

<b>FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE PARISH</b>	<b>LLOYDS BANK</b>
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.	Mother of God Leicester RCP SORT CODE 30-94-97 ACC. NO. 01538822

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.

**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.

**Easter Confessions**  
**Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> April - 5-7 pm**  
**Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> April - 5-7 pm**  
**Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> April - 6-8 pm**

**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.

**Lent: A Sacred Season of Preparation.**

Lent is a 40-day fast – a reference to the time Jesus spent being tempted in the desert. It’s a time when we can prepare our hearts for the remembrance of Christ’s death. Our observance of Lent culminates in the solemn celebrations of Holy Week when on Palm Sunday we follow Christ from his triumphant entrance into Jerusalem to the foot of the Cross as sorrowful bystanders to His Passion, before rolling back the stone of the empty tomb and the joy of the Resurrection. The below resource provides reflections and scripture references, prayers, and suggested action to help you engage more fully with this holy season.

[Catholic Bishops' Conference  
https://www.cbcew.org.uk/fifth-Sunday-of-lent.](https://www.cbcew.org.uk/fifth-Sunday-of-lent)


**Prayer:** Merciful Lord, you offer us mercy, not condemnation, and invite us into a new beginning. Help us to receive Your forgiveness with open hearts and to extend that mercy to others. As we approach Holy Week, transform our lives with Your love. Create paths in our wilderness and rivers in our deserts, that we may be renewed in You. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, *Amen*.

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

	<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> <b>(Passion Sunday)</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> April 2025</b>	<b>† Stations of the Cross every Friday after morning Mass.</b>
<b>The Pope's prayer intentions for April 2025</b>		<b>For The Use Of New Technologies</b> Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.
<b>Sunday 6.04</b>	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Private Intentions Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite
<b>Monday 7.04</b>	No Service	St. John Baptiste de la Salle, Priest (as a commemoration)
<b>Tuesday 8.04</b>	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Orlando & Fatima Mendonca Thanksgiving
<b>Wednesday 9.04</b>	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass
<b>Thursday 10.04</b>	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass
<b>Friday 11.04</b>	9.30am 10am 5.30pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass & Stations of the Cross - St. Stanislaus, bishop & martyr (as a commemoration) Syro Malabar Mass & Stations of the Cross
<b>Saturday 12.04</b>	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Orlando & Fatima Mendonca 50 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary
<b>Sunday 13.04</b>	8.30am 10.30am 4pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Claudio Rosoria Good Health 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.**  
**We also pray for the people of Myanmar, after the devastating earthquake.**

**'CAFOD Myanmar Earthquake Appeal'**

Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. Your donations will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to CAFOD's Myanmar Earthquake Appeal in church or you can donate online at [cafod.org.uk/myanmar](http://cafod.org.uk/myanmar) or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10.'

**PASTORAL LETTER ON THE TERMINALLY ILL ADULTS (END OF LIFE) BILL**  
**To be read at all Masses on the Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday)**

**Please take this newsletter home with you.**

**Background on the Gospel Reading: John 8:1-11.**  
Jesus does not condemn the woman caught in adultery

The Gospel for the fifth Sunday of Lent continues to offer lessons about God's mercy and forgiveness. Last Sunday we heard the Parable of the Prodigal Son from the Gospel of Luke. Today we hear not a parable, but the report from John's Gospel of an encounter among Jesus, the scribes and Pharisees, and a woman caught in adultery.

In John's Gospel, the conflict between Jesus and the scribes and Pharisees occurs much earlier than in the Synoptic Gospels. Jesus' cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem is reported at the beginning of John's Gospel. Even after this event, Jesus continues to teach in the Temple. After returning to Galilee for a time, Jesus again enters Jerusalem and cures a man on the Sabbath. From this point forward in John's Gospel, the Pharisees are described as making plans for Jesus' arrest and seeking his death.

In the chapter preceding today's Gospel, Jesus was teaching in the Temple area. Feeling threatened by his teaching and his actions, the chief priests and the Pharisees are already sending guards to arrest Jesus. The guards return, however, without arresting Jesus because they have been impressed by his words. Even more than this, some among the crowds are considering the possibility that Jesus is the Messiah. The chief priests and the Pharisees change their plan. Before making an arrest, they seek to gather more evidence against Jesus by posing a question intended to trap Jesus.

