

Parish Council Update.

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on April 17th. Here is a summary of what was discussed.

1. There will be a Summer Fayre on Saturday, 29th June, after the 10.00am Mass.
2. The Parish census continues to be updated and names of new members are being added every Sunday.
3. The next International Mass will be on Sunday, September 27th.
4. There will be a 2nd Collection May 5th. This is to raise money for urgent and immediate repairs to the Parish Hall. The cost is estimated to be around £9,000. Notification of the 2nd collection will be announced on Sunday, 28th April.
5. Bible Study classes will be held in Advent.
6. The Parish website is being updated and steady progress is being made.
7. It is proposed the parish will develop its own Confirmation Programme. More on this later.
8. The parish needs a Safeguarding Officer and also a Health and Safety Representative. These positions need to be filled as a matter of some urgency. It is a requirement of the Diocese that each parish has a recognised and approved person(s) to fill these roles. If anyone thinks they may be able to take up one of these positions, please contact Fr Hans. **Ian McKay - Chair of Parish Council**

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.

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.



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.ctlkeicester.co.uk/ English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/			
Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914			
		Sixth Week of Eastertide 5 th – 12 th May 2024 International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians	Mass intentions this week for all parishioners
Sunday 5.05	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass in the Syro- Malabar rite English Mass - Berenice O'Rourke RIP Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	The Pope's prayer intentions for May 2024. For The Formation Of Men & Women Religious & Seminarians Let us pray that men and women religious and seminarians, grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel.
Monday 6.05	No Service		
Tuesday 7.05	No Service		
Wednesday 8.05	No Service		
Thursday 9.05	10am	Holy Mass - The Ascension of the Lord	
Friday 10.05	No Service		
Saturday 11.05	No Service		
Sunday 12.05	10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass - Martin Lores RIP Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	

SECOND COLLECTION TODAY TOWARDS URGENT HALL REPAIRS.

Information for all Eucharistic Ministers. The Leicestershire Eucharistic Ministers Renewal Day is on June 22nd 2024 at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Leicester Road, Hinckley, Leics. LE10 1LW. The day will begin at 10:30 am with tea and coffee followed by our first talk and will finish between 3 - 3:30pm. *Many thanks - Mairead*

From Chris & Netsai Mukopfa: We are delighted to announce that we have received an apostolic blessing from the Pope in celebration of our 25th wedding anniversary. We are thrilled to share this special moment with our church community. We kindly ask Fr. Hans to present the blessing during the service this Sunday. Your presence and prayers would mean the world to us as we commemorate this milestone in our journey together.

Summer Fayre on Saturday 29th June after Mass.
 Please bring your unwanted gifts, bric-a-brac, items for the raffle to church.
 Thank you.

Background on the Gospel Reading John 15:9-17.

Jesus commands his disciples to love one another.

Today's Gospel follows immediately after the Gospel proclaimed last week, in which Jesus taught that he was the vine and that his disciples were the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus will lead to fruitful service. Today's reading extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others.

When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today's Gospel.

One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or *gnosis*, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today's Gospel as a response to this teaching. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love.

In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is *agape*. The second is *philia*. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, *philia*. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God.

Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude.

Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen—one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love.

This reading, like last week's, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In the context of John's Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus' Crucifixion. We read his instruction to the disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.

300 Club Draw 28th April 2024: £100 T D (268). £50 G McK (232). £25 F D (22), P D (25).

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.

New Parks Men's Shed. The New Parks Men's Shed is now open and is looking for volunteers with an interest in promoting men's mental health to join the project. They offer a warm and friendly environment where local people can work on making things, repairing tools or gardening. If you can help, or feel that you could benefit from this activity, then pick up an information leaflet from the back of the church or speak to John Gray.

Ask your MP to stop abortion up to birth being introduced: Diana Johnson and Stella Creasy have tabled amendments to the Criminal Justice Bill that would make extreme changes to our abortion laws. Both amendments would make it more likely that babies are aborted at home for any reason, up to birth. Take action: To oppose the abortion up to birth amendments, email your MP via this link: www.righttolife.org.uk/uptobirth.

'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).

Mass for New Catholics. Bishop Patrick is inviting all those who have been recently Baptised into the Catholic Church (Neophytes) to a special celebration of Mass on Sunday 12th May at 3.00pm in English Martyrs church, Derby (DE24 8QU). Following Mass there will be refreshments in the parish hall.

VACANCY: The Diocesan Education Service is seeking to appoint a highly professional, motivated Governance, Admissions, and Appeals Officer to join their small and friendly team. The post will start on 1st September, at a salary between £38k and £42k, and applications should be received by Tuesday 7th May. More details can be found at www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/careers.

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!

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.