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Cycle of Prayer during Ordinary Time, we pray for these intentions:

A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews; Those Who Suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Human Life; Europe; Seafarers

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 of Venezuela and all that have been affected by Environment Disasters.

The words of the Popes

The liturgy of this feast of the Assumption offers us the Gospel passage on the Visitation. Saint Luke recorded in this passage a decisive moment in Mary's vocation. It is beautiful to recall that day, as we celebrate the crowning moment of her life.

The Magnificat, which the Gospel places on the lips of the young Mary, now radiates the light of all her days. One single day – the day she met her cousin Elizabeth – contains the seed of every other day, of every other season. And words are not enough; a song is needed, one that continues to be sung in the Church “from generation to generation” (Lk 1:50), at the close of every day.

Mary's song, Magnificat, strengthens the hope of the humble, the hungry, the faithful servants of God. These are the men and women of the Beatitudes who, even in tribulation, already see the invisible: the mighty cast down from their thrones, the rich sent away empty, the promises of God fulfilled. Such experiences should be found in every Christian community. They may seem impossible, but God's Word continues to be brought to light. When bonds are born, with which we confront evil with good and death with life, we see that nothing is impossible with God (cf. Lk 1:37). (Pope Leo XIV, Homily, 15 August 2025).

Bishop Patrick has recorded three short-guided meditations, each lasting just twenty minutes. You can listen at home, while walking, or with headphones on your journey to work. Listen alone or with friends, family or fellow parishioners. There is nothing to prepare and no set way to pray: Bishop Patrick will guide you through the prayers. All you need is a little time. [Go, Make Time: Print and Pray Version.](#)

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.

Mother of God Prayer Devotions. A group of people are organising a monthly prayer group on the second Friday of every month, from 6.30 to 7.30pm which will include saying the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and other Devotional Prayers. We would love you to join us as everyone will be very welcome. .

Dates for your diary: 13th September: International Mass.

19th September: Summer BBQ. 6th December: Christmas Party.

		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  NRC DT- Registered Charity
Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - www.ckleicester.co.uk/ English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/			
MOG Safeguarding Officer: Michelle Dempster - 07718279920 - michelleleadempster@gmail.com Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914			
		The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Twentieth Week of Ordinary Time 16th – 23rd August 2026	
Sunday 16.08	08.30am 10.30am 04.00pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Sheila Cook RIP Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	Pope Leo prayer intentions for August 2026 For Evangelization in the City Let us pray that in large cities, often marked by anonymity and loneliness, new ways to proclaim the Gospel are discovered, fostering community and connection
Monday 17.08	No service		
Tuesday 18.08	09.30am 10.00am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass	
Wednesday 19.08	11.00am 05.30pm 06.00pm	Requiem Mass for Aleksandra Henkiel RIP Silent Adoration Holy Mass - Jiboy & Family special intentions	
Thursday 20.08	09.30am 10.00am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - St. Bernard, abbot & doctor (memorial)	
Friday 21.08	09.30am 10.00am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass - St. Pius X, pope (memorial)	
Saturday 22.08	09.30am 10.00am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass = The Queenship of BVM (memorial)	
Sunday 23.08	08.30am 10.30am 04.00pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Jake Camilo birthday Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	

We celebrate the International Mass on September 13th.

The Bishop will preside at this celebration which is now an annual celebration for our parish. There will be two Choir and Reading Practices for Mass.

They will be on August 20th and August 27th. They will be held at 7.00pm in the church - entry via the Sacristy door. There will be a rehearsal after Mass on Sunday 6th September. Shared table in the hall after International Mass, please wear your National dress or colours if possible. We want the Mass to reflect and celebrate the diverse cultures that make up our parish, so these two events will help prepare for the Mass. Please come.

MOG Church Summer Fête - Saturday 19th September, 11am-3pm.

Enjoy a fun-filled day of community, refreshments, games, and activities for all ages. This is a fundraising event, with all proceeds helping to support our church and its work. We would love to see as many people there as possible, so please come along and bring your family and friends. If you would like to run a stall or help in any way, please speak to Michelle after Sunday Mass. We look forward to seeing you there!

Background on the Gospel reading according to Matthew 15:21-28
Jesus heals the daughter of the Canaanite woman because of her great faith.

Today we move ahead in our reading of Matthew's Gospel. Last week we read about [Jesus walking on the water](#) and the disciples' confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God. If we were reading Matthew's entire Gospel, we would have read about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees about Jewish purity laws. Jesus argues that it is not what goes into us that makes us unclean; he is referring to the strict Jewish dietary rules. Instead, our words and our actions—what comes out of us—make us unclean because they emerge from a heart that is unclean.

Knowing about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees helps us to understand today's Gospel. In fact the story heightens the surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus' exchange with the Canaanite woman. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone.

The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles, "dog." But the woman cleverly turns Jesus' insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter.

Jesus' unresponsiveness to this woman may strike us as uncharacteristic or shocking. Yet in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' ministry is directed primarily to the people of Israel. At only a very few points, such as the one found in today's Gospel, do we find Jesus anticipating the later Christian ministry to the rest of the world.

Behind Matthew's text we can hear this early Christian community's struggle to understand how God's selection of Israel is consistent with two events: Israel's rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles' acceptance of Jesus. Just as Jesus was surprised by the faith expressed by the Canaanite woman, so too the first Christians were surprised that the Gentiles would receive the salvation God offered through Christ. In today's second reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, we hear the apostle Paul considering this same concern.

