Traditionally, this Sunday has been a day of celebration, within the austere period of Lent. This Sunday gets its name from the first few words (*incipit*) of the traditional Latin entrance (Introit) for the Mass of the day. "*Laetare Jerusalem*" ("Rejoice, O Jerusalem") is Latin from Isaiah 66:10.

This Sunday is currently also known as **Mothering Sunday, Refreshment Sunday, mid-Lent Sunday and Rose Sunday** (either because the **golden rose** sent by Popes to Catholic sovereigns used to be blessed at this time, or because the use of rose-coloured rather than violet vestments was permitted on this day).

Historically, the day was also known as "the Sunday of the Five Loaves," from the story of the miracle of the loaves and fishes. Before the adoption of the modern "common lectionaries", this narrative was the traditional Gospel reading for this Sunday in Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, and Old Catholic churches.

The station church at Rome for this day was Santa Croce in Jerusalem, one of the seven chief basilicas; the Golden Rose, sent by Popes to Catholic sovereigns, used to be blessed at this time and for this reason the day was sometimes called *Dominica de Rosa*.

A Reflection from Pope Francis for the Year of Prayer, Fourth Sunday of Lent:

Reflect on how constant prayer was the driving force of the missionary activity of the first Christians. Saint Luke tells us that they "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42). Today too, the Church's life is centred on prayer, which unites us to Christ, and inspires our witness to the Gospel and our charitable service to those in need. To read the full reflection and find more resources see dioceseofnottingham.uk/yearofprayer.

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.'



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

	<p>Fourth Sunday of Lent <i>Laetare Sunday</i></p> <p>10th – 17th March 2024</p>	 <p>Stations of the Cross every Friday after morning Mass.</p>
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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	<p>The Pope's prayer intentions for March 2024.</p> <p>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.</p>
Monday 11.03	No Service		
Tuesday 12.03	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Wednesday 13.03	5.30 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Thursday 14.03	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Friday 15.03	10am 5.30pm	Holy Mass & Stations of the Cross Syro Malabar Mass & Stations of the Cross	
Saturday 16.03	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Sunday 17.03 St. Patrick's	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite English Mass - 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.



A very happy Mothers Day to all the Mothers of the Parish.

Background on the Gospel Reading John 3:14-21

Jesus tells Nicodemus that the Son of Man will be raised up so that those who believe in him will have eternal life.

The fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called *Laetare* Sunday. *Laetare* is a Latin word that means "rejoice." Traditionally, Sundays are named after the first word of the liturgy's opening antiphon. On this Sunday, the antiphon is taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 66:10-11). Even as we observe our Lenten sacrifices, we rejoice in anticipation of the joy that will be ours at Easter.

Today's Gospel reading is taken from John's Gospel. It consists of two parts. The first part is the final sentence of Jesus' reply to Nicodemus, the Pharisee who approached Jesus at night. Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus as someone who had come from God and seemed to want to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus greeted Nicodemus with the observation that one must be born from above to see the Kingdom of God. The dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus that followed was about the meaning of this phrase. Nicodemus misunderstood Jesus at every point, but there was no animosity in the questions he posed to Jesus.

In the part of the conversation with Nicodemus in today's Gospel, Jesus referred to an incident reported in the Old Testament. When the Israelites grumbled against the Lord during their sojourn in the desert, God sent venomous serpents to punish them for their complaints. The Israelites repented and asked Moses to pray for them. The Lord heard Moses' prayer and instructed him to make a bronze serpent and mount it on a pole. All who had been bitten by a serpent and then looked upon the bronze serpent were cured. By recalling this story, Jesus alludes to the salvation that would be accomplished through his death and Resurrection.

The second part of today's Gospel is a theological reflection on Jesus' words to Nicodemus. The Gospel of John is known for this kind of reflection offered within the narrative. The words of the Evangelist are in continuity with the words of the prologue to John's Gospel. In these reflections, John elaborates on a number of themes that are found in his Gospel: light and darkness, belief and unbelief, good and evil, salvation and condemnation.

In John's reflection, we find an observation about human sinfulness. Jesus is the light that has come into the world, but people preferred the darkness. We wish to keep our sins hidden, even from God. Jesus has come into the world to reveal our sins so that they may be forgiven. This is the Good News; it is the reason for our rejoicing in this season of Lent and throughout our lives.

Cycle of prayer during Lent: Candidates for the Sacrament. Women.
The Needy and Hungry of the World. Penitents and Wonderers.

Gerry Tims RIP, passed away last week. We offer his wife, family and friends our deepest and sincere condolences. Funeral details to Follow.

John Murphy RIP, passed away recently. Our deepest and sincere condolences to his wife, family and friends. Funeral details to follow.

Patsy Stretton RIP, also passed away recently. We offer his family and friends, our deepest and sincere condolences. Funeral details to follow.

300 Club Draw 3rd March 2024: £50 A H (271). £25 B H (276), S P (91).

Nottingham Cathedral is hosting a Lenten Chamber Concert on Friday 15th March at 7.00pm, featuring Buxtehude's *Membra Jesu Nostris*, 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-nostris/?d=63846126000000000.

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!

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.

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.

Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham - Saturday 15 June. 11am - 4.30pm. Join with Bishop Patrick as we seek Our Lady of Walsingham's intercession for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Religious Life in our Diocese. For more information contact Father Neil Peoples 01283 564814 or vocations@dioceseofnottingham.uk or Deacon Seamus O'Looskan 0116 251 1437 or seamus.olooskan@dioceseofnottingham.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.