

**The Season of Lent 2025**

- Ash Wednesday 5th March
- First Week of Lent Sunday 9th March
- CAFOD Lent Fast Day - Friday 14th March  
(CAFOD envelopes for your donations will be distributed on Sunday 9th March and collected for the following two weekends).

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

- Peace on Earth;
- Openness to the Word of God;
- Christian Unity;
- The Sick and Those who Care for them;
- Victims of Trafficking and those who Work to Combat it.
- The Unemployed, especially on Sunday 2nd March.

<p align="center"><b>FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE PARISH</b></p> <p>If you wish to contribute to the Parish Funds, please use these Bank Details. If you are a tax-payer, please request a gift aid declaration form from the parish via email, so that we can reclaim for the parish fund money you pay in tax to the government.</p>	<p><b>LLOYDS BANK</b>  <b>Mother of God Church</b>  <b>SORT CODE 30-94-97</b>  <b>ACC. NO. 01538822</b></p>
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**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!**



**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.  
 Am

	<p><b>Mother of God</b>                  Greencoat Road                  Leicester LE3 6NZ</p> <p>☎(0116) 287 5232                  ✉mogparish@gmail.com                  www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</p>	<p><b>Parish Priest:</b> Fr Hans Puthiakulangara                  e-mail: <a href="mailto:hansps83@gmail.com">hansps83@gmail.com</a>                  mob: 07428658756</p> <p align="center">                   NRCDT- Registered Charity             </p>
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Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - [www.cktleicester.co.uk/](http://www.cktleicester.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>Sixth Week of Ordinary Time</b>                  16th – 23rd February 2025</p>	<p><b>Day of Special Prayers for Racial Justice</b></p>
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Sunday 16.02	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Sean Quinn Intentions Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	<p><b>The Pope's prayer intentions for FEBRUARY 2025</b></p> <p><b>For Vocations To The Priesthood And Religious Life.</b></p> <p>Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.</p>
Monday 17.02	No Service		
Tuesday 18.02	No Service	<i>Clergy Safeguarding training, Nottingham</i>	
Wednesday 19.02	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Mini Joseph Intentions	
Thursday 20.02	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Jean Hidelaratchi	
Friday 21.02	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Saturday 22.02	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - The Chair of St. Peter (Feast) Achukutty RIP	
Sunday 23.02	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	

**Please bring your old Palms to church.**

**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.

**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.**

	<p align="center">~ Tea/coffee after the 10.30am Mass every Sunday in the hall. Please join us!</p>
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**Please take this newsletter home with you.**

## Background on the Gospel Reading Luke 6:17,20-26

Jesus teaches the crowd the way to happiness.

Last Sunday we heard Jesus call Peter to be his disciple. Jesus then travels with Peter and the other disciples. Luke reports acts of healing (a person with leprosy and a paralytic man) and the call of Levi, the tax collector. Jesus also replies to questions from the Pharisees regarding fasting and the observance of the Sabbath. In the verses immediately before today's gospel reading, Jesus is reported to have chosen 12 men from among his disciples to be apostles. *Apostle* is a Greek word that means "one who is sent."

Today's gospel reading is the beginning of what is often called the Sermon on the Plain. We find a parallel to this passage in [Matthew 5:1-7,11](#) that is often called the Sermon on the Mount. As these titles suggest, there are differences and similarities between these gospel readings.

When spoken from the mountaintop in Matthew's Gospel, we can't miss the impression that Jesus is speaking with the authority and voice of God. The mountaintop is a symbol of closeness to God. Those who ascend the mountain see God and speak for God; recall the story of Moses and the [Ten Commandments](#). As Luke introduces the location of Jesus' teaching, Jesus teaches on level ground, alongside the disciples and the crowd. Luke presents Jesus' authority in a different light. He is God among us.

Another distinction found in Luke's version is the audience. Luke's Sermon on the Plain is addressed to Jesus' disciples, although in the presence of the crowd; Matthew's Sermon on the Mount is addressed to the crowd. In keeping with this style, the [Beatitudes](#) in Luke's Gospel sound more personal than those in Matthew's Gospel—Luke uses the article "you" whereas Matthew uses "they" or "those." There is also a difference in number: Matthew describes eight beatitudes; Luke presents just four, each of which has a parallel warning.

The form of the Beatitudes found in Luke's and Matthew's Gospel is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, such as in the Psalms and in Wisdom literature. They are a way to teach about who will find favour with God. The word *blessed* in this context might be translated as "happy," "fortunate," or "favoured."

As we listen to this Gospel, the Beatitudes jar our sensibilities. Those who are poor, hungry, weeping, or persecuted are called blessed. This is, indeed, a Gospel of reversals. Those often thought to have been forgotten by God are called blessed. In the list of "woes," those whom we might ordinarily describe as blessed by God are warned about their peril. Riches, possessions, laughter, reputation . . . these are not things that we can depend upon as sources of eternal happiness. They not only fail to deliver on their promise; our misplaced trust in them will lead to our demise. The ultimate peril is in misidentifying the source of our eternal happiness.

The Beatitudes are often described as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. We are challenged to examine our present situation in the context of our ultimate horizon, the Kingdom of God.

**300 Club Results 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025:** £50 T F (4). £25 S C (287), S K O (89).

**Weekly Collection: Sunday 2/2/25 £300.20. Sunday 9/2/25 £347.02. Thank you to all.**

**"300 CLUB DIVIDEND.** The 300 Club Committee are pleased to announce the dividend for the year ending October 2024 totals £6,600 - to be split evenly as £2,200 for each of our three churches of Mother of God, Most Blessed Sacrament and St Peter. Thank you to all members and there are more membership numbers available for current members and new members alike - subscription remain as £60 per year/£5 per month. Please contact John Gray for a new Membership Form.

**Existing members** - You are reminded that winning cheques are sent by post, so please ensure that you advise of any change of address.

**Jubilee of Marriage.** Bishop Patrick warmly invites all married couples to Saint Barnabas Cathedral (NG1 5AE) on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February** when we will celebrate Mass at 3.00pm to mark the **Jubilee of Marriages**. The Bishop will lead a Renewal of Vows during the Mass, impart a special Jubilee Blessing, and afterwards host a Reception in Cathedral Hall. All married couples (and their families) are very welcome to attend, especially those recently married, and those celebrating significant anniversaries this Jubilee year.

**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.

**Mass For Young Adults at St Barnabas Cathedral** on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February. Bishop Patrick will celebrate Mass at Saint Barnabas Cathedral at 10pm for Young Adults (18-35) making use of the beautiful lighting in the Cathedral for 'Nottingham Night Light'. If you would like to support the Mass in any way, reading, serving, welcoming, then please contact [charles.archer@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:charles.archer@dioceseofnottingham.uk).

**A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development.** Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 5.30pm -10pm. 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.

**Flame takes place on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025** and is the largest Catholic youth event in England and Wales. Filled with inspiring speakers, incredible live music, prayer, adoration and young people from across England and Wales it's an event like no other! Booking for Flame 2025 is now open! [Book here](#). If you have any problems placing an order, please email [flame@cymfed.org.uk](mailto:flame@cymfed.org.uk).