

Sunday 8th December - Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle C - John the Baptist appears in Judea preaching repentance.

Sunday 15th December - Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle C - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.

Sunday 22nd December - Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle C - Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the kingdom that are being worked through him and praises John as more than a prophet.

Wednesday 25th December - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass at Dawn - The shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the infant in the manger.

THE FOUR WEEKS OF ADVENT. During the first two weeks of Advent, we light the first two purple candles. The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. On this day we celebrate that our waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas day is almost over. Rose is a liturgical colour that is used to signify joy, so we light the single pink candle on the third Sunday of Advent. Then on the fourth Sunday of Advent, the final purple candle is lit to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait expectantly for the soon-coming birth of the King of Kings. In modern day adaptations, the white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. The colour white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Saviour.

CAFOD World Gifts Christmas is just around the corner! This year, why not give a Gift that Changes Lives? The CAFOD World Gifts catalogue is available NOW. CAFOD's World Gifts are thoughtful presents that support vulnerable communities around the world. Each World Gift works towards building a brighter future for those in need. It's a beautiful way to spread love and hope during the Jubilee year! Starting from as little as £4, why not order early and send a world gift instead of a Christmas card? Browse the full range of gifts here: <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk>. Let's make a lasting impact together this Christmas!



A Prayer for the First Sunday of Advent

Father, let your hope arise in our hearts! Lift our eyes up to see that you alone are where our hope comes from. Help us to shake off the anxiety, discouragements, and distractions that have filled this year. May we pause to remember that we have hope in you.


You know the end of our stories, and we give thanks because you have promised that it will be a victorious ending. Give us the grace we need to wrap up this year joyfully.

We invite your Spirit into this beautiful Advent season. Renew our sense of holy anticipation! Let us be those who are waiting eagerly for Jesus to come again.

More than anything, we ask that you be glorified in this season of expectation. Amen.


Stella Maris - Seafarers Christmas Shoe Box Appeal 2024

Thank you so much to all who donated Christmas shoe boxes for the Seafarers Mission in Immingham. It is very much appreciated.

	<p>Mother of God 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>NRCDT- Registered Charity</p>
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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/

MOG Safeguarding Officer: Michelle Dempster - 07718279920 - michelleadempster@gmail.com
Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914

	<p>First Sunday of Advent</p> <p>1st - 8th December 2024</p> 
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Sunday 1.12	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Kenneth Anderson RIP Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	<p>The Pope's prayer intentions for December 2024</p> <p>For Pilgrims Of Hope Let us pray that the coming Church Jubilee Year 2025 strengthens us in our faith; helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.</p>
Monday 2.12	No Service		
Tuesday 3.12	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Rosy Thomas RIP St. Francis Xavier, priest (memorial) Special day of prayers for Migrants and Refugees	
Wednesday 4.12	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Thursday 5.12	9.30am 10am 5pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass Requiem Mass - Damian Nnamdi Ogu RIP	
Friday 6.12	9.30am 10am 5pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Ann Maria Intentions Silent Adoration followed by Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	
Saturday 7.12	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Savio and family Thanksgiving St. Ambrose, bishop and doctor (memorial)	
Sunday 8.12	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY FOR POOR AND NEEDY PARISHES.

Today we will light the first candle which symbolizes hope and is called the "Prophet's Candle."

The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival. The purple colour symbolises royalty, repentance, and fasting.

CHRISTMAS Bazaar in the church hall

Will be on Saturday 14th December after Holy Mass with Carol Singing afterwards.

We need volunteers to mind the stalls.

Donations of any unwanted gifts, toiletries, bottles of alcohol, chocolates, biscuits etc. will be much appreciated. Raffle tickets are available now. For any enquiry, please see Teresa Knott.

Background on the Gospel Reading Luke 21:25-28,34-36

Jesus teaches his disciples to be vigilant so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes in glory.

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C). Today's Gospel is taken from the last chapter before the passion narrative in which Jesus is teaching in the Temple. We hear Jesus speak to his disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory.

