

Second Collection: This Saturday/Sunday (07th & 08th March): Bishops Charitable purposes

March Lottery winners were Margaret Martyn, Sue Jepson, Gerry and Fiona Molumby, Francis O'Brien and David Johnson. Congratulations to all

Weekly Lenten commitments: Sunday 15th March: Personal health items (shampoo, deodorant etc), Sunday 22nd March: Kitchen items (kitchen roll etc), Sunday 29th March: Chocolate and sweet treats. During this season of Lent, let us remember to live our faith through action. Please continue to fulfill your parish commitments and, if you can, be generous towards our Food Bank. Every small gift helps those in need and is a true act of love and charity.

Sherwood Deanery Lenten Station Mass: The Lenten Station Mass is a beautiful tradition of the Church during Lent, bringing the faithful together from different parishes to pray and celebrate the Eucharist. It strengthens our sense of unity within the deanery and invites us to renew our faith through prayer, repentance, and fellowship. It is a special opportunity to deepen our Lenten journey and grow spiritually as a community. On Tuesday, 10th March at 7pm, as part of the Sherwood Deanery, we will have the Lenten Station Mass at St Philip Neri, Mansfield. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession at 6pm, followed by the Deanery Lenten Mass at 7pm. As a parish family, you are warmly encouraged to attend this Deanery Lenten celebration as a time of renewal in our faith. Thank you.

First Holy Communion sessions: The next First Holy Communion Preparation session will take place on Wednesday 11th March 5pm in the church hall. We kindly ask all candidates and parents to please attend this important session as we continue our journey together in preparation for the Sacrament. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Our Knit and Natter meetings will resume on Tuesday 10th March at 1pm in the meeting room at the back of the Church. Hoping to see all existing members and plenty of new ones. All are welcome. Contact Maureen for further information on 07551 821761.

The Polish Catholic Community in Nottingham is leading a Extreme Way of the Cross on Friday 13th March from 8pm, until about 6am the next morning. The route takes in 41 kilometres across the city centre and fields around, and is an initiative started in Poland several years ago. It is not a sport activity but a spiritual journey through meditations. For those wishing to participate, gather at the Polish Church of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Nottingham NG7 6JN, by 8pm (Mass in Polish will be celebrated at 7.00pm). More information is at: <https://extremewayofthecross.org/>

Saturday 14th March: CAFOD Big Lent Walk, meeting at 1.30pm, Cromford Wharf Car Park DE4 3RQ. All are welcome!

Our next Afternoon Tea at Clay Cross will be held on Monday 16th March at 1pm. Everyone is warmly invited! Come along for a friendly chat, good company, and a little boost to your well-being. It's a lovely chance to relax, meet others, and enjoy the simple joy of being together. See you there!

After the great success of previous events, the Diocese is delighted to invite you to our Lenten Women's Retreat being held on Saturday 21st March at Holy Family Church, Blenheim Drive, Allestree DE22 2LG, between 10am and 4pm. The Retreat is entitled "The Great Women of the Old Testament", and will be led by Sister Susan Richert. The Retreat costs £15 per person, including a cream tea; please bring your own packed lunch. To book, visit: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/events/womensretreatday

The Diocesan Education Service is hosting a Day looking at Gender and Faith: Accompanying Young People Well on Thursday 23rd April at the Diocesan Centre, Mackworth DE22 4BD. Dr Julia Sadusky will lead the Day, between 11.30am and 2pm, which is open to all, especially those accompanying young people at the intersection of questions of embodiment and spirituality. The cost of the Day is £25, and bookings can be made by contacting gill.burns@nottingham-des.org.uk

Sacrament of Confession: The Sacrament of Confession is a beautiful and vital part of our Catholic faith, where we experience the mercy and forgiveness of our loving God. As always, Confession is available anytime upon request. During Lent, to help us prepare more deeply for Holy Mass, Confessions will be available every Saturday from 12 noon to 1pm at Christ the King Church, Alfreton. We warmly invite you to come and experience the grace, peace, and healing of God's love through this wonderful Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Future parish Five Year Plan: As part of our Parish Five-Year Plan, I would like to invite every one of you to come together and share your thoughts about the future of our parish family. This is our parish. Not Father's parish. Not a small group's parish. But our faith community. And the future belongs to all of us. So please join us on **Tuesday 24th March at 6:30pm at Christ the King**, Alfreton. Please put it in your diary now — before you forget! This will be a simple and open meeting where we can reflect, think, and share ideas about how we can grow spiritually, pastorally, and as a community over the next five years. Every suggestion is valuable. There are no "small" ideas. Sometimes the simplest thought can become the biggest blessing. Please don't be shy. Don't think, "Oh, my idea is not important." It is important — because you are important. Let us come together, listen to one another, and dream together about the future of our parish family. You are all most welcome. I look forward to seeing you there.

Young Adults are especially invited to join Bishop Patrick, in the Nottingham Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 2026. Departing from East Midlands airport on Monday 13th July, enjoy five days in Lourdes with over 200 people from across our diocese. More details from the tour operator: <https://www.tangney-tours.com/diocese-pilgrimages/diocese-nottingham/>

After the 9 am Mass at Clay Cross and the 10:30am Mass at Alfreton, tea and coffee will be available in the hall. Please take this opportunity to chat, catch up with old friends, and make new ones. Share your faith experiences and enjoy the fellowship of our parish community. We look forward to seeing you there!