

Parish News

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church,

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Parish priest: Father Michael Bell
Deacon: Rev. Tony Weldon

**School: Our Lady of Good Counsel
Catholic Primary School**
The Drove, Sleaford, NG34 7AT.
Tel. 01529 304373
Head Teacher: Sarah Weldon
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12th/13th March, 2016 The Fifth Sunday of Lent

As we are gathered here, how do we appear to God? We have put on our best clothes because it is Sunday, It is a joy to look at us as we are gathered together in church. But God does not look at our outward appearance. He looks at our hearts. How do we appear to him?

The gospel reading for this fifth Sunday of Lent gives us a wonderful reply. God sees in us nothing of our evil past. He sees only the love which is present in us now.

Easter is a feast of forgiveness. It is the feast of our completely new life. We are like the woman who was caught committing a serious sin for which she was condemned to death. But she was totally forgiven. She could begin a completely new life. In the same way. God, as he looks at us now, sees only the new spirit which is in us. Are we grateful for this?

Responsorial psalm

What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

Gospel acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Seek good and not evil so that you may live, and that the Lord God of hosts may really be with you.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

* * *

We pray for the souls of all those who have died about this time:

Priests of our diocese:
Father Patrick Reidy, Monsignor Arthur Bird
Members of our parish family:
Gertrude Rose Collinson, Elizabeth Ward

Sunday and weekday services

Saturday for Sunday Mass: 6.00 pm
(our parish family)

Fifth Sunday of Lent Mass: 10.00 am
(Patrick Joseph King [Pauline])

Monday Lenten Feria Mass: 10.15 am
(Father Sean Sheils)

Tuesday Lenten Feria Eucharistic service:
10.15 am
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the sacristy:
8.00 am – 5.00 pm.

Wednesday Lenten Feria Mass: 10.15 am
(Jennifer Holdsworth)
4.30 pm – Reception into church of the body of Michael Dingwall
Stations of the Cross,
7.00 pm

Afterwards I shall be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thursday St. Patrick, patron of Ireland Funeral Mass for Michael Dingwall:
10.15 am, followed by his cremation at Lincoln Crematorium

Friday St. Cyril of Jerusalem Mass: 11.30 am
(Holy Souls [Margaret Crawford])

Saturday St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary Sacrament of Reconciliation
11.00 – 11.30 am

Saturday for Palm Sunday Mass: 6.00 pm
(Susan Calcagno [Michael and Maureen Griffiths])

Palm Sunday Mass: 10.00 am
(Geoff Brocklebank [Peggy and Stan Hart])

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 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

Week ending 19th/20th March

Car park	Tom Doherty Mary McAleavy
Welcoming	June Ellis Kath Duthie
Altar linen	Trish Brocklebank
Church cleaning Group 3	Roy & Mary Canvin Marjorie Fitzgibbons
Flowers	All helpers
Little Church	Amanda/Melissa
Offertory collection	Ben Hanwell Richard Hannah
Offertory procession	Colin Faria Little Church

Readers for Holy Week - See church notice board

Flower collection

It is a very long time since we had a collection for flowers for the altars, so there will be one this weekend.

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 next one is on **Sunday, 20th March at 3.00 pm**.

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 happy repose of the soul of Michael Dingwall who died suddenly a few days ago. Remember, also, his family and all those grieving his loss, that God will comfort them at this sad time.

Also please pray for the sick of the parish:

Theresa Abram, Tony Armstrong, Eric Blakeman, Christopher and Catherine Brown, Tony Brown, Mark Bush, Marcello Calcagno, Paul Croker, David and Kate Davies, 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, 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.**

Flower collection – this weekend

See page 1.

Coffee mornings

Coffee and tea are served in the parish hall each Monday from 10.00 am till 12 noon. Please come in for some tea or coffee, and a chat. *June Ellis*

Churches Together: Lent lunches

The next Lent lunch will be on **Monday, 14th March, in the Salvation Army citadel, West Banks**, starting at 12 noon. There is no set charge, but all donations will go to Christian Aid.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

This is on Tuesday in the sacristy from 8.00 am till 5.00 pm. 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*

Faith in Families boxes - contents

Please return your Faith in Families boxes to me at the presbytery office as soon as possible. Thank you. *Kath Duthie*

Stations of the Cross

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

Fund raising group

The meeting of the fund raising group, planned for 7.00 pm on Wednesday, has been postponed until after Easter, because we have the Stations of the Cross that evening.

Coffee jars

From Jane McGovern: a polite reminder to bring back your coffee jars for counting. This fund raising event started last year and is ongoing. Spare coffee jars are available at the

back of the church. It's an easy way to dispose of any spare loose change.

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.

Fashion show plus fund-raising

We are having a fashion show at M & Co, in Southgate, in **April**. We need models to show off the fashions – all ages and sizes, and young girls, ages 11, 12 and 13 who would like to model clothes. **Contact me on 01529 488976 or on line: janemcgovern@outlook.com.**

CAFOD

Many thanks to all of you for your generous donations to the Lent Family Fast Day. We raised £555.00. The Gift Aid will increase this by about £80. Thanks also to those of you who give regularly via direct debit. The government will match our donation. Thanks again. *Barbara Swaby*

Offertory giving – January, 2016

Total Gift Aided £2,553.00
Total non-Gift Aided £1,082.30
Total offertory giving £3,635.30

Lent programme	
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