

**Pope Francis | Requiescat in pace**

Monday, April 21, 2025

The Bishop of Nottingham, the Right Reverend Patrick McKinney, has expressed his sorrow following the death of Pope Francis.

Bishop McKinney said: "I am deeply saddened to learn of the death of the Holy Father, Pope Francis. The Pope has left an indelible mark on the Church and the world, as a man of great warmth and humility who made use of his global prestige to highlight and to listen to the concerns of the poorest and most marginalised people across the world. The loss of the Holy Father will be deeply felt in all of our diocesan communities and well beyond, but I believe his legacy will live on.

"I was very privileged to meet Pope Francis in Rome on two occasions— first, upon my appointment as Bishop of Nottingham in May 2015, and once again during the 'Ad limina' visit of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales to Rome in 2018. Each time I was struck by his humility and warm welcome, deep love of Christ Jesus, desire to engage in dialogue, and his profound commitment to the Church and her mission. He will be greatly missed.

"The Holy Father once said, that 'it is only through faith in the resurrection that we can face the abyss of death without being overwhelmed by fear'. It is so poignant that Pope Francis has died this Easter Monday just one day after wishing the world a 'Happy Easter'. May the Crucified and Risen Lord reward him for his valiant labours. He named this year, a Jubilee Year of Hope. So, In the face of his death and our experience of grief and loss, I would encourage all Catholics to continue to journey as Pilgrims of Hope trusting in Christ's promise of eternal life to those who are faithful to his teaching, and to commend our prayers for the Holy Father to the intercession of St Ignatius, St Francis of Assisi and Our Lady, Queen of Heaven.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen."

The Holy See Press Office has announced that Pope Francis' funeral Mass will take place on Saturday, 26 April, 2025, at 10am, 9am UK time in St. Peter's Square. (dioceseofnottingham.uk).

There is also an opportunity to sign a [virtual book of remembrance](#), as well as to visit any of the following Jubilee churches across the diocese where there will be a book of remembrance.



**We pray for the happy repose of the soul of the late Holy Father**

O God, immortal shepherd of souls, look on your people's prayers and grant that your servant Pope Francis, who presided over your Church in charity, may, with the flock entrusted to his care, receive from your mercy the reward of a faithful servant. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We pray for the Church during this time of sede vacante  
 We pray, almighty God, that your Church may always remain that holy people, formed as one by the unity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, which manifests to the world that Sacrament of your holiness and unity, and leads it to the perfection of your charity.  
 Grant to your Church, we pray, a new Holy Father, filled with your Holy Spirit, even as we mourn the passing of Pope Francis; that your Church may continue steadfast in faith in confessing your name to the world.  
 Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

	<p><b>Mother of God</b>                  Greencoat Road                  Leicester LE3 6NZ</p> <p>☎(0116) 287 5232                  ✉<a href="mailto:mogparish@gmail.com">mogparish@gmail.com</a>  <a href="http://www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk">www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</a></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>NRC DT - Registered Charity</p>
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Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - [www.ctkleicester.co.uk/](http://www.ctkleicester.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 Sunday of Easter</b>  <b>Divine Mercy Sunday</b>  <b>27<sup>th</sup> April - 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b></p>	
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Sunday 27.04	8.30am 10.30am	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Stacy & Denise Mukopfa birthday	<p><b>The Pope's prayer intentions for May 2025</b></p> <p><b>For Working Conditions</b></p> <p>Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.</p>
Monday 28.04	No Service	St. George, Martyr, Patron of England (Solemnity)	
Tuesday 29.04	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - St. Catherine of Siena, virgin & doctor, Patron of Europe (Feast)	
Wednesday 30.04	5.30pm 6pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Mariamma Thomas RIP	
Thursday 1.05	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - St. Joseph the worker (optional memorial)	
Friday 2.05	9.30am 10 am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Maryam RIP St. Athanasius, bishop & doctor(memorial)	
Saturday 3.05	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - SS Philip & James, apostles (Feast)	
Sunday 4.05	8.30am 10.30am 4.00 pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY FOR THE CLERGY FORMATION FUND.**

**Cycle of Prayer during Eastertide, we pray for these intentions:**  
 New Members of the Church. Human Work. Vocations. Survivors of Abuse.  
 The right use of the Media. The Church.

**Divine Mercy Prayer**

Eternal God,  
 in whom mercy is endless  
 and the treasury of compassion - inexhaustible,  
 look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us,  
 that in difficult moments we might not despair  
 nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit  
 ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.