The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God's abundant mercy. Yes, salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all.

300 Club Sunday 9th August: £50 Bill Turnull (276). £25 A Woolley (38), K O'Brien (3).

Stella Maris would like to thank all parishioners for their contribution of £161.

Sunday Collection 2nd August £327.15. - 9th August £438.69.

We are very grateful for your contributions. We need around £40,000 towards church repairs. We will provide special envelopes towards the repairs, please use it if you are a tax payer. Otherwise you can put your contribution in the collection basket.

Aleksandra Henkiel RIP. Funeral Service on Wednesday 19th August 2026 11am followed by ashes interment at Gilroes Cemetery. Our sincere and deepest condolences to her family and friends.

Leicester Vue cinema is showing David (PG) a superb animated film based on 1 Samuel from Fri. 21st August, daily at 12.45pm. *Don't miss this outstanding film.* You can watch the first ten minutes of David here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hgFphGIHk&list=PLMHTJB0PTFONr_mMSsGFFU7FTffBL9r6&index=16. Tickets booked online* are from just £5.49 (£4.49 to age 14) at least £1 cheaper than at the box office For the trailer and to book see: movie.com/cinema/leicester/film/david.

Visit to the Leicester Synagogue. The visit to the Synagogue has been brought forward to Thursday August 20th at 11 o'clock. We apologise for the short notice and hope you will still be able to join us for what will be a very special event. We will meet at the De Montfort Hall car park on Granville Road at 10.30 to walk to the synagogue on Highfields Street for 11. Please speak to Ian or Josephine after Mass today to register your interest and for further information.

Catholic Medical Association. Whether you are a doctor, nurse, student, or allied profession; if you are a Catholic in healthcare join the Catholic Medical Association to grow in fellowship, prayer, and formation. For more information visit <https://catholicmedicalassociation.org.uk>.

March for Life UK 2026. Diocese of Nottingham coach to March for Life UK, Saturday 5 September 2026, at The Emmanuel Centre, Westminster, London. Theme: Abortion Hurts the Family. Family-friendly event from 10.30am - 1pm. Every year, thousands of people travel to London for March for Life UK, not to condemn, but to grieve, to witness, and to affirm something simple: that every life, from conception, has value. This year's theme is *Abortion Hurts the Family*. It speaks to something often left unsaid that abortion's impact reaches beyond the immediate decision, into fractured relationships, hidden grief, and guilt that can last a lifetime. The day brings together a Pro-Life Family Summit, a Youth Summit, and the March itself, in a family-friendly setting that holds space for those who have been touched by loss in any of its many forms. The Diocese of Nottingham is running a coach to and from the march. For prices and to reserve a seat, contact Marie Langford: marielangford@live.co.uk or 07948 151264. To find out more about the day itself, visit marchforlife.co.uk or email info@marchforlife.co.uk.

Please contact your MP to oppose assisted suicide. The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is back in the House of Commons and seeks to legalise assisted suicide. It will have its Second Reading and vote on Friday, 11 September 2026. Please write to your MP to make your voice heard and oppose the Bill. The Bill has a serious lack of protection for health and social care staff and risks putting many wonderful hospices and care homes in the position of no longer being able to operate. I urge you to write to your Members of Parliament to petition them to vote against the Bill at Second Reading." The charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to do this. It takes little more than a few minutes to enter your postcode, make sure the suggested text suits your viewpoint and submit your message to ask your MP to stop this flawed Bill progressing through parliament. For more information and resources, visit: cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote.

Introducing synodality to our parishes. A workshop for everyone! On Saturday 12 September: 10am to 3pm. At the Frassati Centre Holy Cross Priory, 45 Wellington Street, Leicester LE1 6HW. Pope Leo asks everyone (all the baptised) to build new relationships in the Church. This means YOU. Even if you don't usually speak, if you usually 'just go to Mass' (or used to), as well as if you have a position of leadership or responsibility, clergy or lay. To explore how to hear together the voice of the Holy Spirit and carry out God's mission in today's world; to continue the work of the Synod on Synodality. By being synodal - 'walking together', listening to each other, discerning the voice of God in the people of God. Synodality is about the Church becoming a listening, inclusive community where everyone helps shape its path forward. Click below to book your place, and invite your parish priest and fellow parishioners. Bring a packed lunch: tea and coffee provided. Suggested donation: £20. [Book your place](#).

Mount Saint Bernard Abbey. All are invited to a Family Mass and Picnic at Mount Saint Bernard Abbey on Sunday 13th September. Bring a chair or picnic blanket, and arrive for Mass at 2pm, with a Marian Procession and Adoration too. Details from jnoakes@englishmartyrs.com.

Retrouville has helped thousands of couples find hope and healing in their marriage. Next dates: 2nd - 4th Oct. www.retrouville.org.uk/info Tel: 0788 7296983.

A Week of Guided Prayer for those affected directly or indirectly by abuse in the Church is being offered by the Jesuits between Sunday 18th and Friday 23rd October. For more details visit www.jesuitinstitute.org/events.

FOODBANKS.

We are extremely grateful to all the parishioners who donates food for the FOODBANKS. It is very much needed. Please continue to donate, if you can. A huge thank you to all of you!