

**LOURDES 2024:** 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](http://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events/lourdes) or email the Pilgrimage Deputy Director at [simon.gillespie@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:simon.gillespie@dioceseofnottingham.uk).

**Walsingham.** Gather together with Bishop Patrick on Saturday 15th June at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham 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 see the poster at the back of church, or contact Father Neil Peoples 01283 564814 or [vocations@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:vocations@dioceseofnottingham.uk) or Deacon Seamus O'Looskan 0116 251 1437 or [seamus.olooskan@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:seamus.olooskan@dioceseofnottingham.uk).

**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 Ordinary Time,** we pray for these intentions: A deeper understanding between Christians and Jews. Those who Suffer persecution, Oppression, and Denial of Human rights. Europe. Human Life. Seafarers.



**Prayer to St Joseph - Defender of Life**

Dearest Saint Joseph, at the word of an angel,  
 you lovingly took Mary into your home. As God's humble servant,  
 you guided the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem,  
 welcomed Jesus as your own son  
 in the shelter of a manger, and fled far from your homeland  
 for the safety of both Mother and Child.  
 We praise God that as their faithful protector,  
 you never hesitated to sacrifice for those entrusted to you.  
 May your example inspire us also to welcome, cherish, and safeguard  
 God's most precious gift of life. Help us to faithfully commit ourselves  
 to the service and defence of human life -  
 especially where it is vulnerable or threatened,  
 Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things.  
 Amen.

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

Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914

	<p><b>Eleventh Week of Ordinary Time</b>                  16<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024</p>	<p><b>Mass intentions                  this week for all                  parishioners</b></p>
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Sunday 16.06	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Joan Cooper Intentions Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	<p><b>The Pope's prayer intentions for June 2024.</b></p> <p><b>For Those Fleeing Their Own Countries</b>                  Let us pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys fraught with danger and violence, may find welcome and new living opportunities in their host countries.</p>
Monday 17.06	No Service		
Tuesday 18.06	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Wednesday 19.06	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Thursday 20.06	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Friday 21.06	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - St. Aloysius Gonzaga, religious.	
Saturday 22.06	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - St. John Fisher. Bishop & Thomas More, martyrs.	
Sunday 23.06	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Dulio & Belmita Lopes RIP Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	

**SECOND COLLECTION TODAY FOR DAY OF LIFE**

The Church teaches that life is to be nurtured from conception to natural death. In England and Wales, Day for Life is celebrated on the third Sunday of June each year. The theme is The Lord is my Shepherd - Compassion and Hope at the End of Life.

**A VERY HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL THE FATHERS OF THE PARISH.**

Margaret, would like to thank all the First Holy Communion parents for their very thoughtful and generous gifts and cards. It was a delight to work with you and your children. God bless.

**Summer Fayre on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June after Mass**

Please bring your unwanted gifts, bric-a-brac, all new and in good condition items, cakes and groceries to church. We also need items for the raffle and for the bottle stall.  
 Can you also bring your raffle tickets/money to church ASAP. Thank you.

## Background on the Gospel Reading Mark 4:26-34.

The reign of God is like a mustard seed.

After Lent, the Easter season, and three Sundays of feast days—Pentecost, Most Holy Trinity, and Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ—the Church returns to Ordinary Time. This Sunday's Gospel from Mark carries a significant message regarding faith and the Kingdom of God.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus appears reluctant to reveal his identity as the Son of God. After performing miracles of healing, he warns those cured to tell no one (see Mark 1:44, 3:12, 5:43, 7:36, and 8:26). Also, when preaching, Jesus chooses to speak to the crowds in parables, leaving them to discern his message. Only to his disciples does he explain the parable's meaning, and he does this in private at a later time.

Today's Gospel Reading consists of two parables about seeds. In the first, Jesus tells those gathered that this is "how it is with the kingdom of God." A man scatters seed which over time sprouts and develops. Then when the grain is ripe, the man harvests his crop. The emphasis in the parable is on the seed, which seemingly has the power to grow on its own. In this it is like the Kingdom of God. While on earth, Jesus planted the seeds of the kingdom by his life, miracles, teaching, and suffering. However, the kingdom is not yet fully established. Although already present in Jesus and his group of twelve, it has yet to come to fruition; just as the seed in the parable needs time to grow, so does God's kingdom.

