

The Pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving.

Saint Augustine described “Prayers, Fasting and Almsgiving” as the Pillars of Lent. The role of any pillar is to support, from the soft pillar we rest our head on each night to the pillars of the buildings we live and work in; they all support something. Pillars of Lent support our way of living the Gospel. The ideals of prayer, fasting and almsgiving support us on our way of living the Gospel. The ideals of prayers, fasting and almsgiving support us on our whole Christian journey rather than something we inflict on ourselves for just forty days of the year. Jesus summed up the pillars of discipleship “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Prayer) “You shall love your neighbour (almsgiving) as yourself (fasting)” Matt 22:37,39. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving remind us to put our relationship right again (conversion).

Prayer places us into the right relationship with God

Fasting places us into the right relationship with ourself (our body)

Almsgiving places us into the right relationship with others (almsgiving).

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.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE PARISH

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.

LLOYDS BANK
Mother of God Leicester RCP
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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.

Please take this newsletter home with you.



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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



Third Week of Lent

23rd - 30th March 2025



Stations of the Cross every Friday after morning Mass.

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|-----------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| Sunday 23.03 | 8.30am 10.30am 4pm | Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - All Souls Intentions Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite | The Pope's prayer intentions for March 2025 For Families In Crisis Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences. |
| Monday 24.03 | No Service | | |
| Tuesday 25.03 | 9.30am 10am | Silent Adoration Holy Mass - The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity) | |
| Wednesday 26.03 | 5.30pm 6pm | Silent Adoration Holy Mass | |
| Thursday 27.03 | 9.30am 10am | Silent Adoration Holy Mass | |
| Friday 28.03 | 9.30am 10am 5.30pm | Silent Adoration Holy Mass & Stations of the Cross Syro Malabar Mass & Stations of the Cross | |
| Saturday 29.03 | 9.30am 10am | Silent Adoration Holy Mass | |
| Sunday 30.03 | 8.30am 10.30am 4pm | Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - For the Soul of Ofilia Mumbweri Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite | |

CAFOD Lent Fast Day SECOND COLLECTION TODAY

Please use an envelope for your donation, if you are a tax-payer.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY FOR WALSINGHAM JUBILEE YEAR

Cycle of Prayer during Lent, we pray for these intentions:

Candidates for the Sacraments; especially on the Sundays of Lent. Women. The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers. Victims of Trafficking and those who Work to Combat it. The Unemployed.

LENT PRAYER

Loving God, when our boat is rocked by poverty, illness or disaster, you quiet the waves, and lead us safely to shore.

When we work hard, but still go hungry, you walk beside us, calling “cast your nets”, there is enough for all.

Lead us, Lord to play our part in calming the storm and sharing your gifts so all people may look to the future with hope. Amen.

Background on the Gospel Reading Luke 13:1-9.

Jesus preaches a lesson on repentance.

Now into the third week of the Season of Lent, our Sunday Gospel prepares us to hear Lent's call to conversion and repentance. Today's reading is found in the chapters of Luke's Gospel that describe Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. During this journey, Jesus teaches and heals. He must also respond to those who question and challenge his authority and actions. There is no parallel in Mark's or Matthew's Gospels for today's reading from Luke. While Mark and Matthew describe an incident in which Jesus curses the fig tree, today's reading makes the barren fig tree the subject of a parable.

Luke tells us that some among the crowds, report to Jesus a massacre of Galileans by Pilate. The intention of the crowd seems to be to ask Jesus to explain why these people suffered. It was commonplace to render people's suffering as evidence of their sinfulness. Jesus challenges this interpretation. Those who were massacred were no more or less sinful than the ones who report the situation to Jesus. Jesus replies that even a fatal accident, a natural disaster, ought not to be interpreted as punishment for sin.

Jesus' words at first appear to have a fire-and-brimstone quality. Jesus says in essence, "Repent or perish as these people did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment." The tone changes, however, in the parable that follows. The parable of the barren fig tree contrasts the patience and hopefulness of the gardener with the practicality of the property owner. When told to cut down the fig tree because it is not producing fruit, the gardener counsels patience. If properly tended, the barren fig tree may yet bear fruit.

Throughout his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus has been teaching about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of God's patience and hopefulness as he prepares his Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. And yet God is merciful. He delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he desires from us.

This, then, is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of his efforts. Next week's Gospel will give an even clearer picture of the kind of mercy that God shows to us.

300 Club Results 9th March 2025: £50 R A (239), £25 P F (145), P D (184).

Weekly Collection: Sunday 16th March £331.78.

Grateful thanks to all those who have already donated for the heating system being installed in the Church. If anyone else wishes to give a donation to help to pay for it they can do so by putting a cheque or cash in an envelope with a reference - Heating Donation- on the envelope. (If you are a tax payer, write your name so that we can claim gift aid). Or by bank transfer using the bank details in the newsletter and using Donation Heating as a reference. Many thanks.

