

## Holy Week Celebrations

Palm Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	08.00am 10.30am 04.00pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am 10am 5/8pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass Confessions
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	9.30am 10am 5/8pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass Confessions
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Chrism Mass 5/8pm	No Mass at MOG Confessions
Maundy Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	9.30am 6pm	Pesaha Service English Service
Good Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	9.30am 3pm	Good Friday Service (Malayalam) Good Friday Service
Holy Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	9.30am 3pm 6pm 9pm	Great Saturday Service Easter Service Easter Vigil Easter Service
Easter Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	08.30am 10.30am	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass

### The Sacred Triduum... Three Most Holy Days of our Liturgical Year

**Maundy Thursday:** One of the most important days in the church's liturgical year in which many important events took place.

1. The Last Supper was the first place where mass was celebrated. Every mass we celebrate even to this very day re-enacts the celebration of the Last Supper, our priest is in the place of our blessed Lord we, the people take the place of the apostles round the table, now in the form of our altar. Therefore, on Holy Thursday we celebrate the anniversary of the very first mass.
2. At the Last supper First Holy Communion was instituted for the very first time when Jesus takes just ordinary bread and wine and consecrates into His Own Body and Blood. "Then he took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to them, "This is my body, which is given for you" and "this cup is the new covenant sealed with my blood, which is poured out for you." So, therefore Holy Thursday is the anniversary of the blessed sacrament of Holy Communion.
3. Thirdly at the Last Supper, Jesus made his apostles his first priests when he gave them the special gift of being able to consecrate bread and wine into His Blessed Body and Blood in all future masses when he said the words "Do this in memory of me." Luke 22:20.

**Good Friday:** Commemoration of the Lord's Passion and Death.

**Holy Saturday:** Easter Vigil. Although celebrated Holy Saturday evening, it is the dramatic Easter vigil liturgy that marks the beginning of Easter. The vigil is divided into four parts: Service of Light, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of Baptism, Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March, Easter of the Resurrection of the Lord.

<p><b>FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE PARISH:</b> 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>LLOYDS BANK Mother of God Leicester RCP SORT CODE 30-94-97 ACC. NO. 01538822</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 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.

	<p><i>Mother of God</i> Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</p> <p>☎(0116) 287 5232 ✉mogparish@gmail.com www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</p>	<p><i>Parish Priest: Fr Hans Puthiakulangara</i> e-mail: <a href="mailto:hansps83@gmail.com">hansps83@gmail.com</a> mob: 07344109949</p> <p style="color: red;">Please note: Fr. Hans' new number.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">               NRC DT- Registered Charity         </div>	
<p>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></p>			
<p>MOG Safeguarding Officer: Michelle Dempster - 07718279920 - <a href="mailto:michelleadempster@gmail.com">michelleadempster@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914</p>			
	<p><b>Holy Week - Sixth Week of Lent</b></p> <p><b>Palm Sunday</b></p> <p><b>29<sup>th</sup> March – 5<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b></p>	<p>Jesus enters Jerusalem as the crowd waves palm branches and shouts, "Hosanna!"</p>	
<p>Sunday 29.03</p>	<p>08.00am 10.30am 04.00pm</p>	<p>Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Al Owens RIP &amp; Nancy Hynes intentions Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite</p>	<p><b>Pope Leo prayer intentions for April 2026</b></p> <p><b>For priests in crisis</b> Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.</p>
Monday 30.03	09.30am 10.00am 05/08pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass Confessions	
Tuesday 31.03	09.30am 10.00am 05/08pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass Confessions	
Wednesday 01.04	No Mass 05/08pm	Chrism Mass at Nottingham Cathedral Confessions	
Thursday 02.04	09.30am 06.00pm	Pesaha Service English Service	
Friday 03.04	09.30am 03.00pm	Good Friday Service (Malayalam) Good Friday Service	
Saturday 04.04	09.30am 03.00pm 06.00pm 09.00pm	Great Saturday Service Easter Service Easter Vigil - Parishioners living & dead of MOG Easter Service	
Sunday 05.04	08.30am 10.30am	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Private intentions	

### SECOND COLLECTION ON GOOD FRIDAY FOR THE HOLY LAND.

**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.

PLEASE NOTE: there will be no refreshments served after the 10.30 mass on Easter Sunday.

**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.

### Prayer for Peace on Palm Sunday

Heavenly Father, as we remember the day Your Son rode into Jerusalem, I pray for **peace**. The world feels so noisy, and my heart often feels restless. But in Your presence, I find calm. Lord, let Your peace flow into my soul like a gentle river. Remove the anxiety, fear, and doubt that try to steal my joy. Replace it with faith, hope, and trust in You. On this holy day, I wave my palm branch in gratitude, knowing that You are the Prince of Peace. Keep me still in Your love, Lord. Amen.

## Background on the Gospel reading according to *Matthew 26:14-27:66*.

Jesus is crucified, and his body is placed in the tomb.

Today we begin Holy Week, the days during which we journey with Jesus on his way of the cross and anticipate his Resurrection on Easter. Today's liturgy begins with the procession with palms to remind us of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem.

The events of Jesus' Passion are proclaimed in their entirety in today's Liturgy of the Word. Those events will be proclaimed again when we celebrate the liturgies of the Triduum—Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, and the Easter Vigil. In communities that celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation with catechumens, these liturgies take on special importance because they invite the catechumens and the community to enter together into the central mysteries of our faith. These days are indeed profound and holy.