The second parable focuses on the tiny mustard seed. Though not the smallest of all seeds, it is most likely the smallest that a first-century farmer in Jesus' part of the world would have sown. Small as the mustard seed is, it develops into a tree. Though the mustard tree generally averages only nine to twelve feet in height, it has a wide expanse and provides a nesting place for birds. Just as the tree welcomes the birds, so is God's kingdom welcoming and open to many.

These parables help us discern something about the kingdom of God and our own faith. In God we live and move and have our being, but God is a mystery and his kingdom, though present, has not yet come into its fullness. Today, the Kingdom of God is present in the Church. The mission of proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom given to the Apostles is now given to us. But just as seeds need time to come to fruition, so does the Kingdom of God. That is why in the Lord's Prayer, we pray, "thy kingdom come." We know that it will come in its fullness at the end of time. All we need is faith.

**300 Club Draw 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024:** £50 A G (296), £25 P D (25), M R (105).

**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 intentions.

**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!**

**General election with CAFOD and SVP:** we are encouraged to pray in the run up to the election, and to engage directly with election candidates using principles of Catholic Social teaching. Engagement could be by speaking to candidates on the doorstep, attending a hustings event, or sending letters/emails. Resources for all of these actions are available [here](#) (and may be in paper form in your parish). If you'd like to eat cake and write letters/send emails to candidates in a friendly informal setting, **please join members of Caritas Leicester and Leicestershire at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June at St Joseph's, Uppingham Road, Leicester.** Please bring your own laptops/phone/pen and paper- we'll provide refreshment, ideas and candidate information.

**Diocesan Family Day 2024 on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 1.30 to 5pm.** Trinity School, Beechdale Road, Aspley, Nottingham NG8 3EZ. Don't miss this free event for all ages. We will have a Mass with Bishop Patrick on the day. There will also be games, guests running sessions and activities, and food for everyone to enjoy. [Book your FREE tickets!](#)

**Calling Foundation Governors.** A virtual information session about being a foundation governor in one of our Catholic schools is taking place on Thursday 27th June from 7.00pm - 8.00pm. See the poster on the parish notice board, or contact: Julie Sweeney at [julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk](mailto:julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk).

**Support Caritas as a volunteer.** We're looking for people who'd like to help guide the work of Caritas and connect with parishes in their area. These roles do not demand a lot of time - at a minimum it would need an hour a month on average - what you do beyond that can be up to you and tailored to your passions and circumstances. If you are interested in the work described above get in touch. We'll send more information to help you find your part to play. [Email for more on Commission membership.](#)

**The Briars:** We offer a wide variety of venue hire opportunities and retreat experiences. To enquire about booking a stay or retreat please contact [bookings@ndcys.com](mailto:bookings@ndcys.com) via email or call us on 01773 852044. We have availability all through the year and you can book a self-facilitated stay or a stay with full support from our programme team. Whatever your needs, we look forward to hosting you at The Briars soon!

**VACANCY: Join us at the cutting edge of outreach.** The Catholic Diocese of Nottingham has an exciting opportunity for someone with an interest in social justice, environmental sustainability and community engagement. The role is for 22.5 hours per week, which we suggest is worked over four days, and is currently funded for two years. Applications are open now and will close on 20 June. [See our advert on the diocesan website](#) [Email for more on Commission membership.](#)

**VACANCY: Outreach & Programme Coordinator.** This dynamic and evolving role serving the young people of the diocese of Nottingham is pivotal to supporting the development and growth of NDCYS in service of the mission of the Church in the Nottingham diocese. This is an exciting and challenging opportunity for an experienced leader to develop new and existing ways of enabling the young people of the Nottingham diocese to encounter God, grow in discipleship and facilitate opportunities for mission in the context of the Briars retreat centre and outreach to schools and parishes. Deadline 19th June 2024. Interview w/c 24th June 2024. For more information, please contact [director@ndcys.com](mailto:director@ndcys.com). [MORE INFO.](#)