

Parish News

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church,

27 Jermyn Street, Sleaford, NG34 7RU
Tel. 01529 302529

www.our-lady-of-good-counsel.org.uk

Parish priest: Father Michael Bell

Deacon: Rev. Tony Weldon

School: Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Primary School

The Drive, Sleaford, NG34 7AT.
Tel. 01529 304373

Head Teacher: Sarah Weldon

www.our-lady.lincs.sch.uk

5th/6th March, 2016

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Laetare Sunday

Christ told us that there will be a feast in heaven if one sinner returns home to the Father. Easter is such a feast of the reunion between God and those who were far from him. We are preparing for this feast.

It is the fourth Sunday of Lent and there are only three weeks left before Easter. Every day we are called upon to prepare ourselves by self-denial, by good works, and by reflecting.

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Responsorial psalm

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Gospel acclamation

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!
I will leave this place and go to my father and say: "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you."

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

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The second collection at Masses this weekend is for the diocesan levy.

Please bear in mind in your giving that we have to pay £870 per month to the diocese.

Sunday and weekday services

Saturday for Sunday

Mass: 6.00 pm
(Michael Griffith [Mary Reidy])

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mass: 10.00 am
(for mothers everywhere, especially those who are members of our parish family)

Monday SS Perpetua & Felicity

Mass: 10.15 am
(our parish family)

Tuesday St. John of God

Mass: 9.00 am
(R. Woodward)

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the sacristy:
8.00 am – 5.00 pm.

Penitential service, led by Bishop Patrick, at St. Mary's, Boston – 7.00 pm

Wednesday St. Frances of Rome

Mass: 9.00 am
(Holy Souls [Margaret Crawford])

Stations of the Cross, 7.00 pm

Afterwards I shall be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thursday Lenten Feria

Mass: 10.15 am
(Mary Armstrong [Margaret Crawford])

Friday Lenten Feria

Mass: 11.30 am
(Geoff Brocklebank [Peggy and Stan Hart])

Saturday Lenten Feria

Mass: 10.30 am, in the parish hall, then Celia Bermingham leads us in our preparation for Holy Week and Easter.

No Sacrament of Reconciliation today

Saturday for Sunday

Mass: 6.00 pm
(our parish family)

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Mass: 10.00 am
(Patrick Joseph King [Pauline])

Prayer to be said during the Year of Mercy at the end of the bidding prayers:

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy. Hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor, banished children of Eve, to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us, and, after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

✓ Pray for us, O holy Mother of God

R That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Week ending 5th/6th March

Car park	Marion Smith Nick Spolton
Welcoming	June Ellis Roy Canvin
Altar linen	Pat Blakeman
Church cleaning Group 6	Anne Hobbs Anne McGrath Jane McGovern
Flowers	Kay Hockmeyer
Little Church	Lesley/Sheena
Offertory collection	Ben Hanwell Bill Bush
Offertory procession	Bill & Pauline Hanley Bill & June Bush
Readers Saturday	Ben Hanwell/ Barbara Browning
Sunday	Krys & Jane Szokalo

Week ending 12th/13th March

Car park	Eamonn Greene Amanda Hemmant
Welcoming	Barbara Browning Veronica Dilcock
Altar linen	Marjorie Fitzgibbons
Church cleaning Group 2	Mike and Barbara Swaby
Flowers	Alice Rossiter
Little Church	Judy/Lisa
Offertory collection	Colin Faria Jim Ryan
Offertory procession	Michael Browning Ben Hanwell
Readers Saturday	Pat Hudson David Stodart
Sunday	Jane McGovern Ivan Rossiter

The piety shop is open after the 6 pm Mass on Saturdays, and 10 am Mass on Sundays

The Year of Mercy

Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy

To enter into the spirit of this special year of grace, monthly meditation and reflection sessions will be held to think about one of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, using them as the basis for prayer. The next session will be on **Monday, 14th March**. If you can't make it this month, the following session will be on **Monday, 11th April**, from 2.30 to 3.30 pm at 52 Foxley Court, Bourne, PE10 9TY. You will be most welcome.

Future dates, from May till July, will appear in due course in this newsletter.
Celia Bermingham, 01778426310,
celiabermingham@talktalk.net.

Monthly pamphlet

Each month there will be a pamphlet describing two of the Works of Mercy, with ways in which we can turn them into practice in our lives. At the end of each month, we shall have a service of prayer in church concerning these particular works. **The March issue is available now.**

Year of Mercy prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the Heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved.

