

Pope Francis' theme for the World Day of Peace 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.](#)

**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.



Almighty God,

Creator of the earth in which we live,  
 Help us today in our search for peaceful ways  
 To avoid wars, to eliminate terrorism and tyranny  
 And to establish justice for peoples of all races and faiths.  
 We pray that the billions of peace-loving  
 People of goodwill throughout the nations,  
 Will join together in prayer and action  
 To bring love where there is hatred,  
 Friendship where there is enmity,  
 And justice where there is oppression.  
 Amen



Tea/coffee after the 10.30am Mass every Sunday in the hall. Please join us!

**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!**

We are delighted to confirm that Christ the King School has maintained its Outstanding grade and has been judged as 'Outstanding' in all 5 areas. A copy of the report will be on our website.

	<p><b>Mother of God</b>                  Greencoat Road                  Leicester LE3 6NZ</p> <p>☎(0116) 287 5232                  ✉<a href="mailto:anogparish@gmail.com">anogparish@gmail.com</a>                  www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</p>	<p><b>Parish Priest: Fr Hans Puthiakulangara</b>                  e-mail: <a href="mailto:hansps83@gmail.com">hansps83@gmail.com</a>                  mob: 07428658756</p> <p>NRC DT- Registered Charity</p>
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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

	<p><b>Second Week of Ordinary Time</b>                  19<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025</p>	<p><b>Peace on Earth</b></p>
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Sunday 19.01	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Patricia Dube RIP Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	<p><b>The Pope's prayer intentions for JANUARY 2025</b></p> <p><b>For The Right To An Education</b>                  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.</p>
Monday 20.01	No Service		
Tuesday 21.01	No Service		
Wednesday 22.01	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Thursday 23.01	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Francis Etouwu RIP	
Friday 24.01	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - St. Francis of Sales, bishop & doctor (memorial)	
Saturday 25.01	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - The Conversion of St. Paul (Feast)	
Sunday 26.01	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Frances McLaughlin RIP Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	

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.

**Cycle of prayer during Ordinary Time (Winter).**

- Peace on Earth; especially Today Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January.
- Openness to the Word of God; especially on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January.
- Christian Unity; especially between Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January inclusive.
- The Sick and Those who Care for them; especially on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February.
- Victims of Trafficking and those who Work to Combat it; especially on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February.
- The Unemployed, especially on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

Please take this newsletter home with you.

**Background on the Gospel Reading John 2:1-11**  
Jesus performs his first sign at a wedding feast in Cana.

This Sunday we begin the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. For many Sundays in this lectionary cycle (Cycle C), our readings will be taken from the Gospel of Luke. Occasionally, however, we will read from John's Gospel. This is true of today's Gospel reading, which describes the beginning of Jesus' ministry and his first miracle.

To situate today's reading within the context of John's Gospel, we note that John's report of this event follows Jesus' call of his first disciples. John tells us that Jesus and his disciples were invited to this wedding at Cana, as was Jesus' mother, Mary. There is no parallel report of this miracle at Cana in the Synoptic Gospels.

In the Church's liturgical history, the wedding feast of Cana is closely associated with the baptism of the Lord and the adoration of the infant Jesus by the Wise Men. In this context, the sign Jesus performs at the wedding feast is celebrated as an epiphany or a manifestation of Jesus' divinity.

Yet awareness of Jesus' impending passion and death is ever present in John's Gospel. Even in this report of Jesus' first sign, the language used anticipates Jesus' passion. When Jesus says to his mother that his hour has not yet come, he protests against her wishes in language that John will use again when reporting Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. When introducing the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet, John writes that Jesus knew that his hour had come. In John's Gospel, Jesus is very much in command and aware of all that is to happen to him.

Here, as elsewhere in John's Gospel, Mary is not mentioned by name, but is referred to instead as the mother of Jesus. Mary is influential in Jesus' first sign. She will also be present at his Crucifixion, a witness to the final manifestation of his divinity.

John's Gospel describes seven signs that indicate Jesus' identity to his disciples. John never speaks of these signs as miracles because their importance is not in the deed that Jesus performs but in what these deeds indicate about Jesus' identity. Here, as when John describes the other signs, the disciples are said to begin to believe, but no mention is made as to whether the other wedding guests are even aware of what has happened.

Marriage and wedding feasts are metaphors used in Scripture to describe God's salvation and the Kingdom of God. Here at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, John's Gospel seeks to establish that Jesus is going to re-interpret and fulfil Yahweh's promise to Israel. Jesus establishes the New Covenant. A hint about what this New Covenant will be like is made evident in the deed that Jesus performs. Asked to do something to address the awkward situation that the absence of wine at a wedding feast would create, Jesus' miracle produces vast quantities of wine—six jars holding thirty gallons each are filled to overflowing with choice wine.

This lavish response to a simple human need is a vision for us of the abundance of God's kingdom. It challenges us to respond generously when confronted with human need today. We respond as best we can, fully confident that God can transform our efforts, bringing the Kingdom of God to fulfilment among us.

**A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development.** 2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? How will the Church be celebrating it? How can I get involved? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop's Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) and more in this lively start to the Jubilee. Hear highlights of how we're celebrating as a church and how we can be tangible signs of hope and build a better world together throughout this holy year. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse.

**300 Club Results 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025:** £50 J C (226). £25 M H (205). M G (203).

**AFCM UK Awakening Evangelisation & Healing Conference** on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 9am - 4pm. Bethel Convention Centre, West Bromwich, B70 7JW. 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. 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).

**Our next online Faith and Footprint workshop online, Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 7pm.** Faith and Footprint is our regular opportunity to explore how our faith calls us to live on the Earth - and to put it into practice. Join us to answer the call to care for our common home. At this session we'll:

- Introduce the **Laudato Si Animators'** programme which starts on 28 April - it would be great to have a group from Nottingham Diocese following it together
- Share plans for the 2025 **Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope** which converges on Nottingham in September
- Exchange practical ideas for reducing our parishes' environmental footprint and decarbonising your buildings.

**Everyone welcome.** You'll find the workshop especially useful if you're involved in the CAFOD Livesimply scheme or a diocesan Pioneer Parish - but everyone who is praying and working for a greener Church and world is invited. [Book now for Faith and Footprint](#)  
[Find out about the Laudato Si Animators' programme.](#)

**Cathedral Hall, Nottingham, Thursday 13 February 1.00 - 5.00pm,** If you're involved in, or would like to set up, a parish-run community café, warm space or drop-in join us at this event to get inspired, connected and equipped. Volunteers and organisers are very welcome from across our diocese. The event is organised by the ecumenical network Transforming Notts Together which Caritas belongs to. It is an opportunity to hear inspiring stories from projects like your parish's, find mutual support and encouragement, connect with NHS and other partners, and be equipped for your service with training and insight from leading experts. Speakers include:

- David Barclay, Warm Welcome Spaces Campaign Director and Partner in the Good Faith Partnership
- Nigel Adams, Places of Welcome co-ordinator for Notts, founder of Hope Nottingham, author of 'Communities of Hope' [Ask for further details on 'What next for Warm Spaces'](#)



**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