

## WORDS OF THE HOLY FATHER

Meditating on the mystery of the Resurrection, we find an answer to our thirst for meaning. Faced with our fragile humanity, the Paschal proclamation becomes care and healing, nourishing hope in the face of the frightening challenges that life presents us with every day on a personal and global level. In the perspective of Easter, the Via Crucis, the Way of the Cross, is transfigured into the Via Lucis, the Way of Light.

We need to savour and meditate on the joy after the pain, to retrace in the new light all the stages that preceded the Resurrection. Easter does not eliminate the cross, but defeats it in the miraculous duel that changed our human history. Even our time, marked by so many crosses, invokes the dawn of Paschal hope.

Christ's Resurrection is not an idea, a theory, but the Event that is the foundation of faith. He, the Risen One, through the Holy Spirit, continues to remind us of this, so that we can be His witnesses even where human history does not see light on the horizon. Paschal hope does not disappoint.

To believe truly in the Pasch through our daily journey means revolutionizing our lives, being transformed in order to transform the world with the gentle and courageous power of Christian hope. (Pope Leo XIV - General Audience, 5 November 2025)

### Cycle of Prayer during Eastertide, we pray for these intentions:

New Members of the Church  
 Vocations, especially on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April  
 Human Work, especially on 1<sup>st</sup> May  
 Survivors of Abuse, especially on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May  
 The right use of the Media, especially on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May  
 The Church, especially on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May.

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.



Please note that there will be no Children's Liturgy and no refreshments in the hall TODAY Easter Sunday. Both events will take places as usual next Sunday.

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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:michelleadempster@gmail.com">michelleadempster@gmail.com</a> Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914			
		<b>Easter Sunday</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	
Sunday 05.04	08.30am 10.30am	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Private intentions & Thomas Scaria and Thankamma Thomas RIP	<b>Pope Leo prayer intentions for April 2026</b> For priests in crisis 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.
Monday 06.04	No Service		
Tuesday 07.04	No Service		
Wednesday 08.04	No Service		
Thursday 09.04	09.30am 10am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Friday 10.04	09.30am 10.00am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Mathai Mathew RIP	
Saturday 11.04	09.30am 10.00am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Rose Kennedy Birthday	
Sunday 12.04	08.30am 10.30am 04.00pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Bernice and Pat O'Rourke RIP Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	

Easter Collection this year will be towards church expenses. Please be generous.

### EASTER PRAYER

Gracious God,

We praise you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus.

We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witness of resurrection.

We praise you for the light of new life that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy, will live in us each day; and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others. Amen.



**Background on the Gospel reading according to John 20:1-9.**

Mary of Magdala finds that the stone has been removed from Jesus' tomb.

Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.

**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.

**300 Club Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March:** £50 P Fernandez (244). £25 D Avery (194), D Gomes (221).

**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 29<sup>th</sup> March: £528.38.**

**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  
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**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](mailto:awakening@afcmuk.org).

**Jesus Youth International Catholic Movement.** We are having our young adults 18-35 yrs event called Breakthrough on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2026 from 9.30am to 3pm, at The Frassati Centre, Holy Cross Priory Church in Leicester LE1 6HW.

**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 2nd to Sunday 3rd 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.**