The Jubilee of Loughborough Deanery. Bishop Patrick will celebrate a Deanery Station Mass on Thursday 27th March at 7.00pm in Saint Mary, the Annunciation Church, Loughborough, with the opportunity of confessions from 6.00pm, together with a time of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Nottingham Cathedral Choir and the recently formed Youth Choir will be performing Bach's sublime.

LACY (Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth) will be holding a sponsored walk from St. Mary's Catholic Church South Wigston on Sunday 6th April at 1.30 p.m. This will also involve a Nature Hunt, refreshments and finishing with Youth Stations of the Cross. We are inviting all young people, their families and friends to come and join us. We hope to raise a good amount of money for Cancer Research and to be able to share in a walk with Jesus through the Stations of the Cross. We look forward to seeing you all. See our poster on Facebook or displayed in the Church for the link to the Just Giving Page and a sponsor form if required. Contact: paulinepayne@hotmail.com.

The Leicestershire Eucharistic Ministers Renewal Day for 2025 is on April 5th 2025 at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Leicester Road, Hinckley, Leics. LE10 1LW. Bishop Patrick will be leading most of the day which will begin at 10:30 am with tea and coffee followed our first talk and will finish between 3 - 3:30pm. We realise that some of you may no longer to travel. Please be assured that you will be remembered in our prayers. Registering. (please try to do this by 25th March, if you can - thank you). You may register as an individual or as part of a Parish group. Please email Mrs M Hunt mchunt2310@btinternet.com.

Women's Retreat - 5th April - Nottingham. We are delighted to invite you to our Lenten Women's retreat at Good Shepherd Church Nottingham, on Saturday 5th April. Join other women from across the Diocese for a Lenten gathering to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope. Canon Jonathan Cotton will give the retreat. The retreat theme will be: The Sacred Heart - an Icon of Hope (Exploring new images based on Pope Francis's recent letter on the Sacred Heart 'Dilexit Nos'). The day will begin with Mass and there will also be times for Personal Prayer, Social Time, Reflection and Confession. The day will start at 10am and finish around 3.30pm. The cost is £15.00 per person. Please note that this is an event for those aged 18 and over. [REGISTER HERE](#).

Men's Retreat - 12th April - Mount St Bernard. After the great success of last year's Men's Lenten Retreat, we are excited to return to Mount St Bernard Abbey, Coalville on Saturday 12th April for our men's retreat. This year the day will be led by Fr John Farrell OP. Fr John is a Dominican Friar based at Holy Cross in Leicester. The day will include talks, opportunities for prayer, reflection, confession, Mass and guided stations of the Cross and adoration. Please bring a packed lunch with you. The theme of the day will be: The Journey through Holy Week. The day will start at 10:00am and will finish around 4pm. The cost for the day will be £15 per person. Please book your place through the link below by the 4th April. Please note this retreat is only for men over the age of 18. [REGISTER HERE](#).

Nottingham Diocesan Jubilee Lourdes Pilgrimage takes place between Monday 14th and Friday 18th July with Bishop Patrick. The Pilgrimage includes a full liturgical programme, with Mass each day; return direct flights from East Midlands Airport to Lourdes; full board for four nights in a three- or four- star hotel; assistance (for those who need it) from the Diocesan Hospitalité and Health Team. Prices start from £899, and more details are at: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events/lourdes. Young adults (18-35) are also warmly invited to join the Jubilee Lourdes Pilgrimage. For young adults interested in supporting pilgrims, deepening faith, and coming together as a community, contact charles.archer@dioceseofnottingham.uk. or visit www.tangney-tours.com/tours-and-pilgrimages/diocese-nottingham-ya.

Walsingham Jubilee Year: Christians have always made pilgrimages to holy places to seek an encounter with the face of Christ, to deepen their faith, and to embrace into their own lives the merciful reconciliation which Jesus offers each of us as pilgrims. In Jubilee Years, many of us will recall the opportunity to pass through a Holy Door, in Rome, or in the local Cathedral, and in more recent times in Walsingham too. Pilgrimage is an important part of a Jubilee Year. Holy doors remind us of Jesus' words in the Gospel, 'I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.' As we journey towards the Jubilee Year 2025, we encourage everyone to make a special pilgrimage to Walsingham in the footsteps of kings, saints, and holy people of times gone by to deepen your faith and reliance on our Lord Jesus Christ. For this special occasion, we will have a second collection on Sunday 30th March.



Please bring your red MISSIO box to church to emptied and collect your free magazine. Thank you If you would like a Red Box, please speak to Maila Taylor.