

Divine Mercy Sunday

The feast of Divine Mercy Sunday did not come from a committee or a calendar revision. It came from a direct request of Jesus Himself, as recorded in the Diary of Saint Faustina Kowalska – a Polish nun who received mystical visions in the 1930s.

In her diary, Jesus told her: “I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy.”

For decades, the devotion was met with scepticism. But in the year 2000, Pope John Paul II – who had a deep personal devotion to Saint Faustina – canonised her and officially established Divine Mercy Sunday as a feast of the Universal Catholic Church. It was no coincidence: he announced it on Divine Mercy Sunday itself.

The message of Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us and wants us to approach Him in constant prayer, repenting of our sins while asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world. He wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others, extending our love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

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

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

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

MISSIO RED BOXES.



Mother of God RC CHURCH raised £439.48 in 2025, through the Red Boxes, including individuals giving directly. THANK YOU SO MUCH.
If You would like a box, or give a donation, please speak to Maila Taylor. Your free magazine is available from the Church Porch.

Last year, through Missio, you: raised £5.6m in England and Wales, helped 30,000+ of the world's poorest children, trained 1,751 seminarians, raised £2.2m through the Red Box.

		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.ctkleicester.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			
		Second Week of Eastertide Divine Mercy Sunday 12th – 19th April 2026	
Sunday 12.04	08.30am 10.30am 04.00pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Bernice and Pat O'Rourke RIP & Josephine Haugh Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	Pope Leo prayer intentions for April 2026 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 13.04	No Service		
Tuesday 14.04	09.30am 10.00am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Joseph Vattakawdam RIP	
Wednesday 15.04	05.30pm 06.00pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass- Souls of Kottackal Ousep & Rosy Joseph	
Thursday 16.04	09.30am 10.00am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Friday 17.04	09.30am 10.00am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Saturday 18.04	09.30am 10.00am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Jean Hidelaratchi RIP	
Sunday 19.04	08.30am 10.30am 04.00pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	

Divine Mercy Prayer

Eternal God,
in whom mercy is endless
and the treasury of compassion - inexhaustible,
look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us,
that in difficult moments we might not despair
nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit
ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. 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.

Father Hans would like to thank parishioners who have sent good wishes and gifts for Easter.

Background on the Gospel reading according to *John 20:19-31*.

Thomas believes because he sees Jesus.

The Gospels tell us that Jesus appeared to the disciples on several occasions after they discovered that his tomb was empty. Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. The bodily form was not one that the disciples recognized though. In John's Gospel, Mary of Magdala does not recognise that the figure standing before her is Jesus until he speaks to her. In Luke's Gospel the disciples who meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus do not recognise him until he breaks bread with them. The resurrected Jesus had a physical presence, but the disciples couldn't recognise Jesus unless he allowed them to. His resurrected body, nonetheless, showed the marks of his crucifixion.

From readings such as today's Gospel, we also see that in His resurrected body, Jesus seems to be free of physical constraints. He appears to the disciples despite the fact that the doors were locked. Jesus greets His disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, Jesus commissions His disciples to continue the work that He has begun: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." During the meeting, Jesus also shows the integral connection between forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The story of Thomas illustrates our Christian experience today: We are called to believe without seeing. In fact, all Christians after the first witnesses have been called to believe without seeing. Thomas's doubt is hardly surprising; the news of Jesus' appearance was incredible to the disciples who had seen Him crucified and buried. Thomas's human nature compelled him to want hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after His death was indeed the same Jesus who had been crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to act on that desire. He is our witness that Jesus is really risen.

Our faith is based on the witness of the Church that has preceded us, beginning with Thomas and the first disciples. Through Baptism we receive the same Holy Spirit that Jesus brought to the first disciples. We are among those who are "blessed" because we believe without having seen.

300 Club Sunday 29th March: £50 I Ruzivo (269). £25 J Jarvis (193), M Hickey (205).

Weekly Collections:

Maundy Thursday £361.25. Good Friday £710.28.

Easter Vigil £560.21. Easter Sunday £513.41.

Train and Volunteer as a Relationship Counsellor with Marriage Care *Marriage Care* is looking for empathetic volunteers to train as relationship counsellors and support couples in need. Their next Certificate in Relationship Counselling begins in March 2027, with applications closing on 30 June. Full training, ongoing supervision, and CPD are provided, and no previous counselling experience is needed. Training costs apply, including a non-refundable registration fee of around £175, but no one is excluded because of an inability to pay. For more information, visit www.marriagecare.org.uk or email volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk.

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) 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.

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

The Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This 25th- 27th April 2026 the Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be visiting St Joseph's Church, Oakham. One of 220 images commissioned by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1979. Touched to the original in Mexico and by decree of the Church bears the same Graces. [More information here.](#)

The Summit Deanery Retreat Days, Holy Trinity Church, Newark NG24 4AU. Saturday 18th April 2026 1PM Onwards. This free retreat day, led by the Briars team, is inspired by the lives of the newly canonised Saints Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati who offer us examples of faith and a life fully lived. Young people attending the retreat day will have the opportunity to explore the lives of Saints Carlo and Pier Giorgio through a series of games, inputs and interactive workshops. The day will culminate in the celebration of Mass with the parish community with music ministry led by the Briars team. [Find out more](#)

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 25th 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.

Walsingham Parish Pilgrimage on June 6th. The reservations for the pilgrimage to Walsingham on June 6th can be confirmed and paid for from next Sunday. Josephine (Music Ministry) will take payments and reserve seats on the coach. She will be at the back of church at the end of the 10.30 Mass next Sunday. She can be contacted also by email - feeneymckay@btopenworld.com. There is a strong demand for seats so please ensure you confirm reservations as soon as possible. It will be a wonderful day out for the parish community.

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/>

Dates for your diary:

7th June: Our Lady's Procession.

28th June: Summer Raffle Draw.

13th September: International Mass

19th September: Summer BBQ.

6th December: Christmas Party.