You are the visible face of the invisible Father. Let the Church be the visible face of forgiveness and mercy in the world. You willed that your ministers would feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel loved and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen

Please pray for the sick of the parish:

Theresa Abram, Tony Armstrong, Eric Blakeman, Christopher and Catherine Brown, Tony Brown, Mark Bush, Marcello Calcagno, David and Kate Davies, Mike Dingwall, Mark Eddington, Vivienne Field, Christopher Fordham, Patricia Gainey, Veronica and John Garratt, Michael Griffith, Mimi Gunn, Peggy and Stan Hart, Jennifer Holdsworth, Eric Keating, Dianne Keaton, Polly King, Sheila Morse, Eileen Mulrooney, Richard Neill, Winifred Phillips, Gladys Powell, Maureen Renfrew, Mrs Slattery, Delia Teszkowska, Teresa Todd, Bill Tupholme, Jane Walker, and Anne and Ken Woods.
Please inform Father Michael if there are any other names to be added, or, indeed, if someone has recovered.

Coffee mornings

Coffee and tea are served in the parish hall each **Monday** from 10.00 am till 12 noon. We look forward to seeing you for coffee, and a chat. Book now for our next Wednesday lunch, on **9th March**.
June Ellis

Churches Together: Lent lunches

At the Lent lunch held in our church hall last Monday, we raised £168.00 net for Christian Aid. The next Lent lunch will be on **Monday, 7th March, in St. Denys's church hall**, starting at 12 noon.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

This is on Tuesday in the sacristy from 8.00 am till 5.00 pm. A New Year resolution: come and spend some time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament each Tuesday.

Know more about the Church

If you would like to know more about the teachings of the Church, come and join us in the presbytery at 7.00 pm on a Tuesday. Meetings last around three-quarters of an hour.

Bingo

Our bingo sessions are held on Tuesday at 8.00 pm, in the parish hall. Come and join us: You will be welcome. You could win!

Kath Duthie

Stations of the Cross

Each Wednesday evening during Lent there will be Stations of the Cross at **7.00**. They will be followed by a short liturgy composed by Pope Francis. I shall be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation afterwards

Flower collection

It is a very long time since we had a collection for flowers for the altars, so there will be one during the weekend of **12th and 13th March**.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

I should like to remind you that Pope Francis is urging us to make greater use of this wonderful Sacrament of Reconciliation, especially during this Year of Mercy. I am available from 11.00 to 11.30 am each Saturday. If you cannot come then, please phone me and we can arrange a mutually convenient time.

Sarah Weldon's Retirement Mass

All parishioners are invited to attend the Mass at the school to be celebrated by Bishop Patrick McKinney on **Tuesday, 15th March, at 10.00 am**. Please inform the school on 01529 304373 if you would like to attend. Over the next two weeks a card will be at the back of the church for parishioners to sign and add their good wishes for a happy retirement. Any donations to the collection may be given in to the school or to any school governors.

Judy Saunders – Chair of Governors

Catholic Schools Appeals Service

Every year some parents are unhappy with the school their children have been allocated and they exercise their statutory right to have their case heard by an independent appeals panel. Panels are made up of people from a wide range of backgrounds, ages and experience, who volunteer their services (daytime). The Catholic Schools Appeals Service is looking for more people to volunteer. A free training day for new and existing panel members will be held at the Diocesan Centre, Mornington Crescent, Mackworth, Derby, DE22 4BD, on **Thursday, 17th March**, with a 10.00 am arrival time (tea/coffee) for a 10.30 am start, finishing at approximately 2.45 pm. To book a place, please email: Helen.helan@nottingham-des.org.uk, or telephone 01332 293833. For further information, contact Anna Zimand on 01332 297118.

Offertory giving – January, 2016

Gift Aided standing orders	£2,297.50
Gift Aided envelopes	£255.50
Gift Aided other	£0.00
Total Gift Aided	£2,553.00
Non-Gift Aided standing orders	£141.00
Loose plate	£941.30
Total Non-Gift Aided	£1,082.30
Total offertory giving	£3,635.30

Lent programme

6 th March	Children from our primary school lead us in the 10.00 am Mass
12 th March	Celia Bermingham leads us in a day to prepare ourselves for Holy Week and Easter: 10.30 am to 3.30 pm
19 th /20 th March	Blessing and distribution of palms at the Masses
20 th March	Service of prayer and reflection for the Year of Mercy: 3.00 pm
21 st March	Holy Week penitential service and Sacrament of Reconciliation: 7.00 pm
22 nd March	Passover Meal: 7.00 pm
23 rd March	Chrism Mass at the cathedral: 11.30 am
24 th March	Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7.00 pm
25 th March	Good Friday Walk of Witness: 10.45 am , assemble in Station Road; short service in Market Place
	Celebration of the Lord's Passion: 3.00 pm
26 th March	Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter: 7.00 pm
27 th March	Easter Sunday Mass: 10.00 am

At the Riverside Church, Southgate: Sleaford Keswick Bible Ministry – The last in the 2015/16 series of talks on Friday, 11th March, at 7.30 pm. All welcome!