

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.

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.

<p>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.</p>	<p>LLOYDS BANK Mother of God Leicester RCP SORT CODE 30-94-97 ACC. NO. 01538822</p>
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 <p>MISSIO RED BOXES</p>	<p>Mother of God RC CHURCH raised £439.48 in 2025, through the Red Boxes, including individuals giving directly.</p> <p>THANK YOU SO MUCH.</p> <p>If You would like a box, or give a donation, please speak to Maila Taylor.</p>	<p>Please bring your box to be emptied and collect your free magazine</p>
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The Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Vocations Sunday or Good Shepherd Sunday, and is marked as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The purpose of this day is to fulfil Jesus' instruction to "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:38). While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates her attention on raising up shepherds for God's people - vocations to Holy Orders (the priesthood and diaconate) and to the religious life - while encouraging all who are discerning their vocation to pray more earnestly that they may hear and respond to God's call.

Good Shepherd Sunday teaches us about Jesus' deep care and guidance as our Shepherd. We are called to listen to His voice, follow His path, and support one another as a community of believers. Let us trust in His protection and love, knowing He leads us to eternal life.

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.

Please take this newsletter home with you.

	<p><i>Mother of God Greencoat Road Leicester LE3 6NZ</i></p> <p>(0116) 287 5232 emogparish@gmail.com www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</p>	<p><i>Parish Priest: Fr Hans Puthiakulangara</i> <i>e-mail: hansps83@gmail.com</i> <i>mob: 07344109949</i></p> <p>Please note: Fr. Hans' new number.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <i>NRCDT- Registered Charity</i> </div>																							
<p>Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - www.ctkleicester.co.uk/ English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/</p>																									
<p>MOG Safeguarding Officer: Michelle Dempster - 07718279920 - michelleadempster@gmail.com Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914</p>																									
	<p>Fourth Sunday of Easter Good Shepherd Sunday 26th April – 3rd May 2026</p>	<p>Special Prayers for vocations</p>																							
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">Sunday 26.04</td> <td style="width: 15%;">07.30am 10.30am 04.00pm</td> <td style="width: 75%;">Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Special Prayers for Vocations Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday 27.04</td> <td>No Service</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday 28.04</td> <td>No Service</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday 29.04</td> <td>No Service</td> <td>St. Catherine of Siena, virgin and doctor, Patron of Europe (feast)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday 30.04</td> <td>No Service</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday 01.05</td> <td>No Service</td> <td>Special Prayers for Human Work</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday 02.05</td> <td>No Service</td> <td>St. Athanasius, bishop and doctor (memorial)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday 03.05</td> <td>07.30am 10.30am 04.00pm</td> <td>Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Vania Mendes RIP Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite</td> </tr> </table>	Sunday 26.04	07.30am 10.30am 04.00pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Special Prayers for Vocations Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	Monday 27.04	No Service		Tuesday 28.04	No Service		Wednesday 29.04	No Service	St. Catherine of Siena, virgin and doctor, Patron of Europe (feast)	Thursday 30.04	No Service		Friday 01.05	No Service	Special Prayers for Human Work	Saturday 02.05	No Service	St. Athanasius, bishop and doctor (memorial)	Sunday 03.05	07.30am 10.30am 04.00pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Vania Mendes RIP Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	<p style="text-align: center;">Pope Leo prayer intentions for April 2026</p> <p>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.</p>
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SECOND COLLECTION TODAY FOR CLERGY FORMATION FUND.

Message from Fr Neil Peoples, Vocation Director about the Called by Name - Vocations Campaign. Today, Sunday 26th April, Good Shepherd Sunday you will find "Called by Name" pew cards at the end of every pew. Parishioners are invited to submit the names of young men they would like to honour for their contribution to the parish and their qualities. Men whose names are submitted will receive a letter of recognition from Bishop Patrick and an invitation from Fr Neil Peoples, our Diocesan Vocations Director. No pressure will be put upon the young men whose names are submitted. Whilst all vocations are essential to the life of the Diocese, we are now facing an urgent need for vocations to the priesthood and so wish to ensure that our parishes continue to receive the pastoral care they need from priests.

Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, we ask you to send labourers into your harvest. Inspire, in the hearts of your people, vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. Bless our families with a spirit of generosity, so that those whom you call have the courage to give themselves to your Church in faith. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Background on the Gospel reading according to John 10:1-10.

Jesus is the gate for His sheep.

This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday because in each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In each cycle the reading is from the tenth chapter of John's Gospel. This chapter sets the framework for Jesus' teaching about himself as the Good Shepherd.

Today's reading falls between the stories of Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Both of these stories were proclaimed in the Gospels found in this year's season of Lent. Following the controversy that ensued when Jesus healed the man born blind, Jesus directs his allegory about the sheep and the shepherd toward the Jewish religious leaders of his time, the Pharisees.

Throughout John's Gospel the Pharisees fail to accept Jesus' ministry and teaching. They show themselves to be "robbers and thieves" because they try to lead the sheep without entering through the gate, Jesus. Through these metaphors, Jesus is telling his listeners that those who follow him and his way will find abundant life. He identifies himself both as the shepherd and the gate. The shepherds who are faithful to him are the ones whom the sheep (Jesus' disciples) should follow.

The relationship between the sheep and their shepherd is based on familiarity. Sheep recognise their shepherd and will not follow a stranger. At the end of the day, shepherds lead their sheep from pastures to a common gated area called a sheepfold. There, one shepherd protects all of the sheep until the next day when each shepherd returns to lead his own sheep to pasture. As shepherds move among the sheep, the sheep follow only their shepherd.

Today's Gospel also gives us the opportunity to reflect on Christian leadership. Jesus' words suggest to us that those who will lead the Christian community will be known by their faithfulness to Jesus. The leaders will recognise that Jesus is the gate for all of the sheep and that having a good relationship with Jesus is the primary characteristic of a Christian leader. Jesus' allegory also suggests that faithful Christian leadership requires a good relationship with the community: the shepherd knows his sheep, and they know him. Christian leaders follow the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by being faithful to him and by being a good shepherd.

300 Club Sunday 19th April: £50 J Wood (160). £25 J Ferns (198), S Varghese (73).

Sunday Collections 19th April: £406.80.

The Annual Saint Augustine Webster Diocesan Melwood Pilgrimage to the site of Melwood Abbey will be celebrated by Bishop Patrick on Saturday 2nd May, at 12 noon, at Low Melwood Farm, Owston Ferry, DN9 1AD. The Pilgrimage will start with the Rosary and Procession, and then Mass held in one of the farm's barns. Please bring a chair, picnic (optional), and appropriate footwear for country footpaths. All are very welcome.

The Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham is on June 6th. 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@btopenworld.com.

Online Retreat: between Saturday 16th and Saturday 23rd May the Jesuit Institute is holding a 6-day online Retreat in the lead up to Pentecost, offering an opportunity to spend more time with God and listen to how God is at work in the everyday lives of those taking part. For details, and to book, visit: www.jesuitinstitute.org/events/online-individually-guided-retreat---pentecost.

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 Ribbles 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. **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/>

Starting the Synodal Journey: A Workshop, on Saturday 12 September 2026, Caritas Leicester and Leicestershire, are holding a workshop at Holy Cross, 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. 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: 1) Introduction to Synodality. 2) Introduction and practice of Conversation in the Spirit. 3) Applying synodality in our parishes. 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.

VACANCY: Safeguarding Administration Volunteer. The main purpose of this role is to assist with updating members DBS information for Full-Members of the SVP. Main responsibilities include: 1) Responding to queries regarding SVP's In-House DBS processing. 2) Updating member DBS information on the SVP database. 3) Contacting SVP members whose DBS is more than 3 years and assist in renewal. 4) Responding to enquiries from members. For the above post we are looking for applicants who can commit to at least 1 day a week. Any hours that you can commit to will be considered. For further information or to apply for the Safeguarding role, please contact the Safeguarding Team at Safeguarding@svp.org.uk. Full training will be provided and we will issue you with a volunteer SVP e-mail account. Whilst not essential we ask that you have experience in using Microsoft Excel, data entry, have good communication skills, an eye for detail and have your own personal laptop.

VACANCY: 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.