

Peace Sunday

Since its establishment in 1967 by Pope St Paul VI, the Popes have taken the World Day of Peace on the 1st January as an opportunity to offer a message on peace related topics. Every year, with the support of the Catholic Bishops' Conference, England and Wales, we promote Peace Sunday on the second Sunday in Ordinary Time as a way of observing the World Day of Peace and promoting the Pope's message for that year.

In 2025, Peace Sunday will fall on **Sunday 19th January** and our hope is that as many parishes as possible across the country will mark the day.

Every year we publish resources to help parishes and groups observe Peace Sunday. This year's resources are available to download below and you can order them by emailing peacesunday@paxchristi.org.uk Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Peace has been published and his theme is 'Forgive us our trespasses: Grant us your peace'. The message speaks of how we must listen to the 'pleas of an endangered humanity', how the year of Jubilee inspires us to seek the liberating justice of God in our world and how by 'opening our hearts to our brothers and sisters, we will restore God's justice on earth' and 'move forward to achieve the goal of peace'.

You can download a copy of the full message from the link below.

[Pope Francis' Message for the World Day of Peace 2025.](#)

Cycle of prayer: during Advent and Christmastide we pray for these intentions: Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers.

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.

New Year's Prayer

God, thank you for a new year.

May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate.

We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be
Willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values
and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness
that comes from doing what you want us to do.

Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past,
so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

Amen



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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



The Holy Family
29th December 2024 – 5th January 2025

**First Week of
Christmastide**

Sunday 29.12	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - The Holy Family (Feast) Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	The Pope's prayer intentions for JANUARY 2025
Monday 30.12	No Service		
Tuesday 31.12	9.30am 10am 10.30pm 11pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - St. Sylvester I, Pope Adoration Mass Syro-Malabar rite	For The Right To An Education Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.
Wednesday 01.01	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Mary, The Holy Mother of God (Solemnity)	
Thursday 02.01	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, bishops & doctors	
Friday 03.01	9.30am 10am 5pm 5.30pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Roger Feeney RIP Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Saturday 04.01	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Tom Joseph Thanksgiving	
Sunday 05.01	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Anne Feeney McGarr RIP Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	

🎄 **Crib Offerings: There will be a basket for your offerings at the Nativity.**

The money raised will go to Rainbow, a hospice for young children. Thank you. 🎄

A very big thank you to the choir who sang so well at the Vigil Mass, to the Malayalam Community for decorating the church so beautifully and especially for the lovely Nativity Scene. And also thank you to you all for your gifts, kind wishes and cards over the Christmas season.

Huge thank you also to everyone whom, throughout the year, have contributed to clean, vacuum and polish the church. The Choir, The Music Players, The Flower Ladies, The Catechists, The Church Committee, The Readers, The Special Ministers, The Altar Servers, and all our Supporters.

To all Parishioners and our Supporters Best wishes for a wonderful and peaceful New Year 2025 from Father Hans.

Background on the Gospel Reading Luke 2:41-52

The boy Jesus is found in the Temple.

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. This feast is part of the Christmas season, and we should place today's Gospel in the context of what Luke's Gospel tells us about the birth of Jesus. Luke has been answering the question "Who is Jesus?" through his stories of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Today's Gospel reading continues this theme. It has no parallel in the other Gospels and is the conclusion of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are presented in this Gospel as a faithful Jewish family. They are participating in the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, an event shared each year with family and friends. When Jesus is found, Luke describes him as seated in the Temple in the midst of the Jewish teachers. Although he is young, Jesus seems not to need teaching about his Jewish tradition. In his dialogue with these learned teachers, Jesus astounds them with his insight and understanding. Jesus is a child of Israel. His Father is God.

The dialogue between Mary and Jesus contains many references to family relationships. In fact, in this Gospel reading Mary and Joseph are never identified by name. Instead, they are referred to by their relationship to Jesus. Ultimately, this emphasizes Luke's point about the identity of Jesus. When Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple, they question Jesus and express their anxiety. Jesus replies in words that many have thought to be disrespectful. Jesus says that he was never lost; he was at home. Jesus is God's Son, and he is in his Father's house. Luke will continue to suggest that faith in Jesus establishes new family relationships as he describes Jesus' public ministry.

In Luke's Gospel, Mary's importance is even greater than her role as Jesus' mother. Mary is the first disciple and will be present with Jesus' disciples after his Resurrection at Pentecost.

Jesus, the light. Others in this Gospel will also offer testimony about Jesus. The reader is invited to accept this testimony, which bears witness to Jesus, the Son of God. But even more directly, Jesus' action and words will testify to Jesus' identity as God's Incarnate Word.

Thinking about Jesus' birth in these theological and cosmological terms is particularly appropriate as we celebrate the Feast of Christmas in the darkness of winter. At this time, nature itself seems to remind us of the darkness of sin. Into this darkness, in the midst of our sinfulness, God comes to dwell among us. John's Gospel reminds us that through the Incarnation, God saves us from the darkness of sin and makes us his children.

Opening of Holy Doors. On Christmas Day, Pope Francis delivered his *Urbi et Orbi* message to the people of the city of Rome and the world from the central loggia of St. Peter's Basilica at noon. On 26 December, for the first time in the Jubilee tradition, Pope Francis opened a fifth sacred portal in a Roman prison, a gesture of hope that shows his ongoing closeness to detainees. On Sunday, 29 December, the Pope will open the Holy Door of his cathedral, Saint John Lateran, which on 9 November this year celebrated the 1700th anniversary of its dedication. Then, on 1 January 2025, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major will be opened. Lastly, Sunday, 5 January 2025, will mark the opening of the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls. These last three Holy Doors will be closed on Sunday, 28 December 2025.

300 Club Results 22nd December 2024: £50 P K (18). £25 K M (290), J D (78).

The Year of Jubilee, 'Pilgrims of Hope', is almost upon us. It is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to return to a right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. We have lots of resources and opportunities for people to enter into the Jubilee which can be found on our [Jubilee webpage](#) but I wanted to draw your attention to a couple of things: **Introducing Jubilee - online session - 18th January 2025.** All are welcome to join us for [A general introduction to the Jubilee Year](#) with special guests including Fr Jan Nowotnik, Director of Mission for the Catholic Bishop's Conference, Christine Allen, CAFOD Director, and Kayode Akintola, CAFOD's Head of Africa Programmes. Hear what Jubilee years are about, how we're celebrating as a global and national Church and how we can be tangible signs of hope and build a better world together throughout this holy year. **Resources for parishioners:** This Jubilee Year is a great opportunity to bring together and foster a sense of unity among the diverse cultures and communities that make up our vibrant Church family. [Our Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of hope reflection guide](#) is ideal for groups and individuals looking to deepen their faith and renew their hope in the special Jubilee Year. There are four reflection sessions to help us to explore the Jubilee which could be run at any point of the year or even as a single one-off session. Guides can be ordered for free from the above webpage where you can also find an accompanying Leaders' Guide. These may be helpful for people who visit those who are housebound, in hospital or prisons etc.

Please keep in your prayers all the sick and housebound people of the parish. We continue to pray for Ukraine and its people, for the people of Israel and 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.



Jubilee Prayer

God our Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, awaken in us this Jubilee Year a missionary heart for the coming of your Kingdom. May the gift of your grace transform us, Pilgrims of Hope, into your missionary disciples, blessed with the gifts and talents you give us. Strengthen us to share our Saviour's message of love, joy, and peace with all the people we meet this year, so that we may help build up your Kingdom on earth. To you our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be glory and praise for ever and ever.

Amen.

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!