

Holy Week Celebrations

Palm Sunday 29th March	08.00am 10.30am 04.00pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass Holy Mass Syro Malabar rite
Monday 30th March	9.30am 10am 5/8pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass Confessions
Tuesday 31st March	9.30am 10am 5/8pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass Confessions
Wednesday 1st April	Chrism Mass	No Mass at MOG
Maundy Thursday 2nd April	9.30am 6pm	Pesaha Service English Service
Good Friday 3rd April	9.30am 3pm	Good Friday Service Good Friday Service
Holy Saturday 4th April	9.30am 3pm 6pm 9pm	Great Saturday Service Easter Service Easter Vigil Easter Service
Easter Sunday 5th April	8.30am 10.30am	Holy Qurbana Holy Mass

The Pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving.

Saint Augustine described "Prayers, Fasting and Almsgiving" as the Pillars of Lent. The role of any pillar is to support; from the soft pillar we rest our head on each night to the pillars of the buildings we live and work in; they all support something. Pillars of Lent support our way of living the Gospel. The ideals of prayer, fasting and almsgiving support us on our way of living the Gospel. The ideals of prayers, fasting and almsgiving support us on our whole Christian journey rather than something we inflict on ourselves for just forty days of the year. Jesus summed up the pillars of discipleship "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Prayer) "You shall love your neighbour (almsgiving) as yourself (fasting)" Matt 22:37,39. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving remind us to put our relationship right again (conversion).

Prayer, places us into the right relationship with God

Fasting, places us into the right relationship with ourself (our body)

Almsgiving, places us into the right relationship with others (almsgiving).

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE PARISH	LLOYDS BANK
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

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.

	Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ ☎(0116) 287 5232 ✉mogparish@gmail.com www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk	Parish Priest: Fr Hans Puthiakulangara 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.ctlleicester.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			
	Fifth Week of Lent Passion Sunday 22nd - 29th March 2026		† Stations of the Cross every Friday after Mass
Sunday 22.03	08.30am 10.30am 04.00pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Guardian Angel, Dulio & Belmita Lopes RIP & Francisco & Masta Rosalio RIP Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	Pope Leo prayer intentions for March 2026 Pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.
Monday 23.03	No Mass		
Tuesday 24.03	09.30am 10.00am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Christopher Hynes RIP & Riona George thanks	
Wednesday 25.03	05.30pm 06.00pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Seena Bobby Thanksgiving The Annunciation of the Lord (solemnity)	
Thursday 26.03	09.30am 10.00am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Sr. John Maria RIP & Felis Mendes	
Friday 27.03	9.30am 10.00am 05.30pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass and Stations of the Cross - David Collins RIP Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite followed by Stations of the Cross	
Saturday 28.03	09.30am 10.00am 5.30pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass Mass Syro-Malabar rite	
Sunday 29.03	08.00am 10.30am 04.00pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Al Owens RIP & Nancy Hynes intentions Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	

SECOND COLLECTION ON GOOD FRIDAY FOR THE HOLY LAND.

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, Sudan, Iran and The Middle East and for all the war-torn countries in the world. We also pray for the people that have been affected by Environment Disasters.

LENT PRAYER: Loving God, when our boat is rocked by poverty, illness or disaster, you quiet the waves, and lead us safely to shore. When we work hard, but still go hungry, you walk beside us, calling "cast your nets", there is enough for all. Lead us, Lord to play our part in calming the storm and sharing your gifts so all people may look to the future with hope. Amen.

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.

Background on the Gospel reading according to John 11:1-45
Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

Our Gospel on this day, the fifth Sunday of Lent, is again taken from the Gospel according to John. The reading from John continues the break from Cycle A's focus on the Gospel of Matthew. Today's Gospel reading recounts another sign, or miracle, found in John's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus. As our catechumens move closer to the celebration of their Baptisms at the Triduum, today's reading invites us to reflect upon what it means to call Jesus the Resurrection and the life.

The context for the story of the raising of Lazarus is the Jewish leaders' growing animosity toward Jesus. Jesus has been in Jerusalem, taking part in the feast of the Dedication, which we have come to know as Hanukkah. The people have been pressing him to declare plainly whether he is the Messiah. Jesus tells them to look to his works, which testify to his coming from God. Many do not believe Jesus, however, and some try to stone him for blasphemy.

Into this scene of confrontation, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, send word to Jesus that his friend is ill. Jesus is said to love Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, but he delays his journey for two days. The delay heightens the drama and shows Jesus' obedience to God, who is to be glorified through Lazarus's resurrection. When Jesus finally declares that he will journey to Bethany, his disciples fear for his life. Thomas declares that he and the other disciples should prepare to die with Jesus.