**Father Hans would like to thank parishioners who have sent good wishes and gifts for Easter.**

**Background on the Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31.**

Thomas believes because he sees Jesus.

Today's reading, from the Gospel of John, is proclaimed on the second Sunday of Easter in each of the three Sunday Lectionary cycles. This should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the resurrected Jesus described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to his disciples after his Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the disciple who doubted.

Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. We do not know exactly what this form was like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the risen Jesus, she did not recognize the figure standing before her until Jesus spoke her. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples walking on the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until he broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in his resurrected body, Jesus was no longer bound by space; he appeared to the disciples in spite of the locked door. And yet, on this resurrected body, the disciples could still observe the marks of his Crucifixion.

In today's Gospel, Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus also commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun. As Jesus was sent by God, so too does Jesus send his disciples. This continuity with Jesus' own mission is an essential element of the Church. Jesus grants the means to accomplish this mission when he gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit binds us together as a community of faith and strengthens us to bear witness to Jesus' Resurrection.

Jesus' words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Forgiveness and reconciliation are gifts to us from Jesus. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share these with others. This is another essential aspect of what it means to be Christ's Church. The Church continues Jesus' ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Thomas, the disciple who doubts, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of disciples. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his disciples. It is part of our human nature to seek hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death is, indeed, the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative who obtains this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who had died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed for we have not seen and yet have believed.

**300 Club Results 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025:** £50 M B (49). £25 G B (220), M N (16).

<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 Leicester RCP</b>  <b>SORT CODE 30-94-97</b>  <b>ACC. NO. 01538822</b></p>
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**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, Syria and Sudan and for all the war-torn countries in the world.**  
**We also pray for the people of Myanmar, after the devastating earthquake.**

**Please do not park at the front of the church,  
this space is only for Hearses or Ambulances.**

**We need a list of First Aiders: if you have a First Aid Certificate or Medical  
Registration, please speak to Sharon Pritchard.**

**We also need volunteers to join a garden group which will help towards  
reducing the costs of grass cutting. Please speak to Matthew Nazareth.**

**THANK YOU**

**MARRIAGE HELP** - Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: 20-22 June [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) Tel: 0788 7296983. Out of 21 couples who joined the Retrouvaille programme in February, two couples have turned away from divorce, and others have now found hope to restore their marriages. Your bulletin announcements, referrals, and prayers made this possible.

**Called to Love:** Masculine and Feminine, Friday 9th - Sunday 11th May. A weekend for young adults, whether single, dating or engaged, exploring the nature of masculinity and femininity. The retreat, at the Christian Heritage Centre, Lancashire, will consider the contemporary challenges to being a man and a woman and the Church's wisdom for this, drawing particular inspiration from Saint John Paul II. For more information and to book visit <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/called-to-love/>

**The Health Team who supports the Nottingham Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage** is in need of some additional experienced team members for this year's pilgrimage. If you, or someone you know, is a currently Registered Nurses or trained and experienced Care Worker, who may be interested and can commit to being available for this year's Jubilee Pilgrimage between Monday 14th and Friday 18th July, as well as for a couple of training days on Sunday 15th and Saturday 28th June, please contact Deacon David Knight ([david@sthughslincoln.org.uk](mailto:david@sthughslincoln.org.uk)) for more details.

**The Society of Saint Gregory** is hosting a Summer School between Wednesday 30th July and Saturday 2nd August with the theme of Jubilee and Hope reflected in the liturgies and music, providing an opportunity to reflect on how to take the message of hope back to our parish communities. Further details from [summerschool@ssg.org.uk](mailto:summerschool@ssg.org.uk)

**Could you be a Briars Ambassador for 12 months?** The Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Service (NDCYS) has a wonderful group of volunteers who support The Briars Catholic Youth Retreat Centre through practical support, prayer and fundraising. The Friends of The Briars is hosting an Ambassadors' Day for those interested in becoming a Briars Ambassador, on Saturday 7th June between 10.00am and 3.00pm at The Briars, DE4 5BW. See the poster in church or visit [ndcys.com/friends-of-the-briars/](http://ndcys.com/friends-of-the-briars/) for more.

**CAFOD is hiring.** Could you inspire Catholics to participate in the Church's mission, working to overcome poverty and injustice? Do you want to work for CAFOD and encourage support and partnership within the Church? CAFOD is looking for a Community Participation Coordinator to work in the Diocese of Nottingham. Follow the link for more details and please pass on to any friends or relatives who might be interested. The closing date is Sunday 27th April. See [cafod.org.uk/work-with-us](http://cafod.org.uk/work-with-us) for more information.