

# Loving their neighbours

How the people of one parish in Leicester are joining together for the common good

Blessed Sacrament in Leicester is a diverse parish in Britain's most diverse city. In one big family it gathers people from many of Leicester's ethnic communities. In a newsletter in April, the parish's Justice and Peace Group reported the creative ways they are all responding to the pandemic. This is the story they told – it's a colourful tapestry.



## What is happening in our Parish Community

Over the past weeks we have been asking through the newsletter what is happening in our community in this time of the pandemic. These are the responses we have received from the people of the parish.

The **people from Vietnam** who attend Mass in our parish have been working during this lockdown making face masks and protective clothing to donate to the NHS front line workers. Like other communities in our Parish they have been helping elderly, isolating parishioners with shopping needs.

Parishioners from the **Zimbabwe support group** have been helping the vulnerable in their community from the beginning of the lockdown, where many of their volunteers have been nurses from the local hospitals. Using local food banks, they have arranged for food parcels to be delivered to the vulnerable over 70's, combined with the volunteers shopping and delivering ethnic foods to those having to self-isolate.

**Keep safe, check on family,  
friends and neighbours.**

**Pray for them.**

For these people who are unable to leave their homes they have arranged a dedicated volunteer. One of the areas where they have found that they could assist people was in the filling in of complex government forms and at the time of writing they are supporting around eleven families.

---

**God is love.**

**Love your neighbour,  
and they will go into the  
world and testify about  
God's love.**

Help is offered to and from the **Irish community** in Leicester. The Emerald Centre has received funding from the Irish government to help support Irish people in Britain during the COVID -19 crisis. In a collaborative effort they aim to ensure Irish seniors and traveller families are getting the support they need. This includes befriending, food parcels going out to people in need, support to get medicines, providing simple exercise sheets and videos as well as activity boxes including art and crafts, puzzles and quizzes. They have also improved communication with regular newsletters.

The **Pilipino community** report that during the Covid-19 epidemic they have had to suspend their home to home 1st Friday Novena. Instead every Friday on their Facebook page they are posting resources, links to prayers, perpetual novena and the liturgical readings for the coming Sunday. This can be accessed on their [Facebook page](#) and they ask that in our prayers we include the many intentions associated with this crisis.

The **African community** are maintaining their links with our parish by sharing the weekly newsletter amongst their community. They also report that they are able to use the video link to view Mass from Fr Joel's new parish.

With our recent focus on Covid-19 the other concerns of our world have tended to be pushed into the background. We were reminded by the [Facebook page of Santo Nino Leicester](#) that the 5th Anniversary of the publication of Laudato Si', the second encyclical of Pope Francis which emphasises our need to Care for our Common Home, occurred in May. The Pilipino community are started a [Care4Creation Rosary Campaign](#) on Saturday 16th May which culminated on the 24th May with a global common prayer.

---

**Talk to the person you  
are thinking about.**

**Your telephone call  
might be the one that  
makes the difference.**

---

**Is your parish doing something that you could share with others? Tell us – it may help others decide what they can do.**