

 **Christmas Masses and Services** 

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

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 season of Advent is observed in the four weeks leading up to Christmas day. It is a time of anticipation, preparation, and deepening faith. As we prepare to celebrate Christ's coming at Christmas, Advent invites us to look forward to His eventual return. Each Sunday of Advent centres on a theme: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. To find out more The Gift of Your Presence: Advent Resource - Catholic Bishops' Conference is structured around the Sunday themes that are aligned with the Scripture readings of the liturgical calendar. Each reflection includes Scripture references, a reflection, suggested prayers and action steps to enrich the Advent Season.

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.



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.

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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



Third Week of Advent

15th - 22nd December 2024

GAUDETE SUNDAY



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	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 16.12	No Service		
Tuesday 17.12	9.30am 10am 5.30pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Mary O'Shea RIP Reception into church of Mary O'Shea RIP	
Wednesday 18.12	1pm 5.30pm 6pm	Requiem Mass - Mary O'Shea RIP Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Thursday 19.12	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Roselyn Tom Thanksgiving	
Friday 20.12	9.30am 10am 6-8pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass Confessions	
Saturday 21.12	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - St. Peter Canisius, priest and doctor (as a commemoration)	
Sunday 22.12	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - David Collins RIP Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	

The third candle, known as the candle of joy. Instead of the previous two weeks of purple or violet candles, this week the colour of the candle will be different: it's pink. As a reminder, three candles are purple, one is pink, and the one in the centre is white.

 **CHRISTMAS Bazaar** 

A huge thank you to all who helped to organise our Annual Christmas Bazaar, the stall holders and to all our supporters.

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.

Background on the Gospel Reading Luke 3:10-18.

John the Baptist teaches the path of repentance and announces Christ.

This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. Recall that last week's reading described John's appearance in the desert and established his connection with the prophetic tradition of Israel. If we were to read Luke's Gospel continuously, we would learn about John the Baptist challenging the crowds who came to him and calling upon them to show evidence of their repentance. John tells his listeners that they cannot rely on their lineage as Israelites because children of Abraham can be raised up from stones. Repentance, rather, must be observable in one's actions. Here, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles.

In today's Gospel reading, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The concern for justice is a hallmark of Luke's Gospel.

When the crowd begins to wonder if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, John interprets his baptism and makes it clear that his ministry is in preparation for the Messiah. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation. By encouraging the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life, John's teaching suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in today's second reading from the Paul's letter to the Philippians. Some people mark this Sunday by lighting a pink candle instead of a purple one on their Advent wreath. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

A reflection from Pope Francis for the Year of Prayer, for the Third Sunday of Advent: Very often it happens that we do not pray, we don't feel like praying, or many times we pray like parrots, with the mouth, but our heart is not in it. This is the moment to say to the Spirit: "Come, come Holy Spirit, warm my heart. Come and teach me to pray, teach me to look to the Father, to look to the Son. Teach what the path of faith is like. Teach me how to love and, above all, teach me to have an attitude of hope." To read the full reflection and find more resources at dioceseofnottingham.uk/yearofprayer.

World Mission Sunday 2024: Thank you very much for the gift of £223.89. Through your prayers and financial support, we are responding to Christ's call to share our faith so that all may experience God's Love. World Mission Sunday is an expression of love and solidarity throughout our global Church. It reminds us that everyone is invited to God's table - to experience unconditional love, mercy and forgiveness, and take part in a community of Faith.

300 Club Results 8th December 2024: £50 B P (281). £25 S P (187), J-J M (300).

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.

Mrs Patricia Dube RIP, died last Friday 6th December in Zimbabwe. Our sincere and deepest condolences to her family and friends.

CAFOD worked with local experts to help many people rightfully and happily together in their family home. **Thank you for your support** which enables hundreds of women to remain in their homes during times of struggle. Other examples of our work can be found in our World Gift catalogues or website worldgifts.cafod.org.uk

Sign up for our daily Advent reflections: These reflections have been very popular and offer an opportunity to pause and reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. Visit our [Interactive online Advent calendar | CAFOD](#) for more details. There are also free Advent children's liturgy resources that parish catechists may find useful. [Children's Liturgy | CAFOD.](#)

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.

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, 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.