

## The Season of Lent 2026

- **Ash Wednesday - 18<sup>th</sup> February** - a day of fasting and abstinence
- **First Week of Lent - Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**
- **CAFOD Lenten Fast Day envelopes will be distributed on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.**
- **CAFOD Family Fast Day - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February**
- **Collection of CAFOD envelopes - Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March.**

### The Big Lent Walk

You can join CAFOD for the Big Lent Walk in 2026! Challenge yourself to walk 200km over 40 days and raise money to bring life-saving water to people around the world and help our neighbours around the world who face poverty.

We are incredibly excited about the Big Lent Walk 2026, and would love for you to join us as we walk, run, roll or stroll 200km in the 40 days of Lent.

In 2026 we are continuing to work with SCIAF, as we take the Big Lent Walk to the whole of Great Britain! Put your faith into action this Lent. Walk, Pray, Fast and Give.

Your steps - as an individual, school or parish community group, together with the generosity of your sponsors, and your prayers - are building a better world. A few sponsorships form available from the church porch.

A bit of extra motivation

200km is the equivalent of:

- running across 1,953 football fields
- climbing the Shard 645 times
- walking up and down the Channel Tunnel four times. [Sign up now!](#)



Almighty God,

Creator of the earth in which we live,  
Help us today in our search for peaceful ways  
To avoid wars, to eliminate terrorism and tyranny  
And to establish justice for peoples of all races and faiths.

We pray that the billions of peace-loving  
People of goodwill throughout the nations,  
Will join together in prayer and action  
To bring love where there is hatred,  
Friendship where there is enmity,  
And justice where there is oppression. Amen

**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.



~Tea/coffee after the 10.30am Mass every Sunday in the hall. Please join us!



**Mother of God**  
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Leicester LE3 6NZ

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✉mogparish@gmail.com  
www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk

**Parish Priest:** Fr Hans Puthiakulangara  
e-mail: [hansps83@gmail.com](mailto:hansps83@gmail.com)  
mob: 07344109949  
Please note: Fr. Hans' new number.



**NRCDT- Registered Charity**

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



**Fifth Week of Ordinary Time**

**8<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Day of Special Prayers for the Victims of Trafficking**

Sunday 08.02	08.30am 10.30am 04.00pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Elizabeth & Walter Wisher RIP Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	Pope Leo prayer intentions for February 2026  For children with incurable diseases  Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.
Monday 09.02	No Service		
Tuesday 10.02	No Service	St. Scholastica, virgin (memorial)	
Wednesday 11.02	No Service		
Thursday 12.02	No Service		
Friday 13.02	9.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Saturday 14.02	09.30am 10.00am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - SS Cyril, monk & Methodius, bishop, Patrons of Europe (feast)	
Sunday 15.02	08.30am 10.30am 04.00pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass 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 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.

**The Season of Ordinary Time (Winter). Cycle of Prayer:**

- Peace on Earth; especially on 18<sup>th</sup> January.
- Openness to the Word of God; especially on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January.
- Christian Unity; especially between Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January inclusive.
- Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; especially on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February.
- The Sick and Those who Care for Them; especially on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February.
- The Unemployed, especially on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February.

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

## Background on the Gospel reading according to Matthew 5:13-16.

Jesus teaches that his disciples are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Following upon the teaching of the [Beatitudes](#), Jesus uses the now familiar metaphors of salt and light to describe the life of discipleship. We take salt and light for granted in our society, but these commodities were more precious in ancient cultures. Just as now, salt was used in Jesus' time for flavouring, as a preservative, and as a healing agent. Similarly, the widespread use of electricity in the modern world makes us less aware of the value and importance of light in our lives.

Still, our familiarity with this passage from Matthew's Gospel speaks well to the abiding power of the imagery that Jesus presented. Jesus' call to be salt for the earth and light for the world powerfully states our mission as Church and as Christians. Our commitment to social justice flows from the exhortation that Jesus gives us in today's Gospel. Some of the activities that this commitment leads us to are given more concrete expression as the Corporal and Spiritual [Works of Mercy](#). When we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, console those who mourn, and so on, we show ourselves to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. When we do these things with the community of faith, the Church, we are indeed acting as "a city set on a mountain" that cannot be hidden!

**Mrs Eileen Mary Pratt RIP**, died on 17<sup>th</sup> of January. Reception into the church at 7pm on 18<sup>th</sup> February, Funeral on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 11am. Our deepest and sincere condolences to her family and friends.