Today's Gospel begins by reporting that Jesus is again teaching the crowds in the vicinity of the Temple. The scribes and the Pharisees approach Jesus, bringing a woman who has been caught in the act of adultery. They put to Jesus the question of what ought to be done in this case.

The Pharisees state clearly that according to the Law of Moses, those caught in the act of adultery were to be stoned to death. Under Roman occupation, however, the Jewish people did not have the authority to execute people; this is cited in John's passion narrative. To answer the Pharisees' question, Jesus must propose an action that will be either contrary to the Law of Moses or contrary to Roman law. The purpose of the question appears to be similar to the question about paying taxes found in [Mark 12:13-17](#). Either answer, yes or no, will support the Pharisees' case against Jesus.

Jesus avoids the trap, however, by offering an answer that was not anticipated by those who posed the question. Jesus, after writing on the ground with his finger, addresses those who stand before him and suggests that the one without sin cast the first stone. Jesus then returns to his writing. This Scripture reading, by the way, is the only evidence we have of Jesus writing. Yet there are no specific details about what he wrote.

We can easily imagine the scene as the Pharisees and the elders disperse, one by one. Jesus has eluded the trap they had prepared. We might also give credit to the elders and the Pharisees who do not, in the end, claim to be sinless and worthy of passing judgment. These Pharisees are not as self-righteous as the portrait found in the parable of the pharisee and the tax collector (See [Luke 18:9-14](#)).

Left alone with the woman, Jesus asks where the accusers have gone. With no one remaining to condemn the woman, Jesus (the one who truly is without sin) sends the woman on her way, refusing to pass judgment on her and exhorting her to avoid future sin.

Jesus' response to those who accuse the woman is more than a caution to us about making judgment of others. It is a profound lesson in divine mercy and forgiveness. As sinners, we are all unworthy to judge the sins of others and we would stand convicted by God for our transgressions. Yet Jesus, the one without sin and thus our judge, offers us who are sinners his mercy and forgiveness. Redeemed by Jesus' compassion, we are sent to sin no more and to live in God's love and peace.

**300 Club Results 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025:** £50 R K (249). £25 N D (257), R H (135).  
**Weekly Collection: Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March £309.77.**

**LACY (Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth) THIS WEEKEND!** We would love to see as many young people, families and friends at our Sponsored Walk and Nature Hunt - fundraising for Cancer Research - on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April commencing from St. Mary's South Wigston at 1.30pm. See our attached poster for full information. Light refreshments will be available followed by Youth Stations of the Cross, during which we hope young people will share with us. The link for our fundraising is: <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/lacys-walk-for-cancer-research-uk>. We look forward to seeing you all! Let's put our Faith into action this Lent! More information if required from Pauline - [paulinepayne@hotmail.com](mailto:paulinepayne@hotmail.com).

**Men's Retreat – Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> April – Mount St Bernard.** We are excited to return to Mount St Bernard Abbey, Coalville on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> April. Please note this retreat is only for men over the age of 18. [REGISTER HERE](#).

**Third Reading Vote on Assisted Suicide Bill.** Our nation stands at a crucial juncture regarding how we value human life, particularly the lives of people in the most vulnerable situations. If this significant proposal to introduce assisted suicide becomes law, thousands of individuals will be placed at risk in the coming years. Mounting evidence from the small number of places around the world that have legalised assisted suicide shows that these laws are incremental, that safeguards do not work, and that the changed law can have devastating consequences. It is therefore imperative that this Assisted Suicide Bill is defeated at third reading. **Please take one of the postcards available at the back of Church and post it to your MP as soon as possible**, The Bill is expected to occur on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April. One of the most effective ways to persuade MPs to oppose this dangerous Bill is through physical letters or postcards from constituents asking them to vote NO to the Bill. Thank you.

**English Martyrs' Catholic School 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open Day - Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025.**  
On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May we will be celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the blessing of the school. We invite you and your families to visit the school on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, anytime between 10.00am and 1pm. We will be Blessing our 60<sup>th</sup> 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 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary memory photo book for £15, by completing the MS Forms link below. <https://forms.microsoft.com/e/PfQs5N7BtE>.



**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.