

## The words of the Popes

The disciples of Emmaus walk sadly because they hoped for a different ending, for a Messiah who did not know the cross. Although they have heard that the tomb is empty, they cannot smile. But Jesus walks alongside them and patiently helps them understand that pain is not the denial of the promise, but the way through which God has manifested the measure of his love (cf. Lk 24:13-27). When they are finally seated at the table with him and break bread, their eyes are opened. They realize that their hearts were already burning, even though they did not know it (cf. Lk 24:28-32). This is the greatest surprise: to discover that beneath the ashes of disenchantment and weariness there is always a living ember, waiting only to be rekindled.

Brothers and sisters, Christ's resurrection teaches us that no history is so marked by disappointment or sin that it cannot be visited by hope. No fall is definitive, no night is eternal, no wound is destined to remain open forever. However distant, lost or unworthy we may feel, there is no distance that can extinguish the unfailing power of God's love. (Pope Leo XIV, General Audience, 8 October 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.

### 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.

**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.

Please bring your box to be emptied.

Please take this newsletter home with you.

		<p><b>Mother of God</b> Greencot Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</p> <p>☎(0116) 287 5232 ✉mogparish@gmail.com www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</p>	<p><b>Parish Priest: Fr Hans Puthiakulangara</b> e-mail: <a href="mailto:hansps83@gmail.com">hansps83@gmail.com</a> mob: 07344109949</p> <p><b>Please note: Fr. Hans' new number.</b></p> <p>NRCDT- Registered Charity</p>
<p>Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - <a href="http://www.ctkleicester.co.uk/">www.ctkleicester.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> Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914</p>			
		<p><b>Third Sunday of Easter</b></p> <p><b>19<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b></p>	
Sunday 19.04	08.30am 10.30am 04.00pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	<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 20.04	No Service		
Tuesday 21.04	No Service		
Wednesday 22.04	No Service		
Thursday 23.04	No Service	St. George, Martyr, Patron of England (solemnity)	
Friday 24.04	No Service		
Saturday 25.04	No Service	St. Mark, Evangelist (feast)	
Sunday 26.04	07.30am 10.30am 04.00pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	

## SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY FOR CLERGY FORMATION FUND.

### A Prayer for Peace.

**Almighty God,**  
Creator of the earth in which we live,  
help us today in our search for peaceful ways  
to avoid wars, to eliminate terrorism and tyranny  
and to establish justice for peoples of all races and faiths.  
We pray that the billions of peace-loving people of goodwill  
throughout the nations, will join together in prayer and action  
to bring love where there is hatred, friendship where there is enmity,  
and justice where there is oppression. 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**  
Jesus appears to two disciples who are walking to Emmaus.

On most Sundays during the Easter season in Cycle A, our Gospel is taken from the Gospel of John. This week's Gospel, however, is taken from the Gospel of Luke. As in last week's Gospel, today's Gospel shows us how the first community of disciples came to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. In these stories we gain insight into how the community of the Church came to be formed. When we read today's Gospel, we may be surprised to learn that these friends of Jesus could walk and converse with him at some length yet not recognize him. Again, we discover that the risen Jesus is not always easily recognized. Cleopas and the other disciple walk with a person whom they believe to be a stranger; only later do they discover that the stranger is Jesus. We learn that the first community met and recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread, just as we meet Jesus in the Eucharist.

We can imagine the feelings of the two disciples in today's reading. They are leaving their community in Jerusalem. Their friend Jesus has been crucified. Their hope is gone. They are trying to make sense of what has occurred, so that they can put the experience behind them.

Jesus himself approaches the two men, but they take him for a stranger. Jesus asks them what they are discussing. He invites them to share their experience and interpretation of the events surrounding his crucifixion and death. When the two disciples have done so, Jesus offers his own interpretation of his crucifixion and resurrection, citing Jewish Scripture. In that encounter we find the model for our Liturgy of the Word—what we do each time we gather as a community for the Eucharist. We reflect upon our life experiences and interpret them in light of Scripture. We gather together to break open the Word of God.

In the next part of the story, we find a model for our Liturgy of the Eucharist. The disciples invite the stranger (Jesus) to stay with them. During the meal in which they share in the breaking of the bread, the disciples' eyes are opened; they recognize the stranger as Jesus. In the Eucharist too we share in the breaking of the bread and discover Jesus in our midst. Just as the disciples returned to Jerusalem to recount their experience to the other disciples, we too are sent from our Eucharistic gathering. Our experience of Jesus in the Eucharist compels us to share the story with others.

**300 Club Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April:** £50 S Murphy (258). £25 P Freestone (278), J Gray (25).

**Sunday Collections 12<sup>th</sup> April: £ 383.44.**

**Starting the Synodal Journey: A Workshop, on Saturday 12 September 2026,** Caritas Leicester and Leicestershire, are holding a workshop at Holy Cross in Leicester on the theme "Introducing synodality to our parishes". It will be led by Dr Austen Ivereigh, the biographer of Pope Francis who was very involved in the synod on synodality as an invited expert, and who has given a number of these workshops. The aim of the workshop is to respond to the call by Pope Leo to become a "synodal Church", that is, one where the faithful gather to listen deeply and prayerfully to each other and thereby to open ourselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, where all are called to a deeper communion, participation and mission. It is a way of being what God is asking of the Church at this time, in the words of Pope Francis. All are welcome. The workshop will be of particular interest to members of Parish Leadership Teams, both clergy and laity, and those supporting them. The day will consist of three sessions: Session 1: Introduction to Synodality. Session 2: Introduction and practice of Conversation in the Spirit. Session 3: Applying synodality in our parishes (eg to support the Diocesan Mission Plan). In preparation for the workshop, participants might like to read three resources available for free at <https://www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk>. - The small group resource: "A Feast for all Peoples - Pathways to Synodality". Book Club - Reading the Final Synod Document Together - Key Guest Speakers discuss the Document chapter by chapter (recorded). Synodality 101: Conversations in the Spirit. A series of four on-line workshops on how to facilitate spiritual conversations. **Book now to start on 22 April 2026.**

**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](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk) or email [volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk](mailto: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](http://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: 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).

**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.

**The Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.** This 25<sup>th</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup> 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.](#)

**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.

**The Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham is on June 6<sup>th</sup>.** We are now accepting payments for places on the coach. The price is £22 for adults and £10 for children. There is a strong demand for places on the coach so please pay promptly. Josephine will be at the back of church after Mass to accept payments and take names for the coach. She can be contacted also by email [josephinefeeney@bopenworld.com](mailto:josephinefeeney@bopenworld.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). [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/>