

Parish News

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church,

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

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19th/20th March, 2016
Palm Sunday

A reflection for Holy Week

by Cardinal Basil Hume

Christ's death on the cross is proof enough of God's love for us. It takes a long time, perhaps a lifetime, to know and understand that truth and know and understand its depth and breadth. Perhaps only very slowly will the sight of Christ crucified on the cross give up its secret to us and enable us to understand what Christ meant when he said "A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends." Can we say that it was almost necessary that God should become man and, as man, die to provide the greatest and most astonishing proof of his love?

The first word of the cross to us is always the word of love. And no greater love has a person than laying down his or her life for a friend. *There* is the supreme example.

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 including

Priest of our diocese:
Father Edward Ryan

Holy Week Programme

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

Palm Sunday Blessing and distribution of palms and Mass: 10 am
(Geoff Brocklebank [Peggy and Stan Hart])
Service of prayer and reflection for the Year of Mercy: 3.00 pm

Monday in Holy Week Mass: 10.15 am (our parish family)
7.00 pm Penitential service

Tuesday in Holy Week Mass: 10.15 am
(Maureen and Michael Griffith [Denis Sheridan])

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

Passover meal in the parish hall : 7.00 pm

Wednesday in Holy Week Chrism Mass in the cathedral: 11.00 am
Stations of the Cross, 7.00 pm

Maundy Thursday Mass of the Lord's supper: 7.00 pm,
after which, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in the sacristy till 10.00 pm.

Good Friday Churches Together Walk of Witness: meet 10.45 am in Station Road, followed by a brief service in Market Place.

Celebration of the Lord's Passion: 3.00 pm

Saturday No Sacrament of Reconciliation today.

Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter: 7.00 pm
(for the Bell and Calcagno families)

Easter Sunday Mass: 10.00 am (our parish family)

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 and Mary Canvin

Flowers All flower arrangers to help

Little Church Amanda/Melissa

Offertory collection Ben Hanwell
Richard Hannah

Offertory procession Colin Faria
Little Church

Readers Saturday for Palm Sunday See list in the church porch.

Palm Sunday

Week ending 26th/27th March

Car park Fred Cork
Jane McGovern

Welcoming Bill Martindale
Alice Rossiter

Altar linen Maureen Mawditt

Church cleaning Group 4 Fred Cork
Michael and Maureen Griffith

Flowers All flower arrangers to help

Little Church No Little Church

Offertory collection Denice Middlebrook
Jane McGovern

Offertory procession Bill Martindale/
Maureen Mawditt
Kath Duthie/
Veronica Dilcock

Readers Holy Saturday for Easter Sunday See list in the church porch.

Easter Sunday

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, 11th April**. If you can't make it this month, the following sessions will be on **Mondays, 9th May, 13th June and 11th July**, from 2.30 to 3.30 pm at 52 Foxley Court, Bourne, PE10 9TY. You will be most welcome.

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 service is **today, 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 Fraser Armitage, aged 23, who was tragically killed in a road accident near Anwick. Fraser leaves Sarah, his partner, and baby son, Joel, who was baptised in our church last July. Fraser's funeral will be on 29th March at 12 noon at Grantham Crematorium. May he rest in peace.

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 Gaine, 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.**

Coffee mornings

Coffee and tea are served in the parish hall each Monday from 10.00 am till 12 noon. Please note: the hall is closed on the bank holiday **Monday, 28th March**. *June Ellis*

Churches Together: Lent lunches

The last Lent lunch in 2016 will be on **Monday, 21st March, in St. Botolph's community centre, Grantham Road, starting at 12.30 pm**. There is no set charge, but all donations will go to Christian Aid.

Lenten penitential service

As you know, an essential part of our preparation for Holy Week and Easter is the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Father Alex Adkins, Father Peter Wade and myself will be here on Monday at 7.00 pm for you.

Passover meal

The Passover meal will be in the parish hall on **Tuesday at 7.00 pm**. There will be no charge, but if you want to make a donation, it would be appreciated.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Please note there will be **no adoration** on Tuesday, 29th March. Adoration will resume on **Tuesday, 5th April**, from 8.00 am till 5.00 pm.

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. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 5th April**.

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

Car park

If we can get volunteers to open and close the gates, we have permission from the school to

use the car park for each of the Holy Week services, *including the Walk of Witness on Good Friday morning*. There is a list for volunteering on the table at the back of the church.

A suggestion – an Easter gift

Could you please bring a tin or a packet of something when you come to the Easter vigil service, or Mass on Easter Sunday morning, which we can give to the Food Bank. You can bring your gift to the altar in the offertory procession, and it can become part of our offering for the Mass.

Blessing of food

During the Easter Masses, I shall bless food for the Easter celebration. If you know of any family who would like to have food blessed, but who don't usually come to our church, please let them know.

Easter Masses collection

As you know, the collection taken at the Masses over Easter is our Easter gift to your priest. Please use the envelope stapled to this newsletter. If you are a tax payer, please be sure to write your name on the front of this envelope. We can then reclaim for the parish funds the income tax you have paid.

Easter gift

Looking for a gift to give a loved one for Easter? What better than a jar, or perhaps a couple of jars, of Barbara's delicious mamalade? Just £1 a jar! They are on the table at the back of the church.

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**.

One Hundred Club winners

The March draw took place recently: double sets of winners this month! The winners were: £75 – Bernard James and June Ellis; £50 – Denis Sheridan and Jacqueline Fordham; £25 – Tom Marsden and Colette Benson. Congratulations! For those who didn't win this month: you never know – it could be *your* turn in April!

Offertory giving, February 2016

Gift Aided standing orders	£2,347.50
Gift Aided envelopes	£153.50
Gift Aided other	£50.00
Total Gift Aided	£2,551.00
Non-Gift Aided standing orders	£141.00
Loose plate	£609.81
Total non-Gift Aided	£750.81
Total offertory giving	£3,301.81

