

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.

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.

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.**



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><i>Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</i></p> <p>☎(0116) 287 5232 smogparish@gmail.com www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</p>	<p><i>Parish Priest: Fr Hans Puthiakulangara e-mail: hansps83@gmail.com mob: 07428658756</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> NRC DT- Registered Charity</p>
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Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - www.ctkleicester.co.uk/
English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/

Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914

	<p>Fourth Week of Eastertide</p> <p>Good Shepherd Sunday</p> <p>21st - 28th April 2024</p>	<p>Mass intentions this week for all parishioners</p>
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Sunday 21.04	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite English Mass - Mrs Jean Hidelaratchi RIP Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	<p>The Pope's prayer intentions for April 2024.</p> <p>For The Role Of Women 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>
Monday 22.04	No Service		
Tuesday 23.04	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - St. George, martyr, Patron of England	
Wednesday 24.04	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Thursday 25.04	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - St. Mark, Evangelist	
Friday 26.04	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Saturday 27.04	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Sunday 28.04	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	

SECOND COLLECTION TODAY FOR CLERGY FORMATION FUND

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.



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

Background on the Gospel Reading John 10.11-18.

Jesus says that he is the good shepherd who knows his sheep.

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, our Gospel is taken from the 10th chapter of the Gospel of John. In Cycle B, we hear the middle verses of this chapter. Unless we consider this chapter in the greater context of John's Gospel, we will miss the radical nature of the statement Jesus makes when he declares himself to be the Good Shepherd.

This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by the Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the leadership of the Pharisees and the other Jewish leaders. The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angry that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31,39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death.

In the portion of the chapter that we hear proclaimed today, Jesus describes his relationship with his followers as similar to the relationship between a good shepherd and his sheep. As a good shepherd will risk and lay down his life in order to protect his sheep, Jesus willingly sacrifices himself for the sake of his sheep. Jesus contrasts the actions of the good shepherd with the actions of the hired shepherd who abandons the sheep in the face of danger. In the verses following Jesus' teaching, we learn that the Pharisees and the other religious leaders understand that Jesus is referring to them when he describes the hired shepherds.

The concern of a good shepherd for his sheep is part of the shepherd's job. Jesus says, however, that the actions of the good shepherd are based upon the relationship that develops between the shepherd and the sheep. This is at the heart of the difference between the good shepherd and the hired shepherd. The good shepherd knows the sheep and therefore acts out of love. For the Good Shepherd, this is never simply part of a job; this love-in-action is integral to his identity.

As with so much of John's Gospel, one hears in this passage John's particular focus on Christology. As the sheep are known by the Good Shepherd, the Father knows Jesus and Jesus knows the Father. There is an essential unity between the Father and the Son. The freedom with which Jesus acts when he lays down his life is rooted in the unity that he shares with his Father.

In this context, Jesus also refers to others with whom he shares a relationship. By this reference, John probably understands the eventual inclusion of the Gentiles in the Christian community. Our modern ears hear this as a reference to Christian unity. The work of ecumenism is to restore unity among all Christians so that we form one flock under one shepherd, as God desires.

Kathleen Bernadette O'Rourke (Berenice) RIP died last week. Reception into the church on Thursday 2nd May at 19.30, Funeral Mass on Friday 3rd May at 12 noon followed by burial at Gilroes Cemetery at 13.30. Our deepest and sincere condolences to her family and friends.

300 Club Draw 14th April 2024: £50 D A (194). £25 B P (281), B F (163).

The Diocesan Youth Service is looking for volunteers to help with the moderating process of the Faith in Action Award; a national scheme to encourage young people in their faith and service. Moderators could be anyone with or without experience of running the award. All training, guidance and support during the moderating process will be given beforehand. Moderation will take place during June. If you're interested, please contact Elise at eliserichardson@ndcys.com before the end of April.

"On Saturday 27th April, which is the 56th anniversary of abortion becoming legal in Britain, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this Country. Normally we would ask you to fast from all food except bread and water for the day, but as it is still the Easter Season, you might choose instead to fast from a particular food or luxury, e.g. chocolate, alcohol, cigarettes, TV. Through God's grace we have seen thousands of Mothers in our counselling centre continue their pregnancies in very difficult circumstances. Please help us to help save lives with your prayers, fasting and support. www.GoodCounselNetwork.com". Please take a few minutes to read this article, <https://catholicherald.co.uk/can-pray-and-fasting-really-make-any-difference-when-it-comes-to-abortion/>.

'Talking Philosophy: A Carmelite Perspective' meets on zoom on first Wednesdays of each month from 7:45pm logging on, for an 8pm 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.

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!

THANK YOU



In 2023 our parish raised £724.45 through the red boxes, including individuals giving directly. Our missionary community here at Mother of God is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries through prayer and financial assistance. Your support of Missionary Priests, like Fr Ignatius MHM working with rural community in Uganda, enables people to come together to celebrate the Eucharist and to work together to improve the lives of the whole community. Visit mission.org.uk to find out more.

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