The community for whom Luke wrote his Gospel may have believed that they were already experiencing some of the events Jesus described. Most scholars believe that Luke's Gospel was written after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. At the time, many Christians interpreted this event as an indication that Jesus' second coming was near.

Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus indicates that others will be frightened; Jesus' disciples are not to fear, but are to stand tall. Yet Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations. He encourages his disciples to pray for strength. The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. Instead, we find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God's unfailing love for us in all circumstances.

Jesus' predictions about the end times may sound dire, but in the next paragraph Luke tells us that people woke early to listen to Jesus' teaching in the Temple area. In his person and in his message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world.

Damian Nnamdi Ogu RIP: Requiem Mass on Thursday 5 December at 5pm. Our Deepest and sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Mr John Joseph O'Malley RIP: Funeral service at Gilroes Crematorium on Monday 9th December at 11.30am. Our deepest and sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Mary O'Shea RIP: Reception into church on Tuesday 17th December at 5.30pm. Requiem Mass on Wednesday 18th December at 1pm. Our Deepest and sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Francis Mohanye Etuokwu RIP: Service of Songs on Thursday 19th December at 5.30pm. Funeral Mass on 20th December at 11.am. Our Deepest and sincere condolences to his family and friends.

300 Club Results 24th November 2024: £50 M F (74). £25 A M (58), S C (112).

Mass Intentions; 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.

Is God calling me to be a priest? If so, please contact Father Neil Peoples, Vocations Director, at vocations@dioceseofnottingham.uk. to book a place at the next discernment meeting, taking place in Cathedral House, Nottingham, NG1 5AE after 10.00am Mass on Saturday 7th December.

Catechist Formation Pathways. Are you a catechist? Have you thought about being one? The Diocese offers 3 courses that can be done together or stand alone. Encounter Catechesis provides the foundations of catechesis; Discipleship Catechesis explores a good knowledge of key points of Catholic Theology; and Missionary Catechesis is focused on going beyond sacramental preparation to help form disciples of all ages. See bit.ly/formation2425 for information or email: formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk.

Throughout Advent and Christmas we are asked to pray for the following intentions: Openness to the Word of God, Migrants and Refugees. Expectant Mothers.

Please keep in your prayers all the sick and housebound people of the parish.

With the introduction of a new translation of the Scripture Readings for Mass the priests of the deanery encourage all current and prospective readers to attend a **Readers Course** we are running in advent this year. St Peter's Parish Hall, Hinckley Road, Leicester, LE3 0TA, Saturday 30th November & Saturday 14th December 11.00am - 1.15pm. The course will be presented in four sessions on these two days and will provide Deanery level certification for Readers. Please register with your parish priest or directly to Fr Vitalis Akandu: vitalis.akandu@dioceseofnottingham.uk.

Caritas Leicester and Leicestershire Advent Calendar: in this Advent season, we are amplifying the reach of some local charities which aim to bring light into darkness. There are, of course, many others. Please have a look and join us in raising hopeful voices. Colour version accessible [here](#) , and black and white if you wish to download and print [here](#). **See poster in church porch.**

Walk with Me. Special Advent edition in anticipation of the Jubilee Year 2025. The Jubilee Year begins on December 24, 2024 when Pope Francis opens the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. We enter the Jubilee Year as pilgrims of Hope, expectant and joyful, confident of receiving the blessing of God's love poured out into our hearts. "Cardinal Vincent Nichols". To order the booklet, call our Hotline on 01782745600 / email general@alivepublishing.co.uk / Visit our website: www.alivepublishing.co.uk.

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.

Let's also pray for all the people that have been affected by climate change and have lost their home and livelihood.

The need for food banks in the UK is higher than ever before. In the wake of food poverty and often struggling with financial distress, we would like to encourage parishioners to donate to food banks. Please help by donating an item of dry food, tin etc. this Christmas, which will be taken to the nearest food bank. Thank you.



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