

## Christmas Masses and Services

18 <sup>th</sup> December (Thursday)	10am	English Mass
	10.30am-12noon	Confessions
19 <sup>th</sup> December (Friday)	10am	English Mass
	10.30am-12noon	Confessions
20 <sup>th</sup> December (Saturday)	10am	English Mass
	10.30am-12noon	Confessions
	4pm - 8pm	Confessions
22 <sup>nd</sup> December (Monday)	10.30am-12noon	Confessions
23 <sup>rd</sup> December (Tuesday)	10am	English Mass
	10.30am-12noon	Confessions
	4pm-8pm	Confessions
24 <sup>th</sup> December-Christmas Eve	3pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite
	6pm	English Mass followed by Christmas Carols
	9pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite
25 <sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day	8.30am	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite
	10.30am	English Mass

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December - Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle A** - Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the kingdom that are being worked through him and praises John as more than a prophet.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass at Dawn** -The shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the infant in the manger.

**THE FOUR WEEKS OF ADVENT.** During the first two weeks of Advent, we light the first two purple candles. The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. On this day we celebrate that our waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas day is almost over. Rose is a liturgical colour that is used to signify joy, so we light the single pink candle on the third Sunday of Advent. Then on the fourth Sunday of Advent, the final purple candle is lit to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait expectantly for the soon-coming birth of the King of Kings. In modern day adaptations, the white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. The colour white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Saviour.



### Prayer for the Advent Wreath

Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ,  
 for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people.  
 He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us.  
 He is the Saviour of us all. O Lord,  
 let your blessing come upon us  
 we light the first (purple) candle of this wreath.  
 May the wreath and its light be a sign  
 of Christ's promise of salvation.  
 May He come quickly and not delay.  
 We ask this in His holy name. Amen.

		<b>Mother of God</b> Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ ☎(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>	Parish Priest: Fr Hans Puthiakulangara e-mail: <a href="mailto:hansps83@gmail.com">hansps83@gmail.com</a> mob: 07344109949 <b>Please note: Fr. Hans' new number.</b>  NRCDT- Registered Charity
Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - <a href="http://www.ctlleicester.co.uk/">www.ctlleicester.co.uk/</a> English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - <a href="http://www.emschool.co.uk/">www.emschool.co.uk/</a>			
MOG Safeguarding Officer: Michelle Dempster - 07718279920 - <a href="mailto:michelleleadempster@gmail.com">michelleleadempster@gmail.com</a> Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914			
		<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Gaudete Sunday</b> <b>14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025</b>	
Sunday 14.12	08.30am 10.30am 04.00pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - David Collins RIP Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	<b>Pope's prayer intentions for December 2025</b>  <b>For Christians In Areas Of Conflict</b>  Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.
Monday 15.12	No Service		
Tuesday 16.12	09.30am 10.00am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Wednesday 17.12	05.30apm 06.00pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Thursday 18.12	09.30am 10.00am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass and Confessions - Mrs Jean Hidelaratchi RIP	
Friday 19.12	09.30am 10.00am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass and Confessions	
Saturday 20.12	09.30am 10.00am 4pm-8pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass and Confessions Confessions	
Sunday 21.12	08.30am 10.30am 04.00pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - In Honour of St. Anthony from Vanessa Hopes Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	

The Children's Liturgy will be cancelled on the 21<sup>st</sup> December. It will resume as usual on the following Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

The Christmas Party was a huge success. We all had a good time, especially the children who had a visit from Santa and sang Christmas Carols. We would like to thank everyone who came to support it. Thank you so much to all that have contributed with food, gifts and also worked hard to organise the Party. We raised £501.

The raffle will take place today, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> after mass in the church hall to which you are all welcome to join.

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### Christmas Offerings Envelope

This offering is a cherished opportunity for us to express our gratitude and directly support our parish clergy.

We deeply appreciate your continued generosity. 

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## Background on the Gospel Reading according to Matthew 11:2-11.

Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the kingdom that are being worked through him and praises John as more than a prophet.

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete* is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." This Sunday is so named because "Rejoice" is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter [14:3-12](#). In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

**Mr David Casserley RIP**, died recently. He and his wife were a long-standing parishioners of Mother of God. His funeral will be on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon at St Peter's RC Church on Hinckley Rd. Our deepest and sincere condolences to his family and friends.



World Gifts are CAFOD's charity gift range of unusual, ethical presents that will delight your friends and family. They've got something for everyone, with gifts for gardeners, animal lovers, teachers, entrepreneurs - the list goes on! Gifts start from as little as £4 for that special something, all the way up to £4,000 - something to aim for in your community or parish? Shop for World Gifts today at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>.

**300 Club results Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December:** £50 G Brighton (155). £25 L Moore (53), T Flynn (4).

**Collection Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December:** £299.03.

**Mass Intentions.** 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. Also note: If intention is for a living person, they must sign the envelope for permission to print their name on newsletter or intention will be listed as Private Intention. 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 Palestine and Israel, Lebanon, Syria and Sudan and for all the war-torn countries in the world. We also pray for the people that have been affected by Environment Disasters.

### 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  
SORT CODE 30-94-97  
ACC. NO. 01538822

**Throughout Advent and Christmas, we are asked to pray for the following intentions:  
Migrants and Refugees. Expectant Mothers.**

**Exploring a School-Based Nursery at Christ the King.** Christ the King Catholic School is considering opening a term-time nursery for children aged 3-4 years at our Infant Site. This would provide a nurturing, faith-based environment for early learning within our school community. To help us assess the level of interest, we kindly ask parents and carers to complete a short form. Your feedback is invaluable in shaping this exciting opportunity. **Please click here to complete the form:** [Expression of Interest: Nursery Provision at Christ the King Catholic Voluntary Academy - Fill in form.](#)

**A Journey through Advent with Fr John Farrell OP.** Using the daily lectionary readings at mass to guide us through the Advent Season. Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>, Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup>, Saturday December 20<sup>th</sup>. 10.30am (coffee) to 12.30pm (when some share a light lunch together.) There are no charges, but voluntary donations to defer expenses may be given. The meetings will be held in the Catholic Church Hall in Market Harborough, Fairfield Rd, Market Harborough LE16 9QQ. There will be parking in the School playground. Further information from Father Chris O'Connor, (01858 462359) or Peter Green (01858 414964) email: [green853@btinternet.com](mailto:green853@btinternet.com).

**Free retreat day.** On Saturday 7th February 2026 1pm onwards, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 12 Goodwood Road, Uppingham Road, Rowlatts Hill, Leicester LE5 6SG. led by the Briars team, is inspired by the lives of the newly canonised Saints Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati who offer us examples of faith and a life fully lived. Young people attending the retreat day will have the opportunity to explore the lives of Saints Carlo and Pier Giorgio through a series of games, inputs and interactive workshops. The day will culminate in the celebration of Mass with the parish community with music ministry led by the Briars team. Book here: [www.ndcys.com/leicester-retreat-day](http://www.ndcys.com/leicester-retreat-day).



**Please bring your red MISSIO box to church to emptied and collect your free 2026 calendar. If you would like a Red Box, or give a donation, please speak to Maila Taylor. Thank you.**

### FOODBANKS.

We are extremely grateful to all the parishioners who donate food for the FOODBANKS. It is very much needed. Please continue to donate, if you can.  
**A huge thank you to all of you!**

**Electronic Newsletter & Newsletter Additions:** The Electronic Newsletter is now being sent to those who requested a copy. If you would like to receive a weekly newsletter by email or you have any newsletter additions, please email [mogparish@gmail.com](mailto:mogparish@gmail.com).