In Cycle A, we read the Passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Matthew on Palm, or Passion, Sunday. (On Good Friday, we will read the Passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John). The story of Jesus' Passion and death in Matthew's Gospel focuses particularly on the obedience of Jesus to the will of his Father. As Jesus sends his disciples to prepare for Passover, he indicates that the events to come are the will of the Father. In Jesus' prayer in the garden, he prays three times to the Father to take away the cup of suffering, but each time, Jesus concludes by affirming his obedience to the Father's will. Even Matthew's description of Jesus' death shows Jesus' obedience to the Father.

Another theme of Matthew's Gospel is to show Jesus as the fulfilment of Scripture. Throughout the Passion narrative, Matthew cites and alludes to Scripture to show that the events of Jesus' Passion and death are in accordance with all that was foretold. And if the events were foretold, then God is in control. In addition, Matthew is particularly concerned that the reader does not miss the fact that Jesus is the Suffering Servant of the Old Testament.

Jesus acts in obedience to the Father even in death, so that sins may be forgiven. Matthew makes this clear in the story of the Lord's Supper. As Jesus blesses the chalice, he says: ". . . for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins."

While the Gospels of Matthew and Mark have many parallels in their narrative of the Passion, there are a few details worth noting that are unique to Matthew. Only Matthew indicates the price paid to Judas for betraying Jesus. The story of Judas's death is also found only in Matthew, as is the detail that Pilate's wife received a warning in a dream and that Pilate washed his hands of Jesus' death. Finally, Matthew's Gospel alone mentions the earthquakes and other phenomena that happened after Jesus' death.

Matthew places the responsibility for Jesus' death on the Sanhedrin, the chief priests and elders who were responsible for the Temple. However, the animosity that those Jewish leaders and the Jewish people demonstrate toward Jesus is not to be interpreted in ways that blame the Jewish people for Jesus' death. Throughout Matthew's Gospel, the narrative reflects the tension that probably existed between the early Christian community and their Jewish contemporaries. At the Second Vatican Council, the Council Fathers made clear that all sinners share responsibility for the suffering and death of Jesus and that it is wrong to place blame for Jesus' Passion on the Jewish contemporaries of Jesus or on Jewish people today.

There are many vantage points from which to engage in Jesus' Passion. In the characters of Matthew's Gospel, we find reflections of ourselves and the many ways in which we sometimes respond to Jesus. Sometimes we are like Judas, who betrays Jesus and comes to regret it. We are sometimes like Peter, who denies him, or like the disciples, who fell asleep during Jesus' darkest hour but then act rashly and violently at his arrest. Sometimes we are like Simon, who is pressed into service to help Jesus carry his cross. Sometimes we are like the leaders who fear Jesus or like Pontius Pilate, who washed his hands of the whole affair. Jesus dies so that our sins will be forgiven. The events of Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection are called the Paschal Mystery. No amount of study will exhaust or explain the depth of love that Jesus showed in offering this sacrifice for us. After we have examined and studied the stories we have received about these events, we are left with one final task—to meditate on these events and on the forgiveness that Jesus' obedience won for us.

**300 Club Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March:** £50 J Cadden. £25 M Taylor (10), B Fenn (163).

**You are invited to join the 300 Club**. This is an excellent way to help your parish financially and have some fun at the same time as half the subscriptions comes back to the parish! Every weekend there are one £50 prize and two £25 prizes to be won, plus the chance to win £1000 and other great prizes in the Grand Prize Draw in October. Application forms are available in church today and from John at the back of church after Mass."

**Sunday Collection 22<sup>nd</sup> March: £331.25.**

**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](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) +44 797 338 0443.

**The Great Awakening Convention** run by the AFCM (Anointing Fire Catholic Ministries) on 21<sup>st</sup> 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> May - 6<sup>th</sup> June - 4<sup>th</sup> July - 1<sup>st</sup> August - 5<sup>th</sup> September - 3<sup>rd</sup> October 7<sup>th</sup> November - 5<sup>th</sup> December. Awakening Online Healing Service, every Thursday. More info at [awakening@afcmuk.org](http://awakening@afcmuk.org).

**Join Caritas for its first-ever retreat day** in the prayerful surroundings of Mount St Bernard's Abbey, where we can discern our call to mission more deeply. Equipping for Mission: Hearts open to the world. 'Hearts open to the world' is a collaborative day organised by Caritas, with opportunities for recollection, refreshment and resolution to equip and encourage you for mission. On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April from 10am to 4pm. The Abbey does not charge its guests, but you will be invited to make a cash donation. Please bring a packed lunch with you. [Find out more](#) register.

**Pilgrimage to Walsingham on June 6<sup>th</sup>.** The parish pilgrimage on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 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 - [feeneymckay@btopenworld.com](mailto:feeneymckay@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](http://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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, with the option of staying Friday night. <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/called-to-love/>

**Dates for your diary: 7<sup>th</sup> June: Our Lady's Procession.**

**28<sup>th</sup> June: Summer Raffle Draw.**

**13<sup>th</sup> September: International Mass**

**19<sup>th</sup> September: Summer BBQ.**

**6<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Party.**