

Christmas Masses and Services

Friday 20 th December	6pm - 8pm	Confessions
Monday 23 rd December	5pm- 7pm	Confessions
Christmas Eve 24 th December	10am	Holy Mass
	3pm	Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass
	6pm	English Mass followed by Christmas Carols
	9pm	Syro-Malabar Mass
25 th December - Christmas Day	8.30am	Syro- Malabar rite Holy Mass
	10.30am	Holy Mass

Sunday 15th December - Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle C - Gaudete Sunday.
Sunday 22th 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.



Prayer for the Advent Wreath

Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ,
 for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people.
 He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us.
 He is the Saviour of us all. O Lord,
 let your blessing come upon us
 we light the first (purple) candle of this wreath.
 May the wreath and its light be a sign
 of Christ's promise of salvation.
 May He come quickly and not delay.
 We ask this in His holy name.
 Amen.

	Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ ☎(0116) 287 5232 ✉ mogparish@gmail.com www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk	Parish Priest: Fr Hans Puthiakulangara e-mail: hansps83@gmail.com mob: 07428658756 <div style="text-align: center;"></div> NRC DT- Registered Charity
--	---	--

Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - www.ckleicester.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



Second Week of Advent
8th - 15th December 2024

John the Baptist
 appears in Judea
 preaching repentance.

Sunday 8.12	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Declan Doherty - get well soon Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	The Pope's prayer intentions for December 2024 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.
Monday 9.12	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Patron of our Diocese (Solemnity)	
Tuesday 10.12	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Mary Joseph RIP	
Wednesday 11.12	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Thursday 12.12	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Friday 13.12	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - St. Lucy, virgin and martyr (memorial)	
Saturday 14.12	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - St. John of the Cross, priest & doctor (memorial)	
Sunday 15.12	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Kathleen and Mich Quinn RIP Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	

SECOND COLLECTION TODAY FOR POOR AND NEEDY PARISHES.

The second candle represents **faith** and is called "Bethlehem's Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David. The second candle is also purple to symbolism preparation for the coming king.



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 3:1-6.

John preaches repentance and baptizes in the region of the Jordan.

This week and next, our Gospel readings invite us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. To affirm this, Luke quotes at length from the prophet Isaiah. John baptizes for repentance and for forgiveness of sins, preparing the way for God's salvation.

The three Synoptic Gospels—Mark, Matthew, and Luke—attest to the importance of the baptism of John in preparing for Jesus. Only the Gospel of Luke, however, extends the connection between these two men to their birth. The first two chapters of Luke's Gospel contain the Infancy Narrative, which tells about the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. These stories set the stage for the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in chapter 3.

The evangelist Luke is the author of the Gospel that bears his name, and he also wrote the Acts of the Apostles as a continuation of the story of Jesus and the Church. In these two works, Luke's sense of time and history emerges. He identifies three epochs of salvation history: the time before Christ, the time of Christ, and the time of the Church and the Holy Spirit. In today's Gospel reading, as elsewhere, John the Baptist is presented as the figure who bridges the time before Christ and prepares the way for Christ's own ministry.

In today's Gospel we also note Luke's attention to political and historical detail. Luke shows that salvation is for all people and situated in world events. Therefore, Luke lists the political and religious leaders at the time of John's appearance in the desert. Salvation is understood as God's breaking into this political and social history.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives the coming of the Lord, as John did.

A reflection from Pope Francis for the Year of Prayer, for the Second Sunday of Advent: To God who blesses, we too respond by blessing – God has taught us how to bless and we must bless – through the prayer of praise, of adoration, of thanksgiving. The Catechism writes: "The prayer of blessing is our response to God's gifts: because God blesses, the human heart can in return bless the One who is the source of every blessing" (n.2626). To read the full reflection and find more resources at dioceseofnottingham.uk/yearofprayer.

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.

300 Club Results 1st December 2024: £50 I McK (125). £25 J T (45), M A (138).

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.

Carols, Vespers and Mulled Wine: Young Adults' Evening. A festive evening for those aged 18-35 Young Adults. At Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Mere Road, Leicester on Friday 13th December 2024 from 5.45pm. Starting with Rosary, Mass at 6pm, Vespers and Carols led by Bishop Patrick McKinney. Nibbles and Mulled wine at 8pm. Key contacts Charles Archer, Young Adult Ministry Lead Adult Formation. charles.archer@dioceseofnottingham.uk. 0115 953 9850.

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: Migrants and Refugees. Expectant Mothers.

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

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@livepublishing.co.uk / Visit our website: www.livepublishing.co.uk.

**We continue to pray for Ukraine and its people, for the people of Israel, Palestine, Lebanon and Syria 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.

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!



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