



### 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](mailto: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.](#)

### A Prayer for the Epiphany

Dear Father,

As we observe the Epiphany, of Jesus this week, thank you for the revelation that Christ is the Son of God. Because of Your living, breathing Word, established in the Holy Scriptures, the message is out! Jesus Christ, the Light of the world has been born to disperse the darkness that covers all people. God, your glory is displayed in mortal form. With the birth, death, and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our life on earth will never be the same!

Father, you used the star to led the Magi to the stable.

May you use us as Your little lights today as we live in a world that is still covered by darkness. We live in a world that is searching for hope and many still need to make the pilgrimage to the manger, the cross, and to the empty tomb. May our lives reflect your light as we seek to serve where you have placed us to make a kingdom impact.

We pray for our world to have a year of epiphanies and receive the gift of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. In the name of Jesus.

Amen



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

MOG Safeguarding Officer: Michelle Dempster - 07718279920 - [michelleadempster@gmail.com](mailto:michelleadempster@gmail.com)  
 Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914

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|  | <b>Epiphany of the Lord</b><br><br><b>5<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b> | <b>Second Week</b><br><b>of Christmastide</b> |
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|-------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| Sunday<br>5.01    | 8.30am<br>10.30am<br>4pm | Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite<br>Holy Mass - Anne Feeney McGarr RIP<br>Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite | <b>The Pope's prayer intentions for JANUARY 2025</b>   |
| Monday<br>6.01    | No Service               |  |  |
| Tuesday<br>7.01   | No Service               |  | <b>For The Right To An Education</b><br>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<br>8.01 | 5.30pm<br>6pm            | Silent Adoration<br>Holy Mass  |  |
| Thursday<br>09.01 | 9.30am<br>10am           | Silent Adoration<br>Holy Mass  |  |
| Friday<br>10.01   | 9.30am<br>10am           | Silent Adoration<br>Holy Mass - Delaine Mukopfa RIP  |  |
| Saturday<br>11.01 | 9.30am<br>10am           | Silent Adoration<br>Holy Mass - Shaju & Bincy Family thanksgiving                                |  |
| Sunday<br>12.01   | 8.30am<br>10.30am<br>4pm | Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite<br>Holy Mass - Delaine Mukopfa RIP<br>Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite    |  |

### SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY FOR SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS.

Today, Sunday 5th January 2025, Rosary Rally, at 1:30pm. Opposite Sports Direct, Leicester City Centre, Monthly every first Sunday. Contact Maziano on +447737 158224.

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

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.

## Background on the Gospel Reading Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a saviour. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

**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.

**Is God calling me to be a priest?** Do you feel that God might be calling you to the priesthood? If so, please contact Fr Neil Peoples - Vocations Director at [vocations@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:vocations@dioceseofnottingham.uk). to book a place at the next discernment meeting. Taking place in Cathedral House, Nottingham after the 10am Mass on Saturday 11th January.

**300 Club Results 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024:** £50 H C (129). £25 Fr E J (122), S D (31).

**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.

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 - 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

**AFCM UK Awakening Evangelisation & Healing Conference** on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 9am - 4pm. Bethel Convention Centre, West Bromwich, B70 7JW. Coach Booking from Holy Cross, or more information contact Daly 08723783427 or Arun 07392928576. Join us for a powerful day of spiritual renewal as we focus on renewing our parishes in this Jubilee Year. We warmly invite all Catholics in Leicester to come and experience a deeper relationship with God. Led by Fr. Xavier Khan Vattayil (renowned International preacher and retreat leader). A coach is available from Holy Cross Church, Leicester to the Bethel Convention Centre, making it easy for you to join us. To reserve your spot on the coach or for more information, please call or message Daly at +44 7823783427 or Arun at +44 7392928576. FOR ANY INFO : [WWW.AFCMUK.ORG](http://WWW.AFCMUK.ORG).



### 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!**