

🌿 Christmas Masses and Services 🌿

22 nd December (Monday)	10am	English Mass
	10.30am-12noon	Confessions
23 rd December (Tuesday)	10am	English Mass
	10.30am-12noon	Confessions
	4pm-8pm	Confessions
24 th December-Christmas Eve	3pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite
	6pm	Carol Service and English Mass
	9pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite
25 th December - Christmas Day	8.30am	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite
	10.30am	English Mass

Wednesday 25th December - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

The shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the infant in the manger.

The fourth candle represents peace and is called the "Angel's Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace--He came to bring people close to God and to each other again. This colour is also purple to represent the culmination of love through the Messiah.




A Prayer to Prepare My Heart for Christ's Coming

Father, just as You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus,
 help me to clear the path in my heart, too.
 Show me the distractions in my life that block me
 from all-out worship of You this Advent.
 Lord, I await Your coming! As I celebrate the first Advent
 --the first coming--I look toward the day
 where I will see You face to face. I imagine what it will be like.
 Give me a heart, Lord, that looks for Your coming on a daily basis.
 Help me to live my life where I'm constantly
 seeking Your presence. My offering to You
 today is my righteous life for I know I am only clean because of Jesus.
 Show me today how I need to be refined, purified, forgiven.
 Give me the strength to ask for forgiveness
 and to then change my way
 ~Sarah Martin, from "The Awe & Wonder of Advent: Day 18"

🌿 Crib Offerings

There will be a basket for your offerings at the Nativity Scene. The money raised will go to The Holy Land. Thank you. 🌿

🌿 Repository Items: A selection of Christmas cards are now available.

		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.ckleicester.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			
		Fourth Sunday of Advent 21st – 28th December 2025	
Sunday 21.12	08.30am 10.30am 04.00pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - In Honour of St. Anthony from Vanessa Hopes Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	Pope's prayer intentions for December 2025 For Christians In Areas Of Conflict Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.
Monday 22.12	09.30am 10.00am	Silent Adoration Holy Mass and Confessions	
Tuesday 23.12	09.30am 10.00am 04.00pm	Silent Adoration Holy Mass and Confessions -Mini Madavan Intentions Confessions until 8pm	
Wednesday 24.12	03.00pm 06.00pm 09.00pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Carol Service and English Mass Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	
Christmas Day Thursday 25.12	08.30am 10.30am	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar Rite Holy Mass	
Friday 26.12	No Service		
Saturday 27.12	No Service		
Sunday 28.12	08.30am 10.30am 04.00pm	Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite Holy Mass - Pat Doherty RIP Holy Mass Syro-Malabar rite	

The Children's Liturgy will be cancelled today, 21st December. It will resume as usual Next Sunday the 28th. Thank you.

🌿 Christmas Offerings Envelope

This offering is a cherished opportunity for us to express our gratitude and directly support our parish clergy.

We deeply appreciate your continued generosity. 🌿

To all Parishioners and our Supporters, a wish of a very joyful and peaceful Christmas with God's Blessings from Fr. Hans.



Background on the Gospel Reading according to Matthew 1:18-24.

An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.

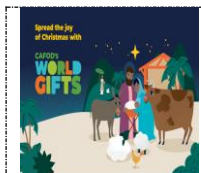
Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfilment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: ". . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.



World Gifts are CAFOD's charity gift range of unusual, ethical presents that will delight your friends and family. They've got something for everyone, with gifts for gardeners, animal lovers, teachers, entrepreneurs - the list goes on! Gifts start from as little as £4 for that special something, all the way up to £4,000 - something to aim for in your community or parish? Shop for World Gifts today at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>.

300 Club results Sunday 14th December: £50 M Bobs (75). £25 C Scranney (95), D Vaz (33).

Collection Sunday 14th December: £301.69.

Fundraising from Raffle Tickets £1,475, thank you for your support.

Mass Intentions. 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. Also note: If intention is for a living person, they must sign the envelope for permission to print their name on newsletter or intention will be listed as Private Intention. Thank you.

Throughout Advent and Christmas, we are asked to pray for the following intentions: Migrants and Refugees. Expectant Mothers.

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

Exploring a School-Based Nursery at Christ the King. Christ the King Catholic School is considering opening a term-time nursery for children aged 3-4 years at our Infant Site. This would provide a nurturing, faith-based environment for early learning within our school community. To help us assess the level of interest, we kindly ask parents and carers to complete a short form. Your feedback is invaluable in shaping this exciting opportunity. **Please click here to complete the form:** [Expression of Interest: Nursery Provision at Christ the King Catholic Voluntary Academy - Fill in form.](#)

Blessed Sacrament & St Peter's Parish Pilgrimage to Rome 15 to 20 February, 2026:

A place has become available due to a cancellation. The approximate cost is £265 (bed, breakfast & travel to London City Airport). Flights, travel insurance, entrance fees & travel in Rome and to Assisi are extra. If interested, please contact Angela Bailey as soon as possible. E: angelab1066@yahoo.ie.

Free retreat day. On Saturday 7th February 2026 1pm onwards, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 12 Goodwood Road, Uppingham Road, Rowlands Hill, Leicester LE5 6SG. 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. Book here: www.ndcys.com/leicester-retreat-day.



Please bring your red MISSIO box to church to emptied and collect your free 2026 calendar. If you would like a Red Box, or give a donation, please speak to Maila Taylor. Thank you.

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 and Sudan and for all the war-torn countries in the world. We also pray for the people that have been affected by Environment Disasters.

FOODBANKS.

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

Electronic Newsletter & Newsletter Additions: The Electronic Newsletter is now being sent to those who requested a copy. If you would like to receive a weekly newsletter by email or you have any newsletter additions, please email mogparish@gmail.com.