

Laetare Sunday (Fourth Week of Lent). This Sunday is currently also known as Mothering Sunday, Refreshment Sunday, mid-Lent Sunday and Rose Sunday (either because the golden rose sent by Popes to Catholic sovereigns used to be blessed at this time, or because the use of rose-coloured rather than violet vestments was permitted on this day).

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.

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.

NEW ENVELOPES ARE READY FOR COLLECTION!

Please collect your new set of envelopes from the table in the church porch.
Please pick boxes with the appropriate name as your number might be different from what you previously had.

<p>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.</p>	<p>LLOYDS BANK Mother of God Leicester RCP SORT CODE 30-94-97 ACC. NO. 01538822</p>
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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.



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.

	<p>Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</p> <p>☎(0116) 287 5232 ✉nogparish@gmail.com www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</p>	<p>Parish Priest: Fr Hans Puthiakulangara e-mail: hansps83@gmail.com mob: 07428658756</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> NRCDD- Registered Charity </p>																								
<p>Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - www.ctkleicester.co.uk/ English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/</p>																										
<p>MOG Safeguarding Officer: Michelle Dempster - 07718279920 - michelleadempster@gmail.com</p> <p>Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914</p>																										
	<p>Fourth Week of Lent Laetare Sunday 30th March – 6th April 2025</p>	<p>† Stations of the Cross every Friday after morning Mass.</p>																								
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SECOND COLLECTION TODAY FOR WALSINGHAM JUBILEE YEAR

Walsingham Jubilee Year: 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. As we journey towards it, we encourage everyone to make a special pilgrimage to Walsingham.

Parish Walk for the Holy Year of Hope.

Thanks to all who participated in our walking pilgrimage to the Holy Cross church. Following a very pleasant walk, we were joined by other parishioners who met us at Holy Cross church, which was very special. We walked through the Holy Door at Holy Cross Church together and attended the 12.30 Mass as a group. It was a very enjoyable and spiritual occasion.
A special thank you to Josephine Feeney-McKay and family for organising it.



A Very Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers of the parish.



Background on the Gospel Reading Luke 15:1-3,11-32.

Jesus teaches about forgiveness in the parable of the Prodigal Son.

The parable Jesus tells in today's Gospel is unique to the Gospel of Luke. Jesus has been teaching the crowds as he journeys to Jerusalem. As he teaches, the Pharisees and scribes complain and challenge Jesus because he is welcoming sinners at his table. Today we hear the third of three parables that Jesus tells in response to his critics. These three familiar parables—the lost sheep, the lost coin, and today's parable of the prodigal son—invite us to consider the depth of God's mercy and love.

The Pharisees taught a scrupulous observance of Jewish Law. In their interpretation and practice, observant Jews who shared table fellowship with sinners would be made unclean. Like Jesus, the Pharisees hoped to lead sinners back to God. The Pharisees, however, required that sinners first become ritually clean—observant of the Pharisees' interpretation of Jewish Law—before sharing table fellowship. This appears to be one of the major differences between the Pharisees and Jesus. Jesus reaches out to sinners while they are still sinners, inviting them to conversion through fellowship with him. Jesus is God acting among us; by befriending us, he is inviting us to return to friendship with God. Through friendship with Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we, in turn, bear fruit for God. Recall last Sunday's Gospel and the barren fig tree.

Our familiarity with today's parable risks dulling us to its tremendously powerful message. We call this the parable of the lost son or the prodigal son. Any focus on the younger son, however, must also be balanced by an examination of the unusual behaviour of the father.

First, we must imagine our first response to the audacity of a son who asks for his inheritance before his father has died. Indignation would certainly be a justifiable response to such a request. Yet the father in this parable agrees to honour the son's request and divides his property among his two sons. How might we describe such a father? Foolish comes to mind, but so does trusting. Without property of his own, the father must rely upon his sons to provide for his well-being.

The younger son takes his inheritance and leaves home. The older son remains, continuing to provide for the father and the household. Having been disgraced by the younger son, the father spends some time watching the road for the return of the lost son. When he eventually sees his wayward son returning, the father not only welcomes him but also runs out to greet him and then honours him with a party. We say that this father is loving and forgiving. Yet these adjectives only begin to describe the depth of love and mercy that characterize the father.

We find no surprise in the anger of the older son. Yet the father appears sad and even confused by the older son's indignation. He says in reply that they should celebrate because the lost son had returned. The father is filled with gratitude and love for the older son's faithfulness. This love is in no way diminished by the father's rejoicing at the return of the younger son. Yet the older son's jealousy reveals his limited understanding of the depth of his father's love.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." Today's Gospel describes the reason for our joy: God's great love for us has been revealed in Jesus. Through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Christ has reconciled us with God and one another.

300 Club Results 23rd March 2025: £50 E J (128), £25 S S (224), J FM (245).

Weekly Collection: Sunday 23rd March £311.92.

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.

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. 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. 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 Saturday, 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 be able 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 – Saturday, 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. 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 – Saturday, 12th April – Mount St Bernard. 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.

English Martyrs' Catholic School 60th Anniversary Open Day - On Saturday 3rd May we will be celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the blessing of the school. We invite you and your families to visit the school on 3rd May, anytime between 10.00am and 1pm. We will be Blessing our 60th Anniversary Prayer Garden, there will also be a range of activities taking place including a photo exhibition through the years, all departments will be open for you to visit, a range of Market Stalls, old style school games, Music, Dance, Drama, a food truck, refreshments and ice creams will be available. Please could you let any former students, staff and parents know, we would love to see them. We have put together a memory photo book which includes photos of staff, students and events through the years, from 1965 through to the present day. You can order a copy of our 60th Anniversary memory photo book for £15, by completing the MS Forms link below. <https://forms.microsoft.com/e/PfQs5N7BtE>.

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.