

Parish Council Update

The recent Parish Council Meeting on March 20th discussed a number of issues which we want the community to be aware of, as we move forward under the direction of Fr Hans.

1. There is a need to update the Parish Census. This process began last Sunday and will continue in the weeks ahead. Ian, the Chair of the Parish Council, will ask those who believe they are not on the parish census to give their details to Sharon at the end of Mass. A good number of people did so last Sunday. If you are new to the parish, you are very welcome and we would like you to make yourself known.

2. The parish website needs to be updated and work has begun to build a new site that is relevant and useful to all members of our community. We hope to have this work completed in the coming months.

3. The Parish Hall is in urgent need of repair. We agreed there needs to be a short term and a longer-term plan to renovate the Hall which is a valuable asset for our community and others who wish to use it. There are repairs which need to begin immediately and the approximate cost will be around £9,000. After Easter there will be a Second Collection to raise funds for the repairs. The date will be given later. We know how generous you are and know your response will be of great help.

4. The Finances of the parish would benefit from Planned Giving (Envelopes) and Standing Orders. Planned Giving allows the Parish to claim from HMRC, 25% of what is given. More on this later.

5. After Easter, Fr Hans will give a talk on the 'Syro-Malabar' Rite. Every Sunday, large numbers of parishioners from Kerala celebrate Mass (Qurbana) in the Syro-Malabar Rite which is very different from the Latin Rite which is celebrated at the 10.30 Mass. The Syro Malabar liturgy is ancient, dating back to the early days of the Church so it would be good for all of us to understand its history and development. The talk will be accompanied by food and soft drinks. Date to be announced, but it will be a Wednesday evening.

6. We recognise the need for the parish to grow and mature. Our aim is to encourage a strong faith in our younger people through worship, Family Life and Peer support. Plans are being developed through the Diocesan Outreach Service.

7. An International Mass will be celebrated on September 29th.

We shall continue to advise on Parish Council Meetings and developments.





Ian McKay - Chair of Parish Council.

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.

Cycle of prayer during Eastertide, we pray for those intentions:

New Members of the Church, Human Work, Vocations, Survivors of Abuse,
The Right Use of the Media, The Church.

		<p><i>Mother of God</i> Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</p> <p>☎(0116) 287 5232 ✉mogparish@gmail.com www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</p>	<p>Parish Priest: Fr Hans Puthiakulangara e-mail: hansps83@gmail.com mob: 07428658756</p>  <p>NRCDD- Registered Charity</p>
<p>Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - www.ctkleicester.co.uk/ English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/</p>			
<p>Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914</p>			
		<p align="center">Second Week of Eastertide</p> <p align="center">Divine Mercy Sunday</p> <p align="center">7th – 14th April 2024</p>	
		<p align="center">The Pope's prayer intentions for April 2024.</p> <p align="center">For The Role Of Women</p> <p align="center">Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.</p>	
Sunday 7.04	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite English Mass Holy Mass Syrio Malabar rite	
Monday 8.04	No Service		
Tuesday 9.04	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Wednesday 10.04	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Thursday 11.04	9.30am 10am 8.30pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass Reception into church - Patrick Joseph Stretton RIP	
Friday 12.04	10.30am	Requiem Mass - Patrick Joseph Stretton RIP	
Saturday 13.04	No Service		
Sunday 14.04	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass Holy Mass Syro Malabar rite	

Divine Mercy Prayer

Eternal God,
in whom mercy is endless
and the treasury of compassion - inexhaustible,
look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us,
that in difficult moments we might not despair
nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit
ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.
Amen

The Missionary sisters of St. Peter Claver will be here on Sunday 7th April to appeal on behalf of the Sisters Missions Committee of England and Wales. They will tell us about their Missionary Work and will be grateful for your support.

PS: End of term letter for parents from Mr Calen, Principal of English Martyr, in the church porch and on the website.

Background on the Gospel Reading John 20:19-31.

Thomas believes because he sees Jesus.

Today's reading from the Gospel of John is proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter in each of the lectionary cycles. This fact alone should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the resurrected Jesus that are described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to his disciples after his Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the disciple who doubted.

Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit, but in bodily form. We do not know, however, exactly what this form looked like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the risen Jesus, she did not recognize him until he spoke to her. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples walking along the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until he broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in his resurrected form, Jesus was not bound by matter; he appeared to the disciples inside a home even though the door was locked. Yet the disciples could still touch the marks of his Crucifixion.

In today's Gospel, Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun; as Jesus was sent by God, so Jesus sends his disciples. He gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit so that they will be able to accomplish this task. Jesus' words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share forgiveness and reconciliation with others.

Thomas, the doubting disciple in today's reading, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of witnesses to Jesus. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his disciples. Our human nature seeks hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to his disciples after his death is indeed the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative in obtaining this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed, for we have not seen and yet believe.

WORDS OF THE HOLY FATHER. In the redeeming contact with the wounds of the Risen One, Thomas showed his own wounds, his own injuries, his own lacerations, his own humiliation; in the print of the nails, he found the decisive proof that he was loved, that he was expected, that he was understood. He found himself before the Messiah filled with kindness, mercy, tenderness. This was the Lord he was searching for, he, in the hidden depths of his being, for he had always known He was like this. And how many of us are searching deep in our heart to meet Jesus, just as He is: kind, merciful, tender! For we know, deep down, that He is like this. Having rediscovered personal contact with Christ who is amiable and mercifully patient, Thomas understood the profound significance of his Resurrection and, intimately transformed, he declared his full and total faith in Him exclaiming: "My Lord and my God!" (v. 28). Beautiful, Thomas' expression is beautiful!

300 Club Draw 31st March 2024: £50 J S (270). £25 S D (31), L M (53).

We need to identify a parishioner called M Nazareth, please contact Fr. Hans or John Gray at the back of the church.

Mr Patrick Joseph Stretton RIP. Reception into the church on Thursday 11th April 2024 at 8.30pm. Requiem Mass on Friday 12th April at 10.30am, followed by burial at Gilroes Cemetery at 12noon. Our deepest and sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Fr John Daley IC RIP. Reception of Father John's body into Saint Joseph's Church, Leicester, on Wednesday 10th April at 7.00pm, with Mass. Requiem Mass for Father John Daley IC, in Saint Joseph's Church, Leicester, celebrated by Bishop Patrick on Thursday 11th April at 11.00am.

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.

Envelopes for April 2024 to March 2025 - Would you like a Box?

Please let Hope know or add your name on the list on the table at the back of the church. Also please sign the Gift Aid Declaration if you pay tax. For existing parishioners who have previously received a box of envelopes, please note the following: if your box replacement is not on the table at the entrance of the church, please put your name on the attached list. Tell us the number on your envelope and confirm you are a tax payer. **Thank You.**

'Talking Philosophy: A Carmelite Perspective' meets on zoom on first Wednesdays of each month from 7:45pm logging on, for an 8:00pm prompt start (with latecomers logging on when they can) and finishing promptly at 10:00pm. Key contacts Rev Deacon James Hunter CertEd BA MA OCDS james.hunter@dioceseofnottingham.uk. [01507 525274](tel:01507525274).

[Fellowship and Aid to the Christians of the East \(FACE\)](#) is pleased to announce the annual International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians, which will take place on the Sixth Sunday of Easter (5 May 2024), with the participation of Christians from all over Europe, the Middle East, the Horn of Africa and India. This Day of Prayer - promoted by FACE in partnership with the Dicastery for Oriental Churches - offers Eastern and Western Christians an opportunity to come together in prayer during the season of Easter. The occasion unites the Roman Catholic Church in Europe and the Eastern Catholic Churches in union with the Bishop of Rome. Please join us on this occasion in praying for an end to war and the reestablishment of unity and peace, and to give thanks for the steadfast witness of Eastern Christians in holding fast to their faith, traditions and biblical homelands, even though many suffer the effects of war and discrimination, especially those in Ukraine and the Palestinian territories who are dispossessed and displaced.



Please bring your red MISSIO box to church to be emptied and collect your free magazine. If you would like a Red Box, please speak to Maila Taylor. Thank you.

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

A huge thank you to all of you!