**300 Club Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February:** £50 P Fresston (278). £25 B Joseph (150), R Ashley (239).

**Sunday Collection 1<sup>st</sup> February:** £413.04.

**300 CLUB DIVIDEND.** Thank you to our 300 Club Members. The dividend for the year ending October 2025 is £7,200 to be split evenly between our three churches of Mother of God, St Peter's and Blessed Sacrament. **NOT A MEMBER?** Please call Bernadette on (07910 971 260) or Marian (07982 489 995) - or see John Gray for new memberships, or queries.

### 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

**National Marriage Week - 7th-14th February 2026** - There will be resources available from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales from mid-January. This year's theme is 'The Joy of Love' and resources will include: 'The Joy of Love' launched in 2022 by the Bishops' Conference Committee for Marriage and Family Life explores the key themes of *Amoris Laetitia* on: Joy, Love, Mercy, Realities and Discernment, and Mission. Which can be found here: [The Joy of Love - 2022](#); National Marriage Week Novena; A Reflection on the Marriage of Mary to Joseph in Art and Tradition. If you are signed up to receive the weekly CBCEW newsletter, then you would know that the Marriage Week resources are available - please share far and wide. [Marriage Week - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#).

If you are not signed up to receive the newsletter, I encourage you to do so via this link: [Newsletter Sign-up - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#).

**Leicester 40 Days for Life Vigil Prayer** from 18<sup>th</sup> February - 29th March. More information at [leicester40daysforlife@gmail.com](mailto:leicester40daysforlife@gmail.com) or visit [www.40daysforlife.com/en/leicester](http://www.40daysforlife.com/en/leicester).

**Faith and Footprint.** An online opportunity to connect our faith with care for the Earth, taking a lead from Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si. Click below to register, and we'll send you a Zoom link on the day of the meeting. We hold three of these get-togethers through the year. The next will be on 23 June and 28 September 2026. Put them in your diary now! Keep in touch with Caritas. If you would like to keep in touch with news and other opportunities from Caritas Diocese of Nottingham, sign up for our 'Grapevine' newsletter at the link below, where you can also read back issues:

<https://us14.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=836fda909b1148aa84bb903fe&id=9c4d41d585>

**Mission Lab: Introducing cell groups.** Many Christians around the world meet in 'cell groups' or 'base communities' where members can explore faith, support each other and enrich the life of their church. They have much to offer us here in Nottingham diocese: spiritual hunger is growing, parishes are growing in size, and pastoral care is increasingly a shared responsibility. **On Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February From 7.00-8.30pm on Zoom**, join Fr Victor Vella who oversees PECS England, a group of laity and clergy and supports and promotes the Parish Evangelisation Cell System (PECS) first pioneered by the Archdiocese of Milan within Catholic Parishes in England. He will share their vision for small communities in parishes which meet, worship, pray and grow together. Also joining us will be Fr Dominic O'Connor, Dean of South Lincolnshire on the contribution cell groups can make in his own parish of Boston. [Find out more](#).

**The Leicestershire Eucharistic Ministers Renewal Day for 2026** is on 28th March at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 12, Goodwood Rd., Leicester LE5 6GS. It will be led by Father David Cain and Deacon O'Looskan 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 14th 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](mailto:mchunt2310@btinternet.com).

**Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026.** If you are interested in joining as a helper with HCPT Group 512 Ratcliffe pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026 leaving on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July and returning on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July, staying at Hosanna House, please contact Mairead Collins on 07999542253 for further details. Many thanks.

**Winter Night Shelter:** The charity, One Roof Leicester, supports people who are homeless. They urgently need volunteers from now until 31 March for evening and night shifts. Full training given; experienced staff always on duty. Tel: 0116 4422007 or E: [karyn@onerof.org.uk](mailto:karyn@onerof.org.uk) for details.

**A homeless shelter in Leicester** has appealed for warm winter jackets and coats as temperatures drop. **Help the Homeless Leicester** made the plea on our local news a few weeks ago, and said a warm coat provides "protection, dignity and sometimes the difference between coping and breaking" for those sleeping rough. The charity is asking for winter jackets and coats, hoodies and jumpers, as well as hats, gloves and scarves. Please donate items in clean and good condition. **Speak to Maila Taylor for further information.**

**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).

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