



The Season of Lent 2026

- **First Week of Lent - Sunday 22nd February**
- **CAFOD Lenten Fast Day envelopes will be distributed on Sunday 22nd February.**
- **CAFOD Family Fast Day - Friday 27th February**
- **Collection of CAFOD envelopes - Sunday 1st 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 sponsorship forms are 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!](#)

Prayer of St Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon; where there is error, the truth;

where there is doubt, the faith; where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand;

to be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

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 Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ ☎(0116) 287 5232 ✉mogparish@gmail.com www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk	Parish Priest: Fr Hans Puthiakulagara e-mail: hansps83@gmail.com mob: 07344109949 Please note: Fr. Hans' new number. NRCDT- Registered Charity
Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - www.ckleicester.co.uk/ English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/			
MOG Safeguarding Officer: Michelle Dempster - 07718279920 - michelleadempster@gmail.com Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914			
		First Week of Lent 22nd February - 1st March 2026	† Stations of the Cross every Friday after Mass
Sunday 22.02	08.30am 10.30am 04.00pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - For Private Intention 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 23.02	No Mass		
Tuesday 24.02	09.30am 10.00am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Keith Bobs RIP	
Wednesday 25.02	05.30pm 06.00pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Thursday 26.02	09.30am 10.00am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Friday 27.02	10.00am 05.30pm	FAMILY FAST DAY Holy Mass followed by Stations of the Cross Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite followed by Stations of the Cross	
Saturday 28.02	09.30am 10.00am 11.00am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass Funeral Service of Jeff Osife	
Sunday 01.03	08.30am 10.30am 04.00pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	

CAFOD ENVELOPES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TODAY

Please bring your old Palms to church.

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.

Cycle of Prayer for The Season of Lent.

- Candidates for the Sacrament; especially on the Sunday of Lent
- Women; especially on Friday 6th March.
- The Needy and the Hungry of the World especially on Friday 27th February.
- Penitents and Wanderers.

Please take this newsletter home with you.

Background on the Gospel reading according to Matthew 4:1-11.

Jesus fasts for 40 days in the desert and is tempted by the devil.

In each of the three Synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew, and Luke), after Jesus' baptism by John, Jesus is reported to have gone to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. In each case, while in the desert, Jesus is tempted by the devil.

Matthew and Luke give more detail than Mark does, but each one tells how the devil tempts Jesus in the desert. In Matthew, as in Luke, the devil presents three temptations to Jesus. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger; he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test; and he offers Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship the devil. In each case, Jesus resists the temptation, rebuking the devil with words from Scripture. The account of Jesus' temptation in the desert is filled with allusions and parallels to the Old Testament, including the story of the people of Israel. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert in Exodus, for example, and Jesus spends 40 days in the desert. As the Israelites were tempted during the Exodus, so too is Jesus tempted.

Each temptation offers insight into both God and the human condition. Jesus' rejection of the temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil, confident in God's protection and faithfulness.

As we start our journey through Lent, our Sunday readings call us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice; God's promise of protection can be trusted; God alone is God.

300 Club Sunday 15th February: £50 C Fernandes (5). £25 D Avery (194), C Barkshire (52).

Sunday Collection 15th February: £.194.70.

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

Adult Formation -Sycamore Lent Evenings for young Adults- 18-35s Mondays during Lent - Online - 7.30pm. Beginning 23rd February. Join Young adults and enter more deeply into prayer this Lent. Just bring yourself, a bible and a drink of your choice (unless you are fasting!).
23/2 Prayer for beginner - 02/03 Seven Rules of Prayer - 09/03 Praying with the Bible - 16/03 How to pray the Mass - 23/03 How to offer up your sufferings to God - 30/03 Silent Prayer and the presence of God. Key contacts: Charles Archer, *Young Adult Ministry Leader*.
charles.archer@dioceseofnottingham.uk 0115 953 9850 [Book your space here!](#)

The Nottingham 40 Days for Life, praying for an end to abortion, runs between Wednesday 18th February and Sunday 29th March. During these 40 days of Lent pro-lifers will be: praying for an end to abortion in our community near the main abortion clinic in Nottinghamshire; offering peaceful witness to God's love and the possibility of healing; offering practical, non-judgemental help to women who may want to consider an alternative to abortion, and offering support for post-abortive women. More information is at: 40daysforlifennotts@gmail.com.

Urgent: last chance to lobby Lords to stop decriminalisation. You can use our [online webtool](#), which helps you generate a letter either to print or send in the post, or to send by email. **Get people in your church writing.** We have leaflets with a QR code pointing to the webtool. You can download both [here](#). You could also organise a letter writing event - get in touch if you would like guidance on doing this. **Distribute leaflets.** The House of Lords is currently debating an extreme amendment to the Government's Crime and Policing Bill, which would allow women to self-induce their own abortions for any reason, and at any gestation. The last chance to remove this amendment will be at Report Stage, expected on the 11 or 17 March. Please act now to stop this barbaric proposal. Find out more and use SPUC's tool to write to members of the House of Lords by going to <https://spuc.org.uk/campaign/abortion-decriminalisation/>.

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.

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 10th July and returning on Friday 17th July, staying at Hosanna House, please contact Mairead Collins on 07999542253 for further details. Many thanks.

The Diocesan Youth Service (NDCYS) is taking a group of young people and young adults to Lourdes, France as part of the Diocesan Pilgrimage in July 2026. If you are aged 16+ and unable to go with your school, or a young adult who would like to be a small group leader, we encourage you to download the information pack and apply at ndcys.com/Lourdes.

Nottingham Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 2026 with Bishop Patrick. Departing from East Midlands airport on Monday 13th July, enjoy five days in Lourdes with over 200 people from across our diocese. Those with additional needs will be cared for by our health team and helpers' team. Mary invites us all to come to this holy place. More details from the tour operator: <https://www.tangney-tours.com/diocese-pilgrimages/diocese-nottingham/>.

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@oneroof.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.**

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!