The scene described at Bethany is a sad one. Martha meets Jesus, weeping and saying that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Yet she remains confident that God will do whatever Jesus asks. Martha affirms her belief that there will be a resurrection of the dead in the last days. Then Martha's sister, Mary, comes to Jesus with the same confidence, saying that Jesus could have cured Lazarus. Jesus asks to be brought to Lazarus's tomb where he prays and calls Lazarus out from the tomb. At this sign, many come to believe in Jesus, but others take word of the miracle to the Jewish authorities, who begin their plans for Jesus' death.

Set against the backdrop of Jesus' impending death, many elements of the raising of Lazarus foreshadow the good news of Jesus' own Resurrection. Jesus, facing the conflict with the Jewish authorities, acts in complete obedience to God. In raising Lazarus, Jesus shows his power over death so that when Jesus dies, those who believe in him might remember that and take hope. Just as Jesus calls for the stone to be rolled away from Lazarus's tomb, so too will the disciples find the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb.

With our catechumens preparing for their Baptism at Easter, the Gospel today calls us to reflect on Baptism as a dying and rising with Jesus. In Baptism we die to sin's power over us, rising as children of God. In Baptism we join ourselves with Christ, who conquered death once and for all so that we who believe in him may have eternal life. With Martha and Mary, we are called to profess our belief that Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life.

300 Club Sunday 15th March: £50 U Ngwu (44). £25 M George (111), D Fitzgerald (299).

Sunday Collection 15th March: £357.58.

Marriage Support. From relationships that are 'Just in a Rut', needing some refreshment or more serious issues - If you are open to try again - Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get their relationship back on track as they rediscovered hope and trust in the marriage. To find out more: www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443.

The Great Awakening Convention run by the AFCM (Anointing Fire Catholic Ministries) on 21st March 2036 at Bethel Convention Centre, West Bromwich B70 7JW, from 09.00am to 16.30pm. Holy Mass. Confessions, praise and worship, adoration, talks, spiritual sharing and children's sessions, All are warmly invited to attend. Awakening Monthly Main Convention Dates: 2nd May - 6th June - 4th July - 1st August - 5th September - 3rd October 7th November - 5th December. Awakening Online Healing Service, every Thursday. More info at awakening@afcmuk.org.

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.

Bishop Patrick outlines the Diocesan Mission Plan. The Diocesan Mission Plan sets a course for us to foster missionary growth and spiritual renewal across our parishes, schools and chaplaincies over the next five years. At its heart is an invitation for each of us to use our unique gifts to fulfil Christ's commission to "Go, make disciples". Our March 'Mission Lab' is a chance to make the Plan's invitation our own. Join Bishop Patrick for an evening to discover the part you and your fellow parishioners can play. You can download the Mission Plan at a dedicated website gomakedisciples.uk. Not everyone could make a roadshow, but this online session will make sure you do not miss out. Bishop Patrick will share the highlights of his Roadshow talk. There will be an opportunity afterwards in small groups to explore how it can bear fruit our parishes - and even in our own lives. If this is your first time at a Mission Lab, register on Zoom via the link below. <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/9100-0PjTs-H6bYDKdhC3g>.

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. 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. Email Mrs M Hunt mchunt2310@btinternet.com.

Pilgrimage to Walsingham on June 6th. The parish pilgrimage on Saturday, June 6th, has been confirmed. The coach will leave Mother of God on the Saturday at 8.00. The departure from Walsingham will be at 4.00pm. The cost per person is £22 for adults and £10 for children. We shall be travelling on a de lux coach which has a toilet. Josephine will be at the back of church after Mass to take names. Demand will be strong so book early. This will be a great event for the parish. If you attend another Mass and wish to book a place on the coach please contact Josephine by email - feenevmckay@btopenworld.com.

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.

Forming Catholic Student Leaders: Two summer courses exploring faith, ethics and leadership for sixth form students, offered by the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst. Join us for 6 days in the beautiful Ribble Valley to explore themes linked to The Common Good (Year 12, 10-15 August) and to The Human Ecology (Year 13, 5-10 July). Meet new friends, discuss and share with peers, tutors and academics, learn new skills, develop your relationship with Christ, build your character. www.christianleadershipformation.com. **Called to Love, 2 - 3 May 2026:** A retreat for singles, dating and engaged young adults who want to think more deeply about relationships and the call to marriage. A relaxed weekend with input, prayer, discussion and social, as well as the opportunity to meet like-minded others! This year's retreat will have as its theme masculinity and femininity. Runs from Saturday 2nd to Sunday 3rd May, with the option of staying Friday night. <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/called-to-